

**ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**EXHIBIT**

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**F-3**

**Meeting Date:** April 26, 2011

**Item Title:** School Discipline and Safety Report and Update

**Item Type:** Information

**BACKGROUND:** Alameda Unified School District believes that all students, staff, parents/guardians and volunteers have the right to a safe, secure school that is free of weapons, violence and unlawful or disruptive behavior. Staff will provide an update of current school based efforts in this regard and ongoing efforts at providing a safe and positive school climate for all students.

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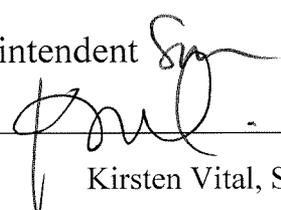
**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:** None

**RECOMMENDATION:** Information Only

**AUSD Guiding Principles:** 1. All students have the ability to achieve academic and personal success. 3. Administrators have the knowledge, leadership skills, and ability to ensure student success. 5. Accountability, transparency, and trust are necessary at all levels of the organization.

**Submitted by:** Sean McPhetridge, Assistant Superintendent

**Approved for Submission to Board of Education**

  
Kirsten Vital, Superintendent

# **School Discipline and Safety Report**

**April 26, 2011**

**Kirsten Zazo  
Coordinator, AUSD Student Services**

# Purpose of Tonight's Presentation

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**AUSD is committed to providing a rigorous academic program in an inclusive, safe and secure environment. AUSD staff have been working to implement this aim, and tonight's presentation outlines ways in which AUSD is working to achieve that goal.**

- Common AUSD practices to promote safe learning environments
- Updates on district-wide school safety training and drills
- Update on district trainings regarding establishing common practices in school discipline and due process
- Review of current AUSD exclusionary discipline and suspension data
- Ongoing work to systematize AUSD's progressive discipline process

# ***Common Practices to Promote Safe School Environments***

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## ***Standard AUSD Practices***

- Schoolwide orientations to ensure students are aware of rules and expectations for appropriate behavior
- Grade level assemblies about bullying and school safety
- Faculty meetings with school safety issues, anti-bullying implementation and school-wide discipline plans as a standing agenda item
- Established routines around behavior at recess and lunch
  - line-up
  - limits on playground behaviors
  - conflict resolution monitors on the playground
- Student Handbooks distributed to students and parents
- Senior Contracts that students and parents/guardians sign to promote positive behavior
- Life skills and lifelong guidelines implemented at many sites

# Safety Drills

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*All AUSD schools participate in the following:*

## Earthquake drills

All sites do two (2) per year

- AUSD schools participated in a district-wide earthquake drill on November 10<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with a table top exercise conducted by the City of Alameda.

## Fire drills

Elementary schools do one (1) per month

Secondary schools conduct fire drills four (4) times a year

## Lockdown drills

Elementary schools do one (1) per year

Secondary schools do two (2) per year

- To date, all schools have done at least one (1) lockdown drill, one (1) earthquake drill, and all AUSD schools are up to date on all their fire drills.

