

SPL:B Problem Behavior Categories & Definitions

The following are general descriptions of problem behavior categories. Schools/Districts are responsible for identifying specific behaviors that fall into each category.

MINOR INCIDENTS

- Incidents where the disciplinary consequence is provided by the person who witnessed the incident. The purpose of recording minor incidents is to collect information to develop interventions that PREVENT a recurring behavior from happening in the future.
- When minor offenses are examined at Tier 1, they help to identify behaviors that need to be taught and encouraged school-wide.

Definitions marked with an asterisk () are based on SWIS Referral Form Definitions (Todd, Horner, & Tobin, 2010).*

Problem Behavior Category (Minor Incidents)	Definition
Aggression	Lower-intensity physical actions with the intent to cause harm or inflict pain (e.g., hitting, pushing, etc.). <i>Related: Aggression/ Fighting (Major), Battery (SESIR); Fighting (SESIR)</i>
Disrespect	* Refusal to follow directions, talking back and/or socially rude interactions; includes Defiance/ Non-Compliance/ Insubordination. <i>Related: Disrespect (Major); Harassment (SESIR)</i>
Disruption	* Behavior that causes an interruption in a class or activity; includes loud talk, yelling, or screaming; noise with materials; and/or out-of-seat behavior. <i>Related: Disruption (Major); Disruption on Campus (SESIR)</i>
Dress Code	* Student wears clothing that is near, but not within, the dress code guidelines defined by the school/district. <i>Related: Dress Code (Major)</i>
Forgery/ Theft	* Student is in possession of, has passed along, or is responsible for removing someone else's property valued under \$XX , or has signed a person's name without that person's permission. <i>Related: Forgery/Theft (Major); Larceny/Theft (SESIR)</i>
Inappropriate Display of Affection	* Lower-intensity inappropriate but consensual verbal and/or physical gestures/contact of a romantic or sexual nature. <i>Related: Inappropriate Display of Affection (Major); Sexual Offenses (SESIR)</i>
Inappropriate Language	* Student engages in lower-intensity instance of inappropriate language (e.g., cursing after stubbing a toe). <i>Related: Abusive Language (Major); Threat/Intimidation (SESIR)</i>
Lying/ Cheating	* Student engages in lower-intensity levels of not telling the truth or copying someone else's work <i>Related: Lying/ Cheating (Major)</i>

Problem Behavior Category (Minor Incidents)	Definition
Physical Contact	*Lower-intensity inappropriate physical contact without intent to cause harm or inflict pain. <i>Related: Physical Contact (Major); Sexual Harassment (SESIR)</i>
Property Damage	Student breaks or makes a lower-cost item unusable (item valued under \$XX dollars). <i>Related: Property Damage <\$1,000 (Major); Vandalism (SESIR)</i>
Property Misuse	*Student engages in misuse of property that may cause permanent damage. <i>Related: Property Misuse (Major)</i>
Tardy	* Student is late (as defined by the school) to class or the start of the school day. <i>Related: Tardy (Major)</i>
Teasing/ Taunt	* Student delivers lower-intensity disrespectful messages to another person that may include negative comments, obscene gestures, pictures, or written notes. *Disrespectful messages include negative comments based on ethnicity, race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, national origin or other personal matters. <i>Related: Harassment/ Teasing (Major); Bullying (SESIR); Harassment (SESIR)</i>
Technology Violation	Use of cell phone, music/video player, camera, computer, and/or other electronic devices in violation of school or district policy. <i>Related: Technology Violation (Major)</i>
Unauthorized Area	Student is found in an area where they are not supposed to be at the time. <i>Related: Unauthorized Area (Major); Trespassing (SESIR)</i>
Other Minor	Lower-intensity behaviors not previously defined where the disciplinary consequence is provided by the person who witnessed the incident.
School-Defined Minor #1	Custom minor problem behavior
School-Defined Minor #2	Custom minor problem behavior
District-Defined Minor	Minor problem behavior designated by district-level personnel.

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The following definitions are general descriptions of problem behavior categories. Schools/Districts are responsible for identifying specific behaviors that fall into each category.

