

# **North Carolina Education Research Data Center Technical Report #3B: Student Offenses Database, 2005-06 and 2006-07.**

*June 17, 2008*

This technical report serves as an update to Technical Report #3, which covers the years 2001 through 2004. This document details the significant changes in the data and describes the procedure for and success of matching these records to students' academic records.

Beginning in 2000-01, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) required schools to report individual student offenses every time a legally-reportable offense, an in-school suspension (ISS), an out-of-school suspension (OSS), a referral to an alternative program (ALP) or school, or an expulsion occurred during the school year. Subsequently, the requirement to report in-school suspensions was dropped. Each year NCDPI did not require that less serious events, such as those resulting in detentions or loss of privileges, be reported.

This database offers many possibilities for researchers. Data can be aggregated to the school- or district-level. Additionally, many students can be linked to their academic records or across years of offense-consequence data. Researchers can use these files to examine differences in offense rates across schools, the percentage of students committing offenses in each school, and the number of offenses committed by each student. In some cases, researchers can link this information to student academic records to examine antecedents of misconduct.

Because state requirements for this information have changed over time, and schools and districts differ in their methods for collecting and reporting data, the quality of these files vary across time, school, and district. This report describes the data collected by NCDPI, the NC Education Research Data Center's process for cleaning the data and linking it to other files, and the limitations of using these data. Specific descriptions of measures in each file are included in the codebooks.

## **Data Collection**

These data were collected by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction through each local educational area's (LEA) Superintendent's office, or, in the case of charter schools, through the Director / Principal's office. Each year, records are generated each time a legally-reportable offense, an out-of-school suspension, a referral to an alternative school or program, or an expulsion occurs (or an in-school suspension in 2000-01). Although they are not required to do so, some schools report minor offenses, such as those resulting in detention, which are classified as 'other' offenses.

These data are first reported at the school. If a student misbehaves, a school official completes a discipline report form on that student. Reporting forms are not consistent across schools or districts, and different school staff members, such as teachers, support

staff, or administrators, may enter the data. Given that different people complete these reports, offenses may not be reported consistently even within a school.

**Information included in the data**

Generally, these files contain two types of data on students: the type of offenses and the resulting consequences (sometimes referred to as disciplinary action). However, the requirements for reporting this information have changed over time.

*2005-06 Data Changes*

Beginning in 2005-06, it is possible to report up to three offenses and three consequences in one incident record. Additional offense categories, in addition to the legally reportable offenses and ‘other’ were also added in 2005-06. These changes to offense categories are described in the table below.

**Table 1: Types of Student Misconduct: Variation in Availability by Year**

Type of Misconduct – Available in 2006 and 2007	2001	2002-05
Affray		
Aggressive behavior	X	
Alcohol Possession		X
Assault - other		
Assault involving the use of a weapon	X	X
Assault on non-student without weapon and not resulting in serious injury		
Assault on school personnel not resulting in a serious injury	X	X
Assault on student		
Assault on student without weapon and not resulting in a serious injury		
Assault resulting in a serious injury	X	X
Being in an unauthorized area		
Bomb threat		X
Bullying		
Burning of a school building		X
Bus misbehavior		
Cell phone use		
Communicating threats		
Cutting class		
Death by other than natural causes		X
Disorderly conduct		
Disrespect of faculty/staff		
Disruptive behavior		
Distribution of a prescription drug	X	
Dress code violation		
Excessive display of affection		
Excessive tardiness		
Extortion		
False fire alarm		
Falsification of information		
Fighting		
Gambling		
Gang activity		
Harassment - sexual		