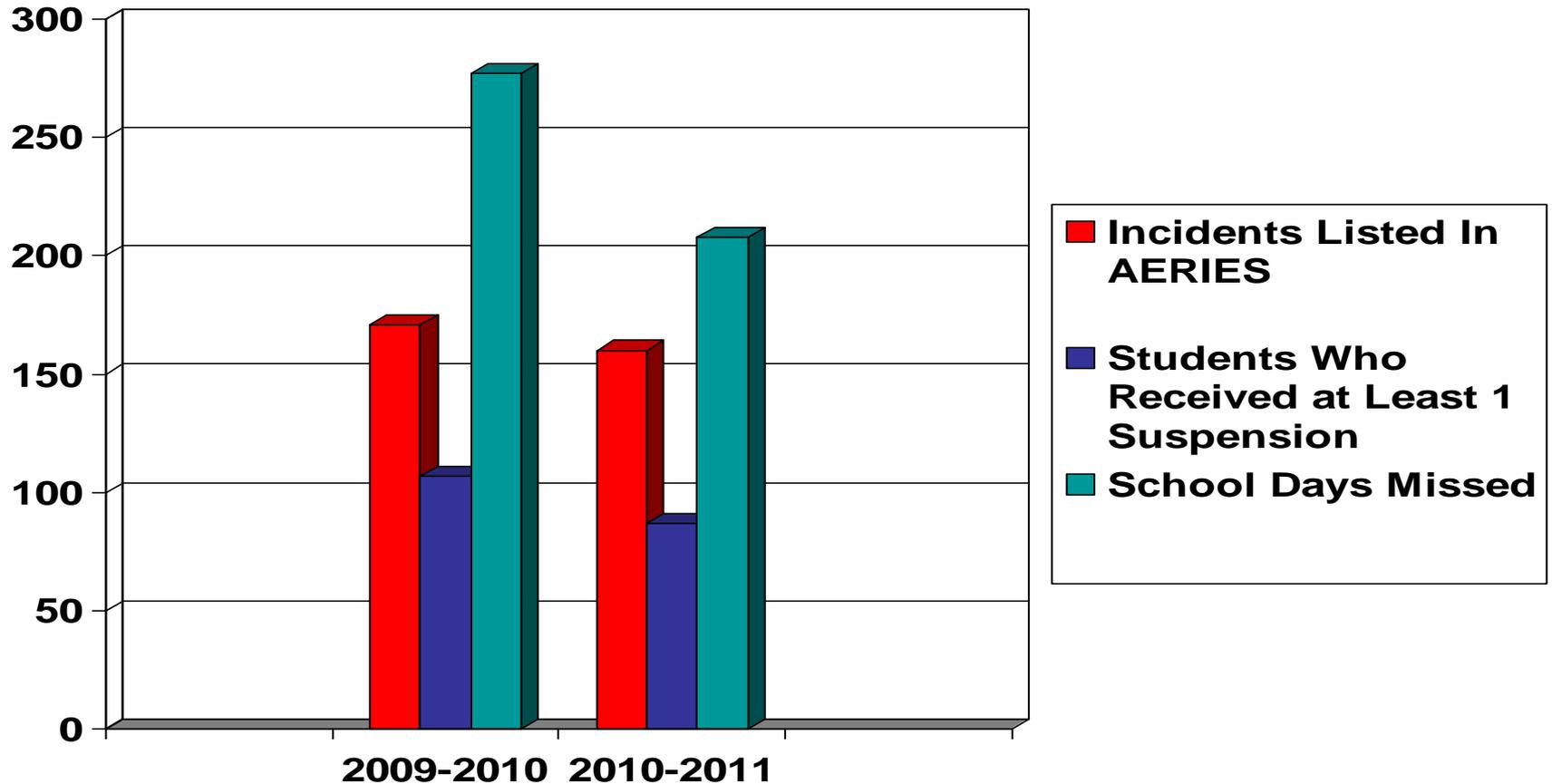
# Upcoming AUSD Safety Trainings

- In coordination with Alameda Police Department, AUSD is currently updating our lockdown training procedures. AUSD will conduct a full training of all site administrators before the end of the school year to disseminate updated lockdown and critical safety event procedures.
- In August, AUSD administrators and district office staff will participate in a table top exercise with APD in order to both instruct and practice safety procedures using a scenario based on critical event planning for an actual school site.
- We have scheduled with APD to engage this fall in a full school site drill. This will include removing students from campus to a safe location and releasing them to parents. We will work in conjunction with AFD, APD and AC Transit to conduct this drill.
  - We will ask parents/guardians to release up to 300 students to participate.
  - A drill similar to this one was done at Lincoln Middle School in 2007-08.

