Referrals to Law Enforcement & School-Related Arrests (ARRS) Module

The Referrals to Law Enforcement & School-related Arrests (ARRS) module collects school-level data on K-12 student referrals to law enforcement and K-12 student arrests. This document provides guidance to assist data submitters in determining how to accurately report the following 2021-22 school year CRDC items:

- ARRS-1: Instances of Referrals to Law Enforcement
- ARRS-2: Students without Disabilities – Referred to Law Enforcement
- ARRS-3: Students with Disabilities – Referred to Law Enforcement
- ARRS-4: Instances of School-Related Arrests
- ARRS-5: Students without Disabilities – School-Related Arrest
- ARRS-6: Students with Disabilities – School-Related Arrest.

In addition, guidance on accurately reporting zeroes and blanks (i.e., nulls), and using the "not submitted" feature is provided at the end of the document.

Dates

Report a cumulative count based on the entire 2021-22 regular school year, not including intersession or summer.

Skip Logic

This module DOES NOT contain any indicator questions that result in skip logic. Skip logic automatically skips the user to the next table to be populated based on previous answers provided. Skipped tables should not be populated.

DATA ELEMENT CHANGES FROM THE 2020-21 CRDC

NEW and OPTIONAL

- **ARRS-1**: Instances of Referrals to Law Enforcement
- **ARRS-4**: Instances of School-Related Arrests

! If a local education agency (LEA) **DOES NOT** collect **referrals and arrests** data, then an LEA must complete a **Quick Plan** to explain why the district does not collect these data and how and when it will ensure that these data are collected in the future.

📄 How to Create and Submit a Quick Plan

NEW

For 2021-22 CRDC

ARRS-1: Instances of Referrals to Law Enforcement (New and Optional)

School grades K-12, UG

- **An instance** refers to a single occurrence.
- **Report the number of instances of referrals to law enforcement, NOT** the number of students referred to law enforcement.

ARRS-4: Instances of School-Related Arrests (New and Optional)

Schools, grades K-12, UG

- **Report the number of instances of school-related arrests**, **NOT** the number of students who received a school-related arrest.

Reporting Nonbinary

For the CRDC, using nonbinary as a third value for the sex category is appropriate for students whose sex is not listed as male or female in their school records.

Nonbinary means not exclusively male or female. Transgender students may be reported as male, female, or nonbinary.

- Inclusion of Nonbinary resource document.
- **For a school that already disaggregates student enrollment data to include nonbinary students,** the nonbinary category in the Referrals to Law Enforcement & School-related Arrests module is OPTIONAL.
- **For a school that does NOT already disaggregate student enrollment data to include nonbinary students,** the nonbinary category in the Referrals to Law Enforcement & School-related Arrests module is SKIPPED.

Additional Guidance for Referrals and Arrests

The number of students referred to law enforcement should be greater than or equal to the number of students who received a school-related arrest.

$$\text{\# Students Referred to Law Enforcement} \geq \text{\# Students who Received School-related Arrests}$$

A student reported as a student who received a school-related arrest should also be reported as a student referred to law enforcement.

KEY DEFINITIONS

Referral to law enforcement (revised) is an action by which a student is reported by a school official or that official's designee to any law enforcement agency or official, such as a school police unit, for an incident that occurs on school grounds, during school-related events (in-person or remote), or while taking school transportation, regardless of whether official action is taken. Citations, tickets, court referrals, and school-related arrests are considered referrals to law enforcement.

School official or official's designee refers to a school administrator, or a school employee, or third party who is instructed or authorized by a school administrator to report a student to law enforcement.

School-related arrest (revised) occurs when a law enforcement officer takes a student into custody and intends to or appears to intend to seek charges against the student for a specific offense or offenses for any school-related activity. School-related activities include any activity conducted on school grounds, during off-campus school activities (in-person or remote), while taking school transportation, or due to a referral by any school official or that official's designee. All school-related arrests are considered referrals to law enforcement.

