

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Quality of Life

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, education is the catalyst for human development and economic growth, is a fundamental requirement for democracy and is a basic human right. Education enhances households' ability to manage health concerns, improve nutrition and childcare, and plan for the future. It inspires self-reliance, sustains human values and contributes to an individual's overall well-being.

Violent and Disruptive Incidents

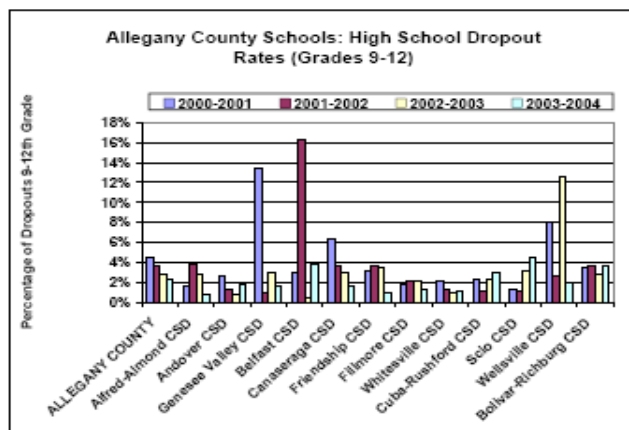
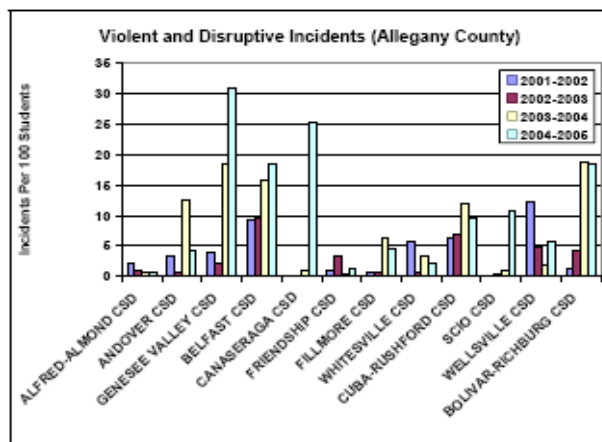
The Save Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) Act was passed in July 2000. Based on this legislation, the NYS Board of Regents created a uniform violent incident reporting system. It is important to **avoid comparisons** between schools, as districts have a different understanding of terms and different standards regarding the level of seriousness in reporting incidents. This is a new reporting system and the state is working on operationally defining each category, as well as developing trainings for schools in order to get a more reliable and uniform reporting of this data.

Categories and definitions of violent and disruptive decisions are taken from the Penal Law and include: weapons possession; weapons use; personal injury or intimidation; sexual offenses; use possession or sale of drugs or alcohol; bomb threat, false alarm, arson or riot; theft, burglary; and criminal mischief. The chart illustrates the total incidents from these nine categories divided by the enrollment of each school district for the 2001-2002 and the 2002-2003 school years.

Source: Rural Justice Institute– Alfred University

About the Indicator

County-level data for this indicator comes from the New York State Department of Education, compiled and interpreted by Rural Data and Resource Development at Alfred University's Rural Justice Institute.



High School Dropout Rate (Grades 9-12)

This chart examines the number of dropouts between July 1 and June 30 of the following year (for each school year in the legend), divided by the 9-12 grade enrollment for that same school year. A dropout is defined as any pupil who left school before graduation for any

reason except death and did not enter another school or high school equivalency preparation program. Small enrollment numbers should lead readers to use caution when interpreting this data. In general, the Allegany County dropout rate has decreased between 2000 and 2004.

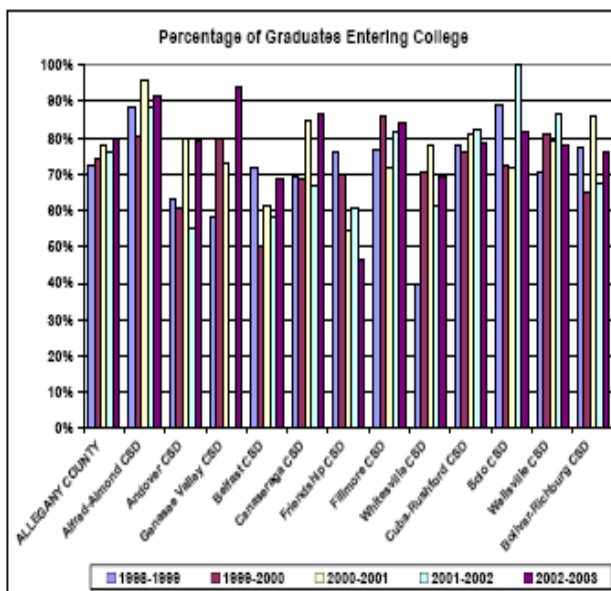
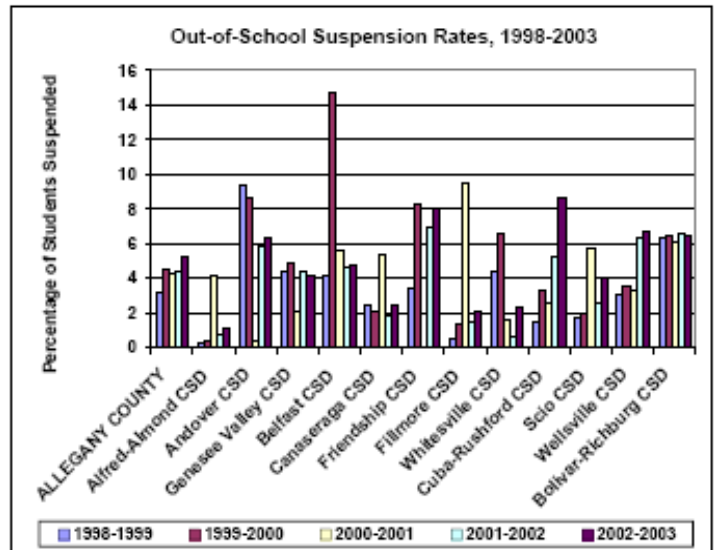
Source: Rural Justice Institute– Alfred University

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Out-of-School Suspensions

This chart looks at the number of students in grade K-12 who were suspended from school at least one full day during the year listed, divided by the total district K-12 enrollment. This data pertains to out-of-school suspensions only. It is important to note that some schools may utilize in-school-suspension as an alternative to out-of-school suspension and that may account for some of the variance between school districts. However, it appears that the number of students who have at least one day of OSS a year is increasing in Allegany County between 1998 and 2003.

Source: Rural Justice Institute– Alfred University



Percentage of Graduates Entering College

This chart examines the number of high school graduates entering a four-year, two-year, or other post-secondary institution. This figure is reported by school principals in the Fall of 1999 and is divided by the total high school graduates. The average number of Allegany County high school seniors entering college has increased between 1998 and 2003. The remainder of the school districts do not appear to have a clear trend, with the exception of Friendship CSD which appears to have a decreasing number of graduates entering post-secondary institutions.

Source: Rural Justice Institute– Alfred University

Free and Reduced Lunch Rates

This chart examines the number of students K-6th grade participating in the free-and-reduced-price lunch program divided by the enrollment in full day kindergarten through 6th grade of the year reported. It is important to note that not all eligible families enroll in the free-and-reduced-price lunch program and the rate may be an underestimation of the children who could participate. The figures tend to remain fairly stable for each district, with Alfred-Almond having the fewest families participating in the program, while Friendship, Whitesville, and Scio have the highest free-and-reduced price lunch rates.

Source: Rural Justice Institute– Alfred University