# Discipline Training and Due Process

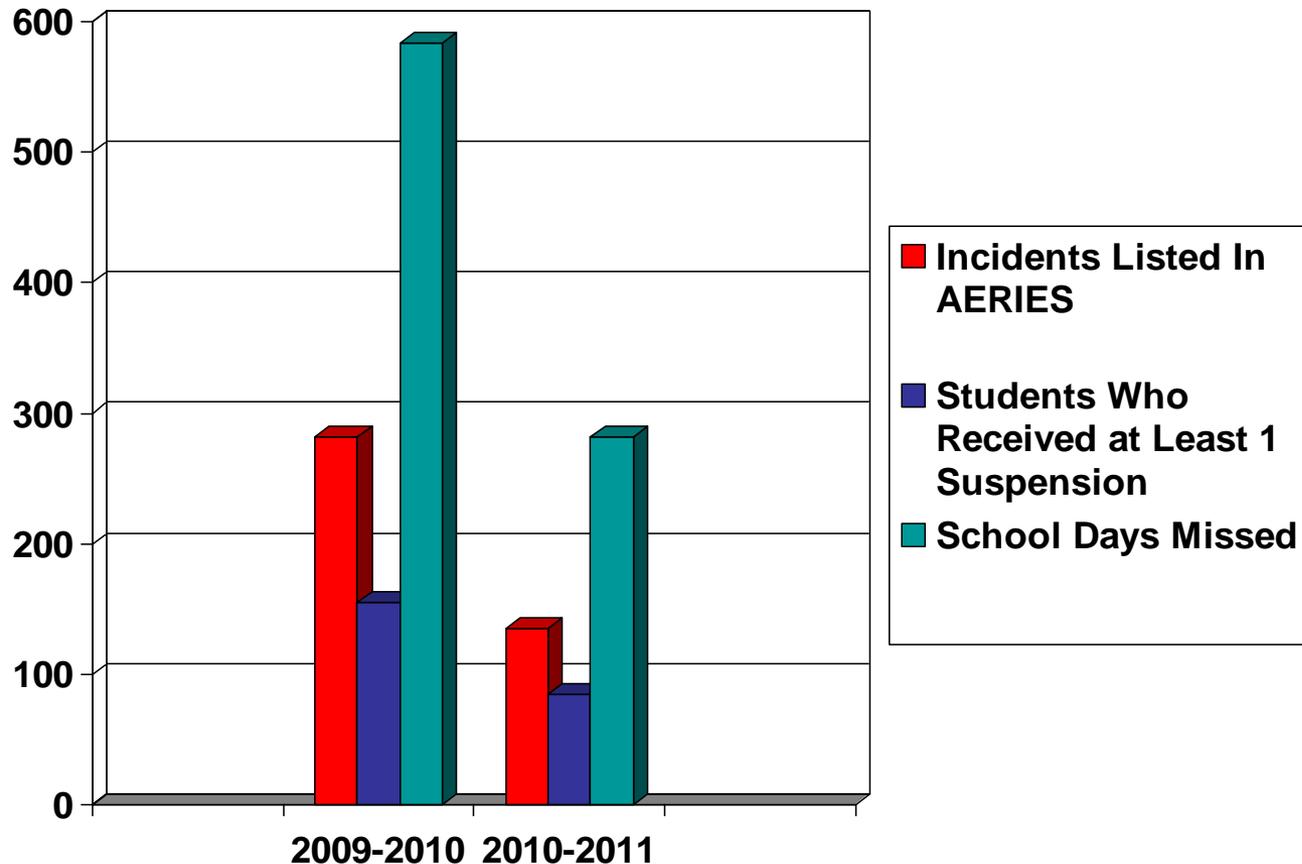
- At the beginning of the year, all AUSD school site administrators were trained on AUSD discipline procedures, including the following:
  - Guidelines for investigation
  - Progressive discipline
  - Suspension under California Education Code 48900
  - Mandatory expulsion
  - Quasi-mandatory expulsion
  - Discretionary expulsion

