



Our Contribution to Student Success

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Over
3000
youths

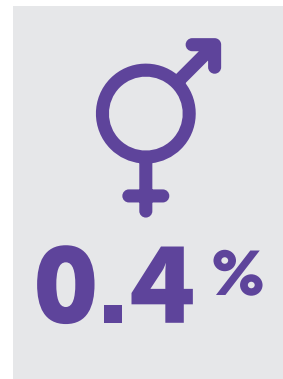
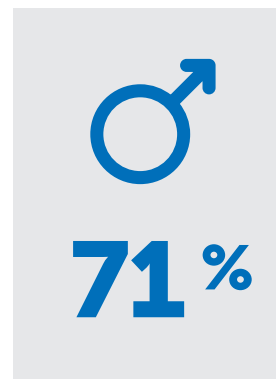
participated
in the YMCA Alternative
Suspension program

The Alternative Suspension program helps youth between 12 and 17 years of age who are facing temporary suspension from their academic institution or are at risk of suspension following problematic behaviour.

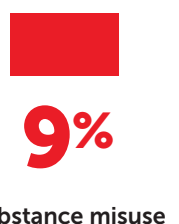
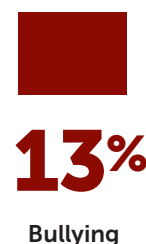
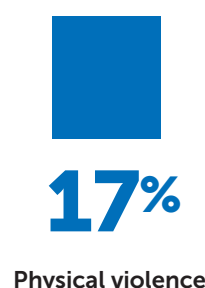
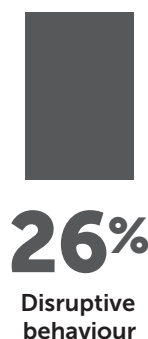
The program aims to reduce the number of repeated suspensions by offering youth the chance to transform their period of suspension into a positive experience fostering personal development and autonomy, mostly by:

- **Placing them in an environment focused on building self-worth**
- **Developing social skills**
- **Promoting self-respect and respect for others**

➤ Who are these youths?



➤ Principal reasons for referral to program



➤ The Partners



Over
466
schools used
the program

This collaboration was developed in consultation with schools, based on the needs they expressed, to ensure the project would complement existing services.

Distribution by grade

Grade 6	8%
Secondary 1 - Grade 7	22%
Secondary 2 - Grade 8	28%
Secondary 3 - Grade 9	20%
Secondary 4 - Grade 10	12%
Secondary 5 - Grade 11 & 12	11%



An Important and Vital Collaboration

Parents or guardians are key actors in the program and are involved from the start of the process.

The parent or guardian's presence at the reintegration meeting is essential and reinforces their central role in their child's education.

76%

of parents or guardians participated in their child's reintegration meeting.

➤ Successes

The 2024–2025 year marks a major milestone for the YMCA's Alternative Suspension program, now Back on Track by the YMCA. Celebrating 25 years of dedication, the program embraces a new identity that better reflects its mission of prevention, support, and reintegration. Under this new banner we are proud to continue foster student perseverance and academic success across Canada and beyond.

"YMCA Alternative Suspension gave me another connection to my community outside of school. The staff made me feel welcome which made it easier to focus on the workshops and building skills. They even called to check in on me after my participation in the program, which made me feel really cared for and valued."

– Program participant

➤ Our Impact

Following their participation in the program, youth demonstrate improved behaviour, aptitudes, and academic success. Thanks to the ongoing monitoring of the program over the past year, we observed:

A 27% reduction in the overall severity of behaviours.

A 63% improvement in their overall situation at school.

Nearly 70 % of youth program participants were not suspended again.

Nearly 86 % stated that they better understood the reason for their suspension.

A 65% reduction in disciplinary measures.

We're proud to have collaborated with
over 45 School Boards/School Divisions.

alternativesuspension.ca