

School Discipline in State Policy:

A 50-State Perspective

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**EDUCATION
COMMISSION
OF THE STATES**

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January 24, 2019

Who we are

The **essential, indispensable** member of any team addressing education policy.



What we do

We believe in the power of **learning from experience** and we know informed policymakers create **better education policy.**



How we do it



Roadmap

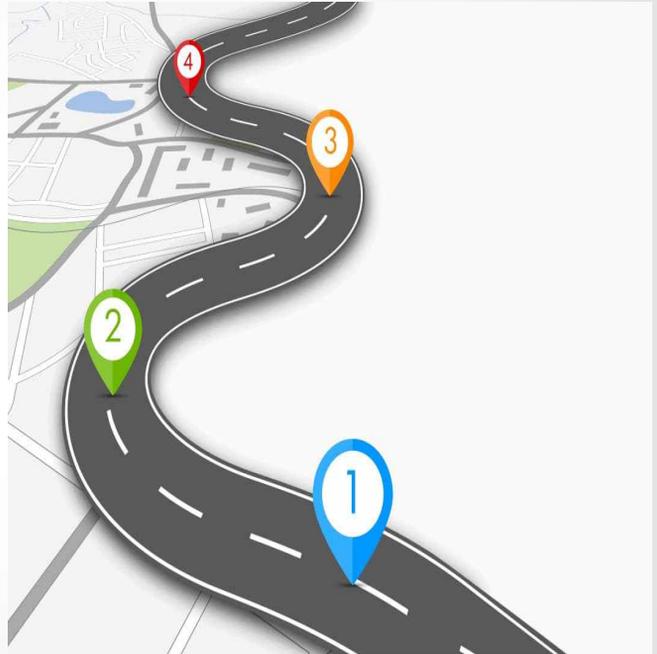
Data & Current
Context



Research



State Policies



What is the issue?

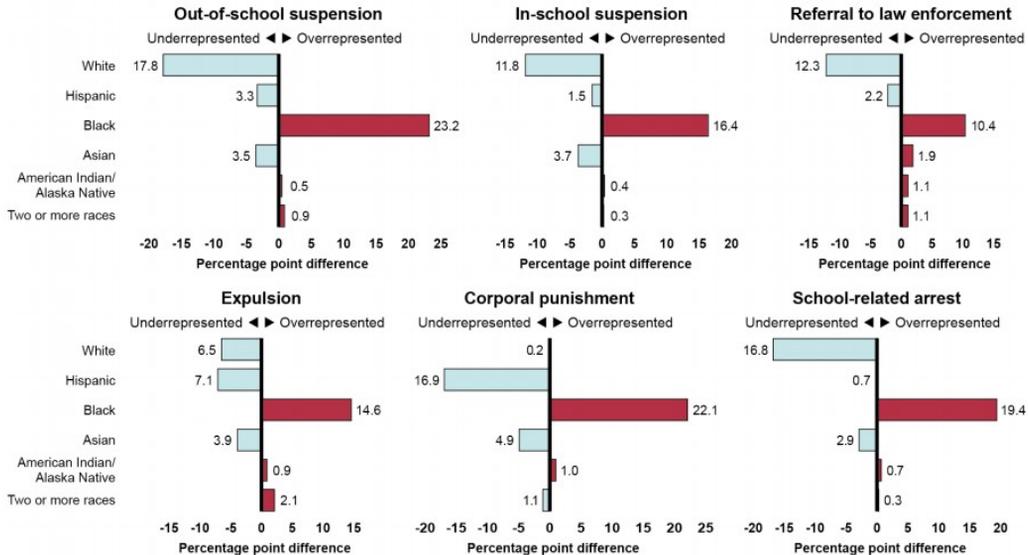


- U.S. Office for Civil Rights Data
- Discipline Disparities
 - ◆ Race
 - ◆ Gender
 - ◆ Disability Status
- Referrals to Law Enforcement

Diving into the Data

Figure 2: Representation of Students Who Received Disciplinary Actions Compared to Overall Student Population, by Student Race or Ethnicity, School Year 2013-14

This chart shows whether each race or ethnicity was underrepresented or overrepresented among students who received six types of discipline. For example, White students were underrepresented among students suspended out of school by approximately 18 percentage points, as shown in the chart, because they made up about 50% of the overall K-12 student population, but 32% of the students suspended out of school.