# Elementary Suspensions 2009-2011



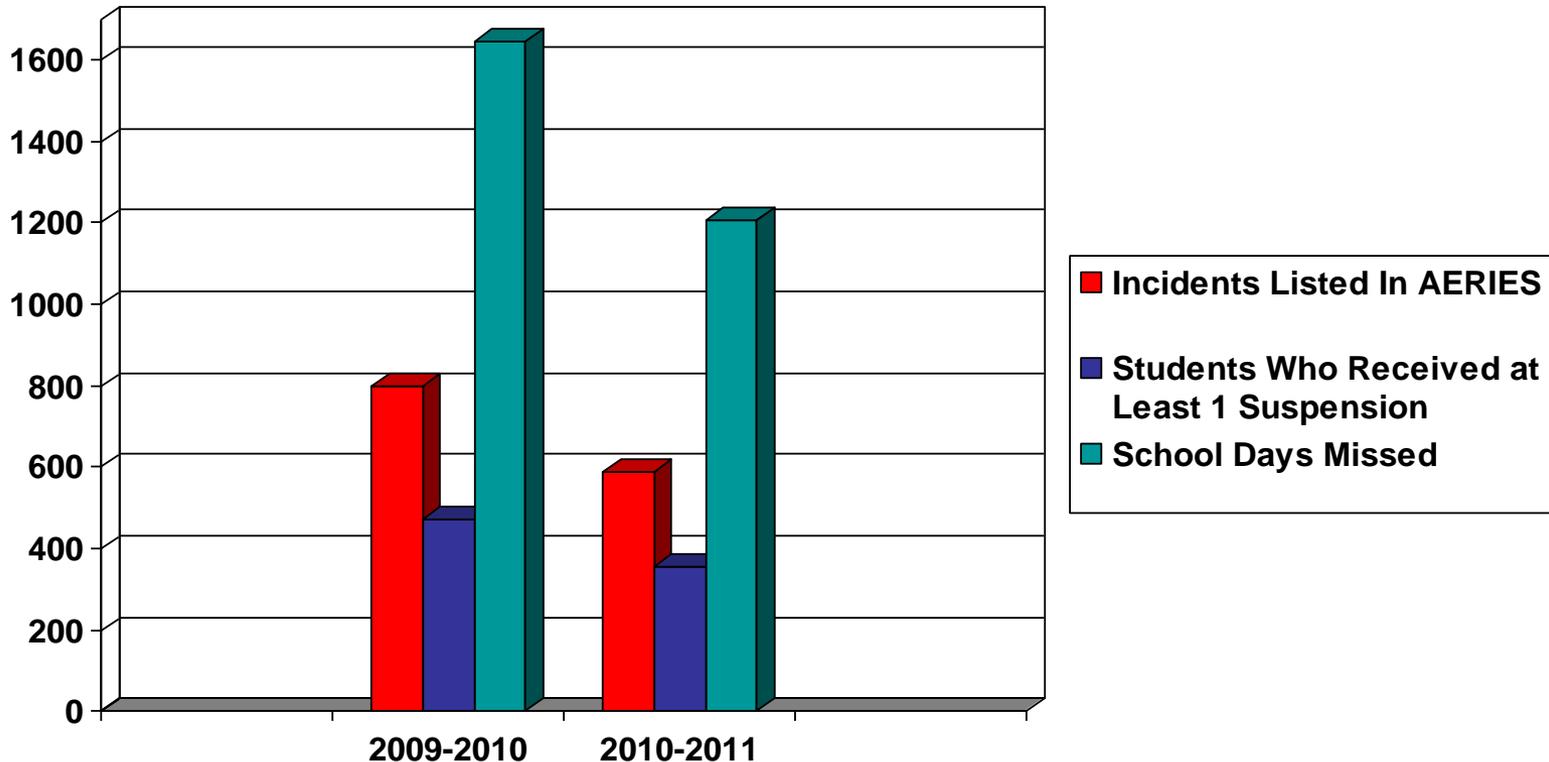
Key point: There are fewer disciplinary incidents and suspensions this year, and AUSD aims to continue this positive trend toward reducing exclusionary discipline.

# Middle School Suspensions 2009-2011



Key point: There are fewer disciplinary incidents and suspensions this year, but this data reflects closure of Chipman Middle School, thus requiring further analysis.

# High School Suspensions 2009-2011



Key point: Again, there are fewer disciplinary incidents and suspensions this year, and AUSD will continue its ongoing efforts to enact policies and procedures aimed at minimizing loss of instructional time caused by use of exclusionary discipline.

# Current AUSD Work Underway

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- AUSD staff have been working with secondary principals to discuss common practices around a proposed AUSD school discipline chart.
- Principals shared practices that work at their schools.
- Principals provided input on district-wide progressive discipline chart for secondary school use across the district.
- A smaller group came together to finalize the work. All comprehensive high schools and middle schools have now agreed to implement the same progressive discipline chart next year, meeting an AUSD goal.
- Separately, a group of four elementary principals met to discuss the same topic in order to also come to consensus on standard practices.
- AUSD Student Services staff are continuing the work on creating a discipline chart appropriate for elementary school use district-wide.
- This will be brought back to principals for whole group discussion at the next K-5 principals meeting and then finalized by the end of May.

# Current Work (continued)

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- School administrators and AUSD Students Services staff have begun preliminary research on current and past suspension data to identify processes and procedures to help AUSD address disproportionality in exclusionary discipline, investigate patterns evidenced in causes for suspension, and determine appropriate use of corrective action before instituting exclusionary discipline.
- We are also working towards standardizing data entry into the AERIES system so AUSD can help site and district leaders produce the most accurate discipline data for use to these ends.
- In future presentations, AUSD Student Services staff will present more information to represent these ongoing efforts at our work at ensuring implementation of these goals so all AUSD schools are fair, safe and secure learning environments for all students.