Harassment - verbal		
Hazing		
Honor code violation		
Immunization	X	
Inappropriate items on school property		
Inappropriate language/disrespect		
Insubordination		
Kidnapping	X	X
Late to class		
Leaving class without permission		
Leaving school without permission		
Mutual sexual contact between two students		
Other School Defined Offense	X	X
Physical Exam		
Possession of a firearm or powerful explosive	X	X
Possession of a prescription drug	X*	X*
Possession of a weapon (excluding firearms and powerful explosives)	X	X
Possession of chemical or drug paraphernalia		
Possession of cocaine	X*	X*
Possession of counterfeit items		
Possession of marijuana	X*	X*
Possession of other controlled substance in violation of law	X*	X*
Possession of Ritalin	X*	X*
Possession of tobacco		
Property damage	X	
Rape	X	X
Robbery with a dangerous weapon	X	X
Robbery without a dangerous weapon	X	X
Sale of cocaine		
Sale of controlled substance in violation of law		
Sale of marijuana		
Sale of Ritalin		
Sexual assault not involving rape or sexual offense	X	X
Sexual offense	X	X
Skipping class		
Skipping school		
Taking indecent liberties with a minor	X	X
Theft	X	
Truancy	X	
Unlawfully setting a fire		
Use of alcoholic beverages		
Use of controlled substances		
Use of counterfeit items		
Use of narcotics		
Use of tobacco		

The number of categories in the consequence variables also increased in 2006. Many of these categories were new in 2006, as noted in table 2 below.

**Table 2: Types of Disciplinary Consequences as Available Beginning in 2006**

Type of Consequence	2001	2002-05
Administrative Conference with Parent		
Administrative Conference with Student		
Alternative Learning Program	X	X
Before School Detention		
Boot camp		
Bus Suspension		
Conference		
Corporal Punishment		
Court-ordered Probation		
Day Reporting Center		
Day Treatment Program		
Detention		X
Expulsion	X	X
Hearing held, change in placement (EC only)		X
Hearing held, no change in placement (EC only)		X
Homebound instruction		X
Hospital Treatment Program		
ISS - In School Suspension	X	X
ISS Partial Day		
LEA Operated Alternative Learning School		X*
Lunch Detention		
Off-site Operated Alternative Learning School		X*
OSS 10 days or less	X	X
OSS 1-10 Pending Student Hearing		
OSS 11-365 days	X	X
OSS 365 days		
Referral to Community Agency		X
Report to Law Enforcement		
Residential Treatment Home or Center		
Restriction of School Privileges		
Revoke Driving Privileges		
Saturday Academy		
Student Oral Warning		
Student Pays Restitution		
Student Written Warning		
Supervised Activities		
Time Out		
Tobacco Awareness Class		
Unilateral change in placement (EC only)		
Work Detail		X
Youth Development Center		

### **Linking Student Records**

The NCERDC also matched students to an encrypted identifier (MASTID) that is used in other data files. Students who are matched to master id can be linked to other NCERDC datasets, including End of Course and End of Grade test scores, as well as across years of offense-consequence data.

A significant change in the data provided by DPI for the 2005-06 school year is the inclusion of student name (which had not been available since 2000-2001) in records from approximately one-third of reporting districts. This, in part, allowed a higher match rate for many districts in the current year, as compared with the 2001-02 through 2004-05 (Table 3).

The procedure for matching student records in 2005-06 was similar to that described in Technical Report #3. First, students were matched by LEA, school, name, date of birth and social security number (SSN). Due to misspellings, nicknames, and inaccurate social security numbers, records for the same student do not always match. For example, records for Kate Smith and Katherine Smith, both with the same SSN and LEA, would not match. In addition, two records with the same name and LEA but different social security numbers 123-45-6789 and 123-45-6189 would not match. To address this problem, names attached to the same social security number were compared using *spedis*, a procedure in SAS which determines the likelihood of two words matching.

Additionally, names attached to the same SSN were compared in reverse order, so that Kate Smith and Smith Kate would be identified as the same individual. Finally, because names and dates of birth are available for only a fraction of students, the remaining records were matched using LEA, school, and social security number alone. The quality of the match is noted in the variable MATCHTYPE, with 1 being a full information match and 8 being a match on LEA, school, and SSN.

- 1 = LEA, School, Last and First Name, Date of Birth, SSN
- 2 = LEA, Last and First Name, Date of Birth, SSN
- 3 = Last and First Name, Date of Birth, SSN
- 4 = LEA, Last and First Name, Date of Birth
- 5 = LEA, Last Name, Date of Birth, SSN, Close First Name
- 6 = LEA, First Name, Date of Birth, SSN, Close Last Name
- 7 = LEA, School, Last and First Name, Year of Birth
- 8 = LEA, School, SSN

Each year, all students were assigned an identifier to link records within that dataset (SUSID). This identifier links multiple records for the same student within each annual offense-consequence data file. *It does not link to other years of offense-consequence data or to other datasets, such as students' test scores.*

There may be multiple records for one student that are not identified as such. Students with inaccurate or missing identifying information would not be assigned the same encrypted identifier (SUSID). Therefore, there may be fewer students committing offenses and more students with multiple offenses than appear in the data.