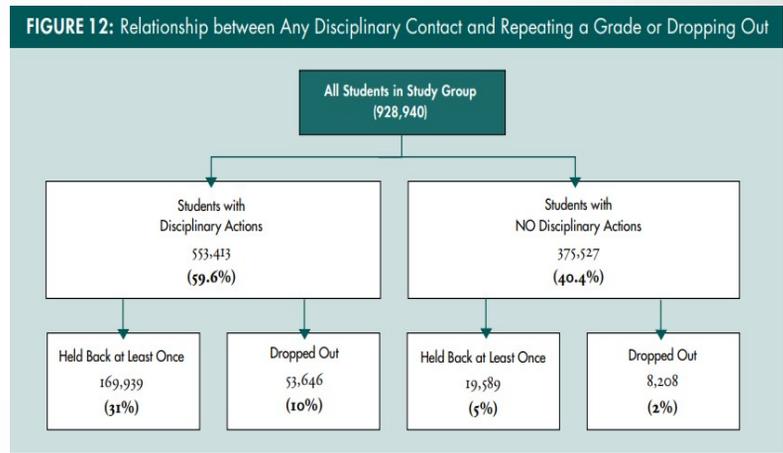
Source: GAO analysis of Department of Education, Civil Rights Data Collection. | GAO-18-258

Note: Disparities in student discipline such as those presented in this figure may support a finding of discrimination, but taken alone, do not establish whether unlawful discrimination has occurred.

Research: Exclusionary Discipline

- Academic Performance
- Grade Retention
- Drop-Out
- Criminal Justice Involvement
- Economic Impacts

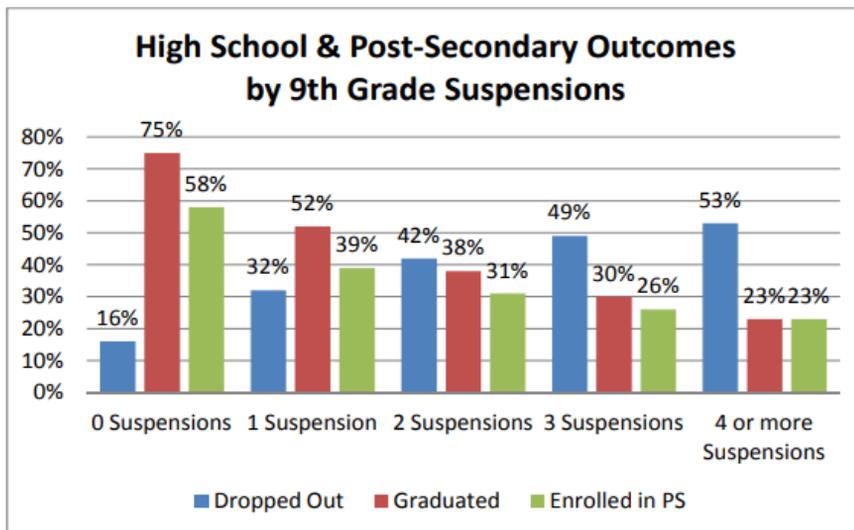
FIGURE 12: Relationship between Any Disciplinary Contact and Repeating a Grade or Dropping Out



Council of State Governments Justice Center, "Breaking Schools' Rules" 2011

Research: Exclusionary Discipline

Figure 1 – High School and Post-Secondary Outcomes by Number of 9th Grade Suspensions



Balfanz, Robert; Byrnes, Vaughan; and Fox, Joanna (2014) "Sent Home and Put Off-Track: The Antecedents, Disproportionalities and Consequences of Being Suspended in the Ninth Grade,"

Research: Alternative Strategies

Well-implemented alternative strategies, including PBIS, restorative and trauma-informed practices may:

Academic
Engagement



Student
Behavior



School
Climate



Exclusionary
Discipline

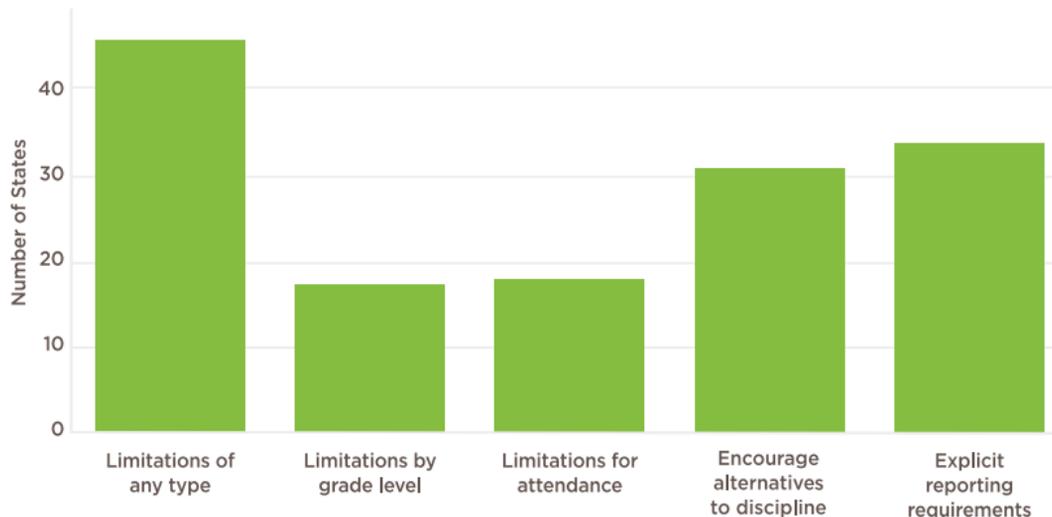


Research Note: Implementation



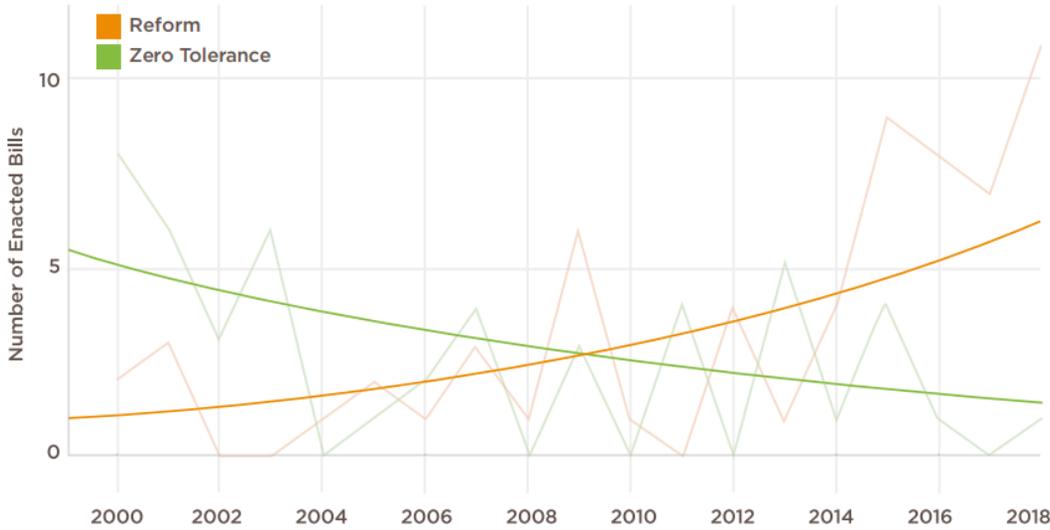
What is currently in state law?