MAJOR INCIDENTS

- Incidents where the disciplinary consequence is provided outside of the student's assigned setting by someone other than the student's teacher or supervisor (“Office-Managed Incidents”).

Definitions marked with an asterisk () are based on SWIS Referral Form Definitions (Todd, Horner, & Tobin, 2010).*

Problem Behavior Category (Major Incidents)	Definition
Abusive Language	* Verbal messages that include swearing, name calling or use of words in an inappropriate way. <i>Related: Inappropriate Language (Minor), Threat/ Intimidation (SESIR)</i>
Aggression/ Fighting	Higher-intensity physical actions with the intent to cause harm or inflict pain (e.g., punching, kicking, etc.). <i>Related: Aggression (Minor); Battery (SESIR); Fighting (SESIR)</i>
Disrespect	* Refusal to follow directions, talking back and/or socially rude interactions; includes Defiance/ Non-Compliance/ Insubordination. <i>Related: (Disrespect (Minor), Harassment (SESIR)</i>
Disruption	* Behavior that causes an interruption in a class or activity; includes sustained loud talk, yelling, or screaming; noise with materials; and/or sustained out-of-seat behavior. <i>Related: Disruption (Minor); Disruption on Campus (SESIR)</i>
Dress Code	* Student wears clothing that does not fit within the dress code guidelines practiced by the school/district. <i>Related: Dress Code (Minor)</i>
Forgery/Theft	* Student is in possession of, has passed along, or is responsible for removing someone else's property valued over \$XX , or has signed a person’s name without that person’s permission. <i>Related: Forgery/ Theft (Minor); Larceny/ Theft (SESIR)</i>
Gang Affiliation/ Display	* Student uses gesture, dress, and/or verbal or written expressions to display affiliation with a gang. <i>Related: none</i>

Problem Behavior Category (Major Incidents)	Definition
Harassment/ Teasing	<p>Student delivers higher-intensity disrespectful messages to another person that may include negative comments, obscene gestures, pictures, or written notes.</p> <p>*Disrespectful messages include negative comments based on ethnicity, race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, national origin or other personal matters. <i>Related: Teasing/ Taunt (Minor); Bullying (SESIR); Harassment (SESIR)</i></p>
Inappropriate Display of Affection	<p>* Higher-intensity inappropriate, but consensual verbal and/or physical gestures/contact of a romantic or sexual nature.</p> <p><i>Related: Inappropriate Display of Affection (Minor); Sexual Offenses (SESIR)</i></p>
Lying/ Cheating	<p>* Student engages in higher-intensity levels of not telling the truth or copying someone else’s work that have more intense/serious consequences for their own or others’ well-being.</p> <p><i>Related: Lying/ Cheating (Minor)</i></p>
Physical Contact	<p>*Higher-intensity inappropriate physical contact without intent to cause harm or inflict pain.</p> <p><i>Related: Physical Contact (Minor); Sexual Harassment (SESIR)</i></p>
Possession/ Use of Combustibles	<p>* Student is in possession of substances/objects readily capable of causing bodily harm and/or property damage (e.g. matches, lighters, firecrackers, gasoline, lighter fluid).</p> <p><i>Related: none</i></p>
Property Damage <\$1,000	<p>* Student participates in an activity that results in destruction or disfigurement of property <\$1000.</p> <p><i>Related: Property Damage (Minor); Vandalism (SESIR)</i></p>
Property Misuse	<p>* Student engages in high-intensity misuse of property that may cause permanent damage or continues despite previous warning or direction to stop.</p> <p><i>Related: Property Misuse (Minor)</i></p>
Tardy	<p>* Student is late (as defined by the school) to class or the start of the school day.</p> <p><i>Related: Tardy (Minor)</i></p>
Technology Violation	<p>Use of cell phone, music/video player, camera, computer, and/or other electronic devices in serious violation of school or district policy.</p> <p><i>Related: Technology Violation (Minor)</i></p>
Truancy/ Skipping	<p>* Student leaves or misses class without permission.</p> <p><i>Related: none</i></p>

Definitions may also be found in the description of RtI:B Database Fields (www.flrtib.org)