Without name, typographical errors in the SSN variable eliminate a student's possibility to match. Additionally, several districts do not report true SSN's. This is largely due to the fact that some LEAs report students' social security number, some report SIMS ID, and some report NCWISE id. The NCERDC database does not currently have a link between SIMS or NCWISE ids and social security number. Therefore, in LEAs that have moved away from the use of SSN in identifying students, we are unable to match students to their academic records.

Overall, in 2005-06, approximately one-third of students were matched to academic records and in 2006-07 about half of the offense-consequence records match to academic files. This varies widely across districts, as a number of LEAs did not provide any identifying information to allow for matching. Table 3 reports match rates across years for public school systems. In 5 LEAs, over 75 percent of students were matched to other files in every year (except 2005, when no matching was possible). These districts are highlighted in red.

**Table 3: Rate of Matching to Academic Data, by Public School District**

LEA	LEA Name	2001	2002	2003	2004	2006	2007
010	ALAMANCE-BURLINGTON	91.03	26.9	14.59	0.04	0.02	0.02
020	ALEXANDER COUNTY SCHOOLS	87.56	16.55	0.22	0	73.41	0.00
040	ANSON COUNTY SCHOOLS	88.75	95.34	97.99	50.83	63.65	1.37
050	ASHE COUNTY SCHOOLS	89.03	10.49	17.76	18.82	72.73	0.00
060	AVERY COUNTY SCHOOLS	91.5	21.88	0	2.42	97.26	94.77
070	BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOLS	81.03	6.34		5.51	65.41	0.00
080	BERTIE COUNTY SCHOOLS	54.18	85.21	43.48	0.87	65.30	0.65
090	BLADEN COUNTY SCHOOLS	90	42.05	76.71	23.2	4.23	0.10
100	BRUNSWICK COUNTY SCHOOLS	85.94	93.54	90.94	88.31	80.71	83.95
110	BUNCOMBE COUNTY SCHOOLS	85.34	1.08	13.84	12.39	87.40	89.16
111	ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS	92.04	93.97	91.39	91.51	73.99	76.01
120	BURKE COUNTY SCHOOLS	86.64	10.2	1.52	1.28	78.57	74.70
130	CABARRUS COUNTY SCHOOLS	88.49	90	86.88	0.4	60.33	0.59
132	KANNAPOLIS CITY SCHOOLS	85.14	91.31	89.57	82.26	62.12	2.79
140	CALDWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS	83.17	62.97	29.36	22.62	81.66	80.90
150	CAMDEN COUNTY SCHOOLS	82.57	39.47	41.8	43.51	91.09	92.66
160	CARTERET COUNTY SCHOOLS	93.54	73.91	77.5	62.68	81.09	58.31
170	CASWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS	89.66	28.21	0.53	0.51	75.57	0.00
180	CATAWBA COUNTY SCHOOLS	89.84	23.45	0	0	83.42	84.61
181	HICKORY CITY SCHOOLS	92.04	80.86	78.76	85.74	82.09	84.18
182	NEWTON CONOVER CITY	86.91	0	0	15.5	79.83	4.06
190	CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS	89.09	66.49	68.51	60.81	76.79	0.12
200	CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOLS	83.97	28.8	69.61	41.78	64.44	1.47
210	EDENTON/CHOWAN SCHOOLS	89.78	22.46	16.49	19.87	65.13	2.84
220	CLAY COUNTY SCHOOLS	25	86.36	66.67	83.33	100.00	76.00
230	CLEVELAND COUNTY SCHOOLS	88.07	0	0	0.09	54.81	0.00
240	COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS	87.64	33.54	18.8	30.96	65.67	0.00
241	WHITEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS	90.15	82.99	13.87	17.3	76.87	71.95
250	CRAVEN COUNTY SCHOOLS	86.86	56.65	14.18	17.1	79.63	91.34
260	CUMBERLAND COUNTY	91.18	94.51	86.99	34.75	76.04	74.24
270	CURRITUCK COUNTY SCHOOLS	89.93	0.71	1.56	2.5	58.37	0.00
280	DARE COUNTY SCHOOLS	61.91	4.7	9.17	9.13	62.59	0.00
290	DAVIDSON COUNTY SCHOOLS	86.28	0	0	0	91.53	92.02
291	LEXINGTON CITY SCHOOLS	86.19	72.5	0	0	51.21	0.25
292	THOMASVILLE CITY SCHOOLS	87.38	50	44.4	0	72.99	0.39
300	DAVIE COUNTY SCHOOLS	95.75	93.12	55.7	75.33	68.07	5.32
310	DUPLIN COUNTY SCHOOLS	93.1	34.52	3.46	13.07	69.66	2.36
320	DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS	84.61	64.65	93.01	91.77	27.40	83.44
330	EDGECOMBE COUNTY SCHOOLS	93.38	1.92	2.78	0	74.75	1.24
340	FORSYTH COUNTY SCHOOLS	91.46	0.02	0.02	0.02	75.58	76.71
350	FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOLS	90.24	92.11	84.71	87.43	71.43	89.73
360	GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS	34.26	1.4	1.02	0.65	0.30	1.51
370	GATES COUNTY SCHOOLS	88.49	84.87	79.46	65.61	0.00	94.68
380	GRAHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS	91.3	85.71	0	92.11	0.00	85.87
390	GRANVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS	87.17	64.31	48.19	50.05	0.03	91.40
400	GREENE COUNTY SCHOOLS	94.93	0	7.42	9.09	0.08	0.00