Types of School Discipline Statutes



State Policy Shifts Over Time

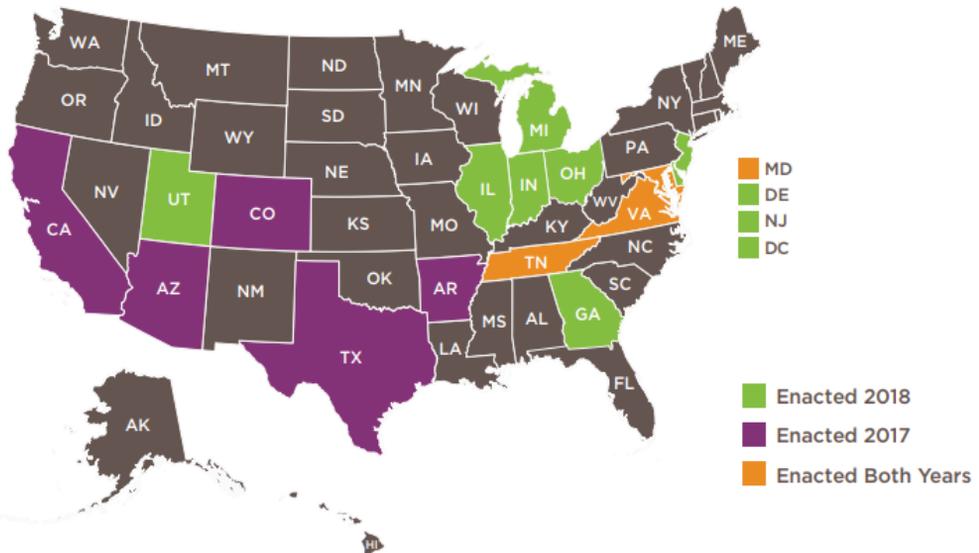
Zero Tolerance and Reform Bills Enacted in 2000-18



This graph depicts trend lines (foreground) as well as raw data (background) on the number of bills passed in both the zero tolerance and reform categories.

What have states enacted recently?

Enacted Legislation: Suspension, Expulsion or Alternatives to Discipline



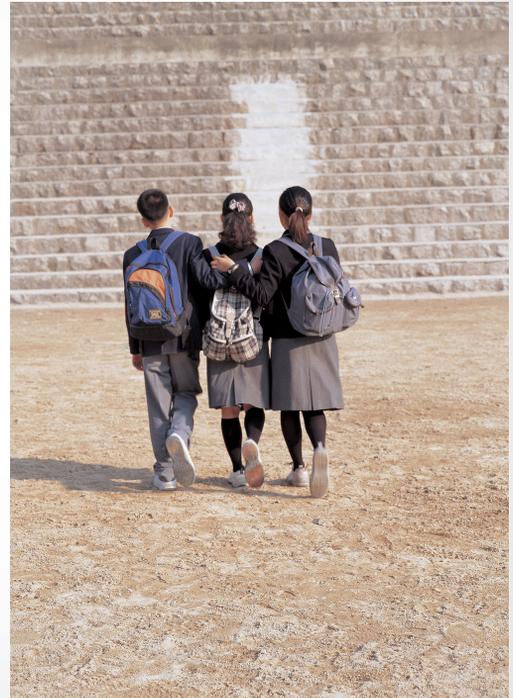
State Policies 2018: Suspension & Expulsion



- **Grade level limitations**
 - ◆ Virginia SB 170
 - ◆ D.C. B22-0594
- **Violation type limitations**
 - ◆ Colorado HB 1156
- **Reporting requirements**
 - ◆ Delaware SB 85-1
 - ◆ Utah SB 198

State Policies 2018: Alternative Strategies

- **Encourage Use of Alternatives**
 - ◆ Georgia HB 740
 - ◆ D.C. B22-0594
- **Training & Professional Development**
 - ◆ Ohio HB 318
- **Study Committees**
 - ◆ Indiana HB 1421



Resources

- **Education Commission of the States**
 - ◆ The Status of School Discipline in State Policy
 - ◆ 50-State Comparison
 - ◆ Policy Snapshot: Suspension & Expulsion
 - ◆ Policy Snapshot: Alternative School Discipline Strategies
- **National Clearinghouse on Supportive School Discipline**
- **Council of State Governments Justice Center**
- **UCLA Civil Rights Project**

Questions?



Contact Us!

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