A **law enforcement officer** (revised) includes a sworn or unsworn law enforcement officer. A sworn law enforcement officer is a person who is authorized to make arrests while acting within the scope of explicit legal authority. This officer is responsible for safety and crime prevention and may respond to calls for service and document incidents that occur within their jurisdiction. This officer may be a school resource officer (who has specialized training and is assigned to work in collaboration with school organizations). An unsworn law enforcement officer typically does not have arrest authority, but otherwise holds limited law enforcement powers and responsibilities as part of their regular duties. This officer's law enforcement powers and responsibilities may include investigative and enforcement activities. A law enforcement officer may be employed by any entity (e.g., police department, school district or school). An officer's duties may include: motor vehicle traffic control; security enforcement and patrol; maintaining student discipline; identifying problems in the school and proactively seeking solutions to those problems; training teachers and staff in school safety or crime prevention; mentoring students; teaching a law-related education course or training students (e.g., drug-related education, criminal law, or criminal prevention courses); recording or reporting discipline problems to school authorities; and providing information to school authorities about the legal definitions of behavior for recording or reporting purposes (e.g., defining assault for school authorities).

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The FAQs are categorized into two sections—*Reporting Counts in the Module* and *Specific Scenarios*.

Reporting Counts in the Module

1. **How does a school report a student who was classified as non-disabled, referred to law enforcement, and who received a school-related arrest in October if their disability classification changed to IDEA in December?**

   A student who was classified as non-disabled when the student was referred to law enforcement and arrested in October, and then was reclassified as disabled and served under IDEA in December should be reported as non-disabled for the Referrals to Law Enforcement & School-related Arrests module.

2. **How does a school report an English learner (EL) student who received a school-related arrest in September, but whose EL status changed to non-EL later in the school year?**

Report a student's status as EL if the student was classified as EL during one or more of the events that occurred during the regular school year.

Example: A student who was classified as EL when the student was arrested in September, and then was reclassified as non-EL later in the school year should be reported as EL for the Referrals to Law Enforcement & School- related Arrests module.

3. **For each of the referred to law enforcement and school-related arrests items that collect counts of students, may I report the same student in more than one race/ethnicity by sex category?**

No. A student must only be reported in one race/ethnicity by sex category. The CRDC data submission system will automatically calculate the sum of the counts that you enter for race/ethnicity by sex.

Specific Scenarios

1. **If a student is arrested, should they be reported in the school-related arrest and the referral to law enforcement items?**

Yes. School-related arrest is a subset of referral to law enforcement. Therefore, a student should be reported in the school-related arrest items and the referred to law enforcement items.

2. **Do traffic violations and parking tickets count as referrals to law enforcement?**

Yes. Traffic violations and parking tickets are considered referrals to law enforcement.

3. **If police engage in a wellness check or transport to mental health facility for a formal mental health assessment, then does this count as a referral to law enforcement? For example, a student discloses to a school counselor that they are suicidal, and the school counselor and school administrator institute a suicide screening protocol, and eventually contact law enforcement and medical assistance to transport the student to a medical facility for a formal mental health assessment.**

The suicidal student who interacts with a law enforcement officer should be reported as referred to law enforcement. Students should be reported as referred to law enforcement, regardless of the reason for the referral.

4. **If a student is brought into the main office following an incident and the school resource officer (i.e., law enforcement officer) is there and talks to the student about the incident, should that be categorized as a referral to law enforcement?**

If a student is brought into the main office following a school incident to talk to the school resource officer (SRO), then the student should be counted as referred to law enforcement. However, if a student is brought into the main office following a school incident to talk to someone else (e.g., principal), and the SRO happens to be in the office and talks to the student about the incident, then the student should NOT be counted as referred to law enforcement.

5. **If a student is arrested by appointment, then should that student be reported as having received a school-related arrest? For example, a student is not handcuffed at school or removed from the building by law enforcement. Instead, an agreement is made that the student (and parents if a minor) will meet a law enforcement official at the police station later, to be arrested.**

In the case of a student who is not handcuffed and is not removed from the classroom (in-person or remote) or school premises by a law enforcement officer for a specific school-related incident, but instead meets a law enforcement officer later to be arrested at an agreed upon location, date, and time, should be reported as having received a school-related arrest. The student should also be reported as referred to law enforcement.

6. **If parents of a student that got into a fight on school grounds with another student press charges against the other student, would this be considered a referral to law enforcement?**

   A referral to law enforcement should be made by a school official or that official's designee.