Problem Behavior Category (Major Incidents)	Definition
Unauthorized Area	<p>Student is found in an area where they are not supposed to be and/or the area is off-limits to students.</p> <p><i>Related: Unauthorized Area (Minor); Trespassing (SESIR)</i></p>
Major Other	<p>Higher-intensity behaviors not previously defined where the disciplinary consequence is provided by someone other than the student's teacher or supervisor.</p>
School-Defined Major #1	<p>Custom major problem behavior</p>
School-Defined Major #2	<p>Custom major problem behavior</p>
District-Defined Major	<p>Major problem behavior designated by district-level personnel.</p>

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SESIR INCIDENTS

- SESIR incidents are defined by the State of Florida and represent offenses that are against the law or serious breaches of the code of student conduct. This includes, but is NOT limited to those incidents considered severe enough to require the involvement of a School Resource Officer (SRO) or reported to Law Enforcement. SESIR incidents must also be reported through your district database so they may be communicated to the Department of Education.

All definitions match the FLDOE SESIR Definitions, Revised (2011), and are available for download at

<http://www.fldoe.org/safeschools/pdf/EnvironmentalSafetyPoster.pdf>

Problem Behavior Category (SESIR Incidents)	Definition
Alcohol [ALC, L4]	Possession, sale, purchase, or use of alcoholic beverages. Use should be reported only if the person is caught in the act of using, admits to use or is discovered to have used in the course of an investigation. <i>Related: none</i>
Arson [ARS, L1]	To damage or cause to be damaged, by fire or explosion, any dwelling, structure, or conveyance, whether occupied or not, or its contents. <i>Related: none</i>
Battery [BAT, L1]	The physical use of force or violence by an individual against another. <i>Related: Aggression (Minor); Aggression/ Fighting (Major); Fighting (SESIR)</i>
Break & Enter/Burglary [BRK, L2]	The unlawful entry with force, or unauthorized presence in a building or other structure or conveyance with evidence of the intent to damage or remove property or harm a person(s). <i>Related: none</i>
Bullying [BUL, L4]	(Intimidating Behaviors) Systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment; or unreasonably interfere with the individual’s school performance or participation. <i>Related: Teasing/ Taunt (Minor); Harassment/ Teasing (Major)</i>
Disruption on Campus [DOC, L3]	Disruptive behavior that poses a serious threat to the learning environment, health, safety, or welfare of others. <i>Related: Disruption (Minor); Disruption (Major)</i>

Problem Behavior Category (SESIR Incidents)	Definition
Drug Sale/Distribution [DRD, L2]	<p>The manufacture, cultivation, sale, or distribution of any drug, narcotic, controlled substance, or substance represented to be a drug.</p> <p><i>Related: none</i></p>
Drug Use/Possession [DRU, L3]	<p>The use or possession of any drug, narcotic, controlled substance, or any substance when used for hallucinogenic purposes. Use should be reported only if the person is caught in the act of using, admits to use or is discovered to have used in the course of an investigation.</p> <p><i>Related: none</i></p>
Fighting [FIT, L3]	<p>When two or more persons mutually participate in use of force or physical violence that requires physical restraint or results in injury.</p> <p><i>Related: Aggression (Minor); Aggression (Major); Battery (SESIR)</i></p>
Harassment [HAR, L4]	<p>(Insulting Behaviors) Any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal, or physical conduct that (1) places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, (2) has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, or (3) has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school including any course of conduct directed at a specific person that causes substantial emotional distress in such a person and serves no legitimate purpose.</p> <p><i>Related: Teasing/ Taunt (Minor); Harassment/ Teasing (Major); Sexual Harassment (SESIR); Threat/ Intimidation (SESIR)</i></p>
Homicide [HOM, L1]	<p>The unjustified killing of one human being by another.</p> <p><i>Related: none</i></p>
Larceny/Theft (<\$300) [STL, L3]	<p>The unauthorized taking, carrying, riding away, or concealing the property of another person, including motor vehicles, without threat, violence, or bodily harm.</p> <p><i>Related: Forgery/ Theft (Minor); Forgery/ Theft (Major)</i></p>
Robbery [ROB, L2]	<p>The taking or attempted taking of anything of value that is owned by another person or organization, under the confrontational circumstances of force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.</p> <p><i>Related: Forgery/ Theft (Minor); Forgery/Theft (Major)</i></p>
Sexual Battery [SXB, L1]	<p>Forced or attempted oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by using a sexual organ or an object simulating a sexual organ, or the anal or vaginal penetration of another by any body part or object.</p> <p><i>Related: none</i></p>

