

September 2014

## SCHOOL DISCIPLINE ORGANIZATIONS AND RESOURCES

Many schools and school districts have been reforming their discipline policies and practices to include alternative approaches that promote positive academic and behavioral outcomes for all students and that eliminate harsh and exclusionary discipline practices that push students out of school. The links provided below are offered as resources to those seeking to learn more about organizations and supports for positive school discipline policies and practices.

### National Reports on School Discipline

- **The School Discipline Consensus Report: Strategies from the Field to Keep Students Engaged in School and Out of the Juvenile Justice System**  
The Council of State Governments Justice Center, along with support from other partners, prepared this report after engaging in extensive literature reviews, advisory discussions and listening tours, which involved over 700 individuals and experts in education, juvenile justice, law enforcement, behavioral health as well as policymakers, parents, youth and advocates. The report provides field-driven recommendations on school discipline policies and practices to a wide range of stakeholders.
- **Discipline Disparities Research-to-Practice Collaborative, Briefing Paper Series**  
The Discipline Disparities Research-to-Practice Collaborative at Indiana University is composed of key stakeholders in education, including researchers, educators, advocates, and policy analysts. The Collaborative has produced a series of informational briefs that seek to expand that knowledge base of school discipline disparities as well effective positive discipline practices. [Click here](#) to read the 2014 discipline disparities research briefing papers.
- **School Discipline in the Eyes of School Superintendents**  
CDF and AASA, the School Superintendents Association, with support from The Atlantic Philanthropies, surveyed school superintendents nationwide to learn about their beliefs, policies and practices on school discipline. Five hundred superintendents responded to the survey and shared detailed feedback regarding out-of-school suspension policies and practices in their districts, in addition to strengths and challenges they face with discipline reform. [Click here](#) to read the report.

### Federal Guidance on School Discipline

- **U.S. Department of Education, School Climate and Discipline**  
In January 2014, The U.S. Departments of Education and Justice jointly released a 'guidance package' - resources for schools and districts to help them meet their responsibilities under federal civil rights law to engage in nondiscriminatory discipline practices. Some resources from the package include:
  - [Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline](#)
  - [Guiding Principles: A resource guide for improving schools climate and discipline](#)
  - [Directory of Federal School Climate and Discipline Resources](#)

### School Discipline - Articles and Case Studies

- **Advancement Project, Ending the Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Track**

- [Success Stories: State by State, County by County, School Districts are Ending the Use of Overly Harsh Discipline Practices](#)
- **Dignity in Schools, Resources for Educators**
  - [In the News, resource library](#)

### **Organizations & Resources**

- **AASA, the School Superintendents Association**

AASA is the nation's oldest and largest membership organization for school leaders. AASA works to support and develop school leaders and advocate for the highest quality public education for all students. AASA works with school leaders across the country to improve discipline policies and practices. [Click here](#) for more about AASA and school discipline.
- **The Children's Defense Fund**

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) is a non-profit child advocacy organization that has worked relentlessly for more than 40 years to ensure a level playing field for all children. The organization's 1975 report, [School Suspensions: Are They Helping Children](#), was foundational to many current efforts to reform school discipline policy and practice. Since that time the organization has continued to advocate for reforms that reduce exclusionary discipline and eliminate disparities due to race and disability.
- **American Institutes for Research**

American Institutes for Research is a non-profit organization that conducts behavioral and social science research and program evaluations. Since 1946, AIR has become one of the world's largest research organizations and recently hosted a roundtable discussion for youth, policymakers, and practitioners about the impact that harsh school policies have on students. [Click here](#) to learn more about AIR's research on exclusionary school discipline.
- **Office for Civil Rights, Civil Rights Data Collection**

The U.S. Department of Education conducts the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) by collecting data on key education and civil rights issues in our nation's public schools. The CRDC for the 2011-12 school year was collected from every public school and school district in the country. [Click here](#) to access the school and district level data from 2011-2012.

### **Special Initiatives on School Discipline**

- **Supportive School Discipline Initiative**

In 2011, the Supportive School Discipline (SSD) Initiative, a joint partnership between the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice, was launched to promote and support school discipline practices that foster safe and positive school communities that keep students in school. The [SSD Communities of Practice](#) website serves as a portal for school discipline news and resources, including monthly [e-Digest](#) newsletters relevant to schools, courts and law enforcement. On this website you can also access the [SSD webinar series](#), jointly hosted by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services.
- **The Equity Project**

The Equity Project at Indiana University focuses on various educational equity initiatives and seeks to provide evidence-based information for practitioners and policymakers to address issues of school discipline and violence, special education, and equitable learning opportunities for all students. The Equity Project compiles reports and policy briefs to help bridge the gap between policy and practice. [Click here](#) to explore their research and resource library.

## Additional Projects and Online Resources

- [National Clearinghouse on Supportive School Discipline](#)
- [Fix School Discipline, a project of Public Counsel](#)
- [University of California, The Civil Rights Project](#)

## School Discipline Outcomes across States

- [The Colorado School Discipline Report Card](#)
- [Suspension and Expulsion Patterns in Six Oregon School Districts](#)
- [Keeping California's Kids in School: Fewer Students of Color Missing School for Minor Misbehavior](#)

## Additional Readings

- [Health Impact Assessment of School Discipline Policies: A Health Impact Assessment of Exclusionary School Discipline, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, and Restorative Justice Policies in Three California School Districts](#)
- [School Climate Guide for District Policymakers and Education Leaders](#)