Arrests, suspensions in NYC schools are declining: Education Department

BY BEN CHAPMAN / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 12:49 AM
City Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña, who has led efforts to reduce suspensions and arrests in city classrooms, praised the decline in arrests and suspensions in city schools.

Arrests and suspensions in city schools are becoming increasingly rare, according to statistics released by Education Department officials Tuesday.

Following a years-long trend toward fewer arrests and suspensions in the public schools, arrests for the first 110 days of the current school year are down 16% from the previous year and suspensions are down 10%.

City Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña, who has led efforts to reduce suspensions and arrests in city classrooms, praised the decline.

“Students learn best when they are in a safe, respectful and supportive environment,” said Fariña. “We are carrying out our commitment to improving the school atmosphere for students in all five boroughs.”

Figures released Tuesday show that city principals handed out 22,509 suspensions in the first 110 days of the 2014-2015 school year. That’s down from 25,385 in the 2013-2014 school year.

Likewise, school safety officers carried out 225 arrests and issued 362 summonses at city schools in the first 110 days of the current instructional year.
Fariña has introduced a number of policies to lower suspensions and 911 calls in city schools since taking office in January 2014, including changes to the discipline code and conflict resolution training for school staffers.

That's down from 267 arrests and 395 summonses for the previous year.

Arrest and suspension rates have fallen steadily in city schools since 2012, as educators and school officials have sought to maintain order through other means.

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Sure they are down. They are told to sweep as much under the carpet as possible. And now instead of suspending the animals they give counseling. What a joke. City schools are a zoo. Anyone who thinks otherwise is delusional.

MARK KRAGER
6 hours ago

That less offenses are reported or are acted upon does not necessarily signify progress. From the days of Klein there has been considerable pressure brought to bear on teachers to underreport offenses and to not go outside the administration (for example, reporting crimes directly to the police). School administrations regularly suppressed reports in hopes of making their schools look better on the school's report card just as they instituted sham AP courses, puffed up school offerings and enabled higher grades and graduation rates. The Farina administration has seemingly done little to address this culture of "achievement". We need the DOE to be honest if we are to further actual education possible now especially since the Little Man is gone from office.

LAWRENCE ZAJAC
4 hours ago