LEA	LEA Name	2001	2002	2003	2004	2006	2007
410	GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS	93.57	91.76	90.03	93.15	78.67	66.57
420	HALIFAX COUNTY SCHOOLS	88.8	91.19	88.96	88.96	90.52	95.81
421	ROANOKE RAPIDS CITY	85.88	4.64	0	0	0.00	95.16
422	WELDON CITY SCHOOLS	88.62	58.55	47.67	55.26	0.00	96.67
430	HARNETT COUNTY SCHOOLS	82.55	39.94	7.83	1.22	0.21	0.00
440	HAYWOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS	.	0	0	0.23	0.10	83.92
450	HENDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS	87.27	86.75	68.38	22.03	0.18	0.29
460	HERTFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS	92.9	86.52	86.84	81.44	0.29	0.00
470	HOKE COUNTY SCHOOLS	72.17	59.04	23.02	33.64	0.00	77.66
480	HYDE COUNTY SCHOOLS	90.91	94.9	84.96	79.17	68.66	91.94
490	IREDELL-STATESVILLE	93.42	0	0	0	0.00	85.70
491	MOORESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS	95.87	50.29	22.68	44.66	0.00	96.01
500	JACKSON COUNTY SCHOOLS	98.34	19.5	20.28	28.11	7.85	8.95
510	JOHNSTON COUNTY SCHOOLS	90.86	90.45	84.48	85.31	7.56	4.20
520	JONES COUNTY SCHOOLS	89	55.47	33.75	41.06	0.00	12.23
530	LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS	91.23	93.68	89.6	0	0.20	0.00
540	LENOIR COUNTY SCHOOLS	90.17	7.6	4.96	1.68	0.25	0.17
550	LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOLS	87.58	33.42	36.95	26.73	7.27	0.66
570	MADISON COUNTY SCHOOLS	95.21	26.81	0	37.57	0.00	82.14
580	MARTIN COUNTY SCHOOLS	88.64	62.54	6.66	11.35	0.00	0.00
590	MCDOWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS	93.72	80.8	64.09	28.27	0.12	89.85
600	CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG	54.36	94.54	0.01	0.01	0.01	63.20
610	MITCHELL COUNTY SCHOOLS	96.15	20.18	9.62	0	0.00	0.00
620	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	83.95	92.58	91.86	86.64	0.27	0.80
630	MOORE COUNTY SCHOOLS	86.72	0.66	0	0	0.00	85.90
640	NASH-ROCKY MOUNT SCHOOLS	86.39	64.69	64.12	1.98	0.00	0.23
650	NEW HANOVER COUNTY	89.34	93.58	90.11	85.75	0.00	84.20
660	NORTHAMPTON COUNTY	72	5.22	9.5	0	0.31	0.00
670	ONSLow COUNTY SCHOOLS	89.19	90.35	90.37	87.18	76.60	87.18
680	ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOLS	92	29.86	38.42	31.04	0.00	0.00
681	CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO	84.92	54.84	19.29	5.48	0.00	88.43
690	PAMLICO COUNTY SCHOOLS	91.17	87.93	90	90.76	0.00	94.36
700	PASQUOTANK COUNTY	92.13	72.68	64.45	10.71	6.58	5.73
710	PENDER COUNTY SCHOOLS	91.48	34.04	20.12	9.23	3.78	4.27
720	PERQUIMANS COUNTY SCHOOLS	86.39	5.97	0	3.7	2.84	0.00
730	PERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS	93.23	89.34	43.22	81.15	77.01	86.28
740	PITT COUNTY SCHOOLS	87.41	0.03	0	0	0.00	0.31
750	POLK COUNTY SCHOOLS	79.52	87.38	84.93	27.59	0.00	97.50
760	RANDOLPH COUNTY SCHOOLS	83.63	91.91	89.43	88.86	79.85	88.57
761	ASHEBORO CITY SCHOOLS	84.95	65.81	39.69	25.83	0.00	81.36
770	RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOLS	86.38	88.22	89.37	85.32	0.00	86.57
780	ROBESON COUNTY SCHOOLS	92.1	0.03	0	0	0.01	0.00
790	ROCKINGHAM COUNTY	93.35	15.74	1.14	0.12	46.00	25.54
800	ROWAN-SALISBURY SCHOOLS	89.7	93.11	91.79	94.29	71.10	83.65
810	RUTHERFORD COUNTY	89.96	92.94	88.72	90.81	79.97	7.86
820	SAMPSON COUNTY SCHOOLS	92.75	79.68	45.41	28.92	0.00	76.50
821	CLINTON CITY SCHOOLS	87.64	87.37	88.89	68.77	0.00	94.41



