

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 213**  
**Asked on 27 April 2004**

Mr Messenger asked the Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts (Ms Bligh) -

QUESTION:

How many times has the Education department overturned a school's decision to discipline a student, eg expulsion and exclusion?

ANSWER:

The process for a student being excluded from a school is set out in the *Education (General Provisions) Act 1989*, which was introduced by the then National Party Government in that year.

Under that process, a school or its principal does not have the power to exclude a student. Rather, a principal recommends the student's exclusion to the principal's supervisor – the Executive Director (Schools). The EDS may then exclude the student if he or she is "reasonably satisfied that grounds exist to exclude the student". In 2003, only 4% of principals' recommendations to exclude a student were set aside by an EDS.

If a student is excluded by an EDS, the student may appeal the exclusion to the Director-General of Education. The Director-General must consider the student's submission and affirm, vary or set aside the decision. In 2003, no principals' recommendations to exclude a student were set aside by the Director-General.