Problem Behavior Category (SESIR Incidents)	Definition
Sexual Harassment [SXH, L3]	<p>Unwanted verbal or physical behavior with sexual connotations by an adult or student that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment, cause discomfort or humiliation or unreasonably interfere with the individual’s school performance or participation. (6A-19.008 (1) SBE Rule). An incident when one person demands a sexual favor from another under the threat of physical harm or adverse consequence.</p> <p><i>Related: Physical Contact (Minor); Physical Contact (Major)</i></p>
Sexual Offenses [SXO, L3]	<p>Other sexual contact, including intercourse, without force or threat of force. Subjecting an individual to lewd sexual gestures or comments or sexual activity, or exposing private body parts in a lewd manner.</p> <p><i>Related: Inappropriate Display of Affection (Minor); Inappropriate Display of Affection (Major); Sexual Harassment (SESIR)</i></p>
Threat/Intimidation [TRE, L3]	<p>(Instilling fear in others) A threat to cause physical harm to another person with or without the use of a weapon that includes all of the following elements: (1) intent—an intention that the threat is heard or seen by the person who is the object of the threat; (2) fear—a reasonable fear or apprehension by the person who is the object of the threat that the threat could be carried out; and (3) capability—the ability of the offender to actually carry out the threat directly or by a weapon or other instrument that can easily be obtained.</p> <p><i>Related: Teasing/ Taunt (Minor); Harassment/ Teasing (Major); Bullying (SESIR); Sexual Harassment (SESIR)</i></p>
Tobacco [TBC, L4]	<p>The possession, use, distribution, or sale of tobacco products on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, or on school transportation by any person under the age of 18.</p> <p><i>Related: none</i></p>
Trespassing [TRS, L2]	<p>To enter or remain on school grounds/campus, school transportation, or at a school-sponsored event/off campus without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry.</p> <p><i>Related: Unauthorized Area (Minor); Unauthorized Area (Major)</i></p>
Unsubstantiated Bullying [UBL]	<p>After a complete investigation and follow up of a reported bullying incident, the investigator determines that there is not enough evidence to substantiate that the incident meets the criteria of a prohibited act under definition of bullying as listed in the Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for all Students Act (Florida Statute 1006.147).</p> <p><i>Related: Teasing/ Taunt (Minor); Harassment/ Teasing (Major); Harassment (SESIR) Sexual Harassment (SESIR); Threat/ Intimidation (SESIR)</i></p>
Unsubstantiated Harassment [UHR]	<p>After a complete investigation and follow up of a reported harassment incident, the investigator determines that there is not enough evidence to substantiate that the incident meets the criteria of a prohibited act under definition of harassment as listed in the Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for all Students Act (Florida Statute 1006.147).</p> <p><i>Related: Teasing/ Taunt (Minor); Harassment/ Teasing (Major); Threat/ Intimidation (SESIR)</i></p>

Problem Behavior Category (SESIR Incidents)	Definition
Vandalism (>\$1,000) [VAN, L3]	<p>The intentional destruction, damage, or defacement of public or private/personal property without consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it.</p> <p><i>Related: Property Damage (Minor); Property Damage (Major)</i></p>
Weapons [WPO, L2]	<p>Possession of any instrument or object (as defined by Section 790.001(13), Florida Statutes, or district code of conduct) that can inflict serious harm on another person or that can place a person in reasonable fear of serious harm.</p> <p><i>Related: none</i></p>
Other Major [OMC, L3]	<p>Any serious, harmful incident resulting in the need for law enforcement intervention not previously classified (SESIR).</p> <p><i>Related: none</i></p>