<b>LEA</b>	<b>LEA Name</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
830	SCOTLAND COUNTY SCHOOLS	87.73	15.06	2.74	7.25	0.41	0.00
840	STANLY COUNTY SCHOOLS	90.34	90.55	0.08	0	0.04	90.13
850	STOKES COUNTY SCHOOLS	93.67	83.79	59.81	75.66	65.06	60.60
860	SURRY COUNTY SCHOOLS	78.44	93.97	59.93	23.87	1.06	1.49
861	ELKIN CITY SCHOOLS	80	57.14	0	0	0.00	90.24
862	MOUNT AIRY CITY SCHOOLS	91.33	36.36	24.24	29.51	0.00	0.00
870	SWAIN COUNTY SCHOOLS	87.08	49.63	53.33	55.56	0.00	0.00
880	TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY	87.56	97.22	97.83	92.73	0.00	82.62
890	TYRRELL COUNTY SCHOOLS	97.76	1.01	2.66	5.1	1.49	3.10
900	UNION COUNTY PUBLIC	91.03	0	0	0.04	0.00	0.00
910	VANCE COUNTY SCHOOLS	61.97	0.06	0.13	0.06	0.02	0.00
920	WAKE COUNTY SCHOOLS	79.16	63.68	92.07	72.3	19.26	86.71
930	WARREN COUNTY SCHOOLS	88.31	66.75	62.39	0	0.78	0.00
940	WASHINGTON COUNTY	98.5	43.73	75.71	42.9	0.00	0.00
950	WATAUGA COUNTY SCHOOLS	90.65	70.73	68.59	22.63	16.51	17.05
960	WAYNE COUNTY PUBLIC	86.85	7.68	0	0	0.00	75.66
970	WILKES COUNTY SCHOOLS	93.33	54.89	8.17	8.17	0.00	87.26
980	WILSON COUNTY SCHOOLS	92.54	91.43	88.18	88.33	0.00	1.81
990	YADKIN COUNTY SCHOOLS	92.08	93.2	93.64	86.64	0.00	82.78
995	YANCEY COUNTY SCHOOLS	88.18	71.55	16.79	6.9	0.00	15.77