   If parents contact the police to report a fight that happened at school and to press charges against the other student, without being instructed or authorized to do so by a school official, then the other student should NOT be reported as referred to law enforcement.

7. **If a student is arrested because of an incident that happened at school, but the school did not contact the police (a parent/another concerned party did while at school), then would that count as a school- related arrest and subsequently also a referral to law enforcement?**

   A referral to law enforcement should be made by a school official or by someone else at the behest of or with the support of a school official.

   If a parent or other concerned party at school contacts the police at the behest of a school official or with support from a school official, that leads to a student being arrested for an incident that happened at school, then the student should be reported as referred to law enforcement and arrested. However, if a parent or other concerned party contacts the police without the support of the school, then the student should NOT be reported as referred to law enforcement or arrested.

8. **Should schools report incidents that resulted in arrests at the school, if a parent, neighbor, or other witness outside of the school reported the incident to the local police department?**

   If a parent, neighbor, or witness, not at school, contacts the police to report an incident that happened at school without being instructed or authorized to do so by a school official, that leads to a student being arrested for that incident, then the student should NOT be reported as referred to law enforcement or arrested. Also, for this incident, no instances of referrals to law enforcement or school-related arrests should be reported.

9. **If a student is handcuffed and removed from school but not charged for an incident that occurred at school, then would that student be counted as having received a school-related arrest?**

   Both students who are "handcuffed and charged" and students who are "handcuffed and removed from school, but not charged" for an incident that occurred at school should be reported as referred to law enforcement and students who received a school-related arrest.

10. **If a student is not handcuffed but is removed from the school by a law enforcement officer, then would that student be counted as referred to law enforcement and arrested?**

    A student who is not handcuffed but is removed from the school premises by a law enforcement officer who takes the student into custody, and who intends to or appears to intend to seek charges against the student for a specific offense or offenses, should be reported as referred to law enforcement and as a student who received a school-related arrest.

A student who is not handcuffed but is removed from the school premises by a law enforcement officer who takes the student into custody for the student's own protection, should be reported as referred to law enforcement, but not as a student who received a school-related arrest.

11. **Do referrals to law enforcement and school-related arrests apply to students who participate in virtual instruction?**

    For schools that have students who participate in virtual instruction:
    - An incident may occur during a virtual school-related event or in a virtual setting where virtual learning takes place.
    - Referrals to law enforcement may occur during virtual instruction when a teacher or other school staff member seeks assistance from law enforcement because of something school staff notice in the virtual environment.
    - Off-campus school activities may involve virtual instruction provided by teachers who are in a different location than their students.

12. **If a school official finds a student engaging in an alleged criminal offense after school hours using a school-issued laptop, and reports the student to law enforcement that leads to law enforcement being dispatched off campus to the student's location, then would the student be counted as referred to law enforcement?**

    Yes. The student would be counted as referred to law enforcement.

13. **Should schools consider truancy citations referrals to law enforcement?**

    Yes. Truancy citations should be considered referrals to law enforcement. Citations, tickets, court referrals, and school-related arrests are considered referrals to law enforcement.

When to Report Zero (0)

Zeroes represent an actual count or number for fields that are applicable to a given school or LEA. Report a zero ("0") only if the LEA has collected the information and the amount to report for that field is zero.

When to Use Blanks (i.e., Null Values)

Do not report a "0" for data not collected. Leave a field blank (i.e., null) if the LEA does not collect data for that field, if the amount asked is unknown, or if the question does not apply to the LEA.

Not Applicable (NA) and Zero (0) Autofill in Tables

The online CRDC data submission system retains information that has been entered in other tables and modules and uses that information to autofill related tables with either a Not Applicable (NA) code or zero (0) where appropriate. For example, if it is reported that a school does not have any female students who are EL, then other tables that ask for counts of female students who are EL will be automatically filled with a zero.

When to Use Not Submitted (NS)

When an uploaded data file contains a data value in a cell that should have been left blank, the data file must be corrected and then uploaded again. To correct the file, an "NS" must be entered into the cell. The "NS" returns the contents of the cell to a "not submitted" or null status. Please note that entering a null value (i.e., blank) into the cell will not overwrite the existing value in the cell. Also, the use of "NS" applies to file uploads only and not on-screen data entries.

Contact the Partner Support Center

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PSC Email Form