Law Enforcement Policies
Board of Education Workshop

October 5, 2021

Workshop Goals

Law Enforcement Policies

- Develop shared understanding of the rationale and process for the revisions.

- Communicate the substantive changes to each of the discipline policies.

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Portland Promise

Equity Goal

PPS is vigilant in supporting each and every student's particular path to achieving high standards, rooting out systemic or ongoing inequities.

Strategy 2:
Review current policies and practices that create unintended barriers to access, and move to dismantle them. (REMOVE BARRIERS)

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Equity Gap in School Discipline

Research Brief

Black, Hispanic, and Native American students are **two to five times as likely** as White and Asian students to be suspended or expelled.

Exclusionary discipline practices (practices that take students out of the classroom and away from learning, including office referrals, suspensions, and expulsions):

- reduce students' institutional trust and academic achievement;
- increase students' academic disengagement and rule-breaking;
- increase students' risk of dropping out;
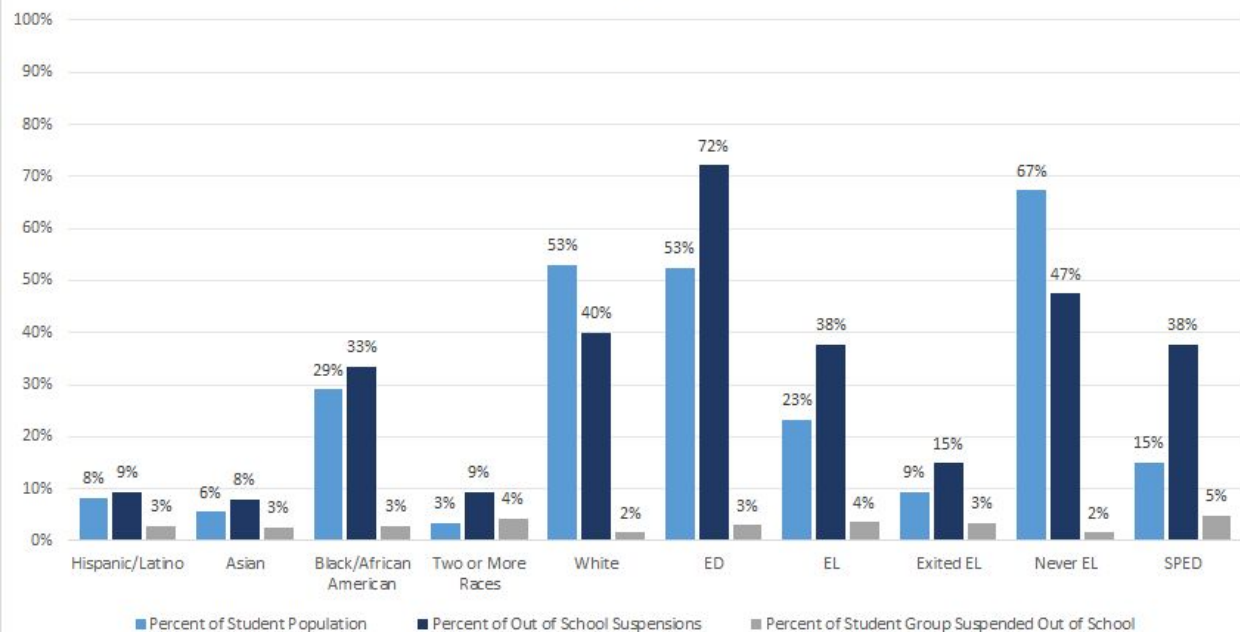- predominantly push students of color into the school-to-prison pipeline.

Racial Disproportionality in School Discipline, American Psychological Association; January 2021

Discipline Data

2019-2020 Suspensions

Portland Public School
2019/20 Out of School Suspension Rates Compared to Overall Demographics
n=215

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School Discipline and Juvenile Justice Involvement

Research Brief

"When a student was suspended or expelled, his or her likelihood of being involved in the juvenile justice system the subsequent year increased significantly."

- More than one in seven students was in contact with the juvenile justice system (i.e., contact with a county's juvenile probation department) at least once between seventh and twelfth grade.
- Nearly half of those students who were disciplined 11 or more times were in contact with the juvenile justice system. In contrast, 2 percent of the students who had no school disciplinary actions were in contact with the juvenile justice system.
- When controlling for campus and individual student characteristics, the data revealed that a student who was suspended or expelled for a discretionary violation was nearly three times as likely to be in contact with the juvenile justice system the following year.

Breaking School Rules: A Statewide Study of How School Discipline Relates to Students' Success and Juvenile Justice Involvement, Fabelo, et al., July 2011.

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Policy Revisions

Engagement Process

- Community Dialogue
  - Valuing Safety and Hearing Each Other: *A Community Conversation on School Safety*

- Additional Stakeholder Engagement
  - Reimagine Education
  - School Leaders
  - Portland Police Department
  - Department of Corrections
  - ACLU of Maine
  - Opportunity Alliance
  - Portland Education Association

- Legal Review

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Summary of Key Changes

Law Enforcement Policies

- KLGB - Law Enforcement Involvement in Student Matters
  - New policy to clarify overarching guidance for staff
  - Informed by Drummond model policy KLG and ACLU of Washington State model policy.
  - Clarifies that school discipline is the responsibility of school staff and that law enforcement shall not be involved in student discipline
  - Articulates guidance for requesting law enforcement assistance depending on the level of threat to safety and the seriousness of the incident
  - Provides expectations for responding to visits by law enforcement limiting the circumstances when a student could be interviewed and the support for them

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Summary of Key Changes (cont.)

Law Enforcement Policies

- JRA - Student Records and Information
  - Eliminate reference to designated law enforcement unit
  - Updates language for gender neutral pronouns

- JRA R - Student Records and Information Admin Guidelines
  - Eliminate reference to designated law enforcement unit
  - Updates language for gender neutral pronouns

- KI - Visitors
  - Remove references to visits by law enforcement and DHHS
  - Add language for disruptive visitors
  - Remove legal references

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Summary of Key Changes (cont.)

Law Enforcement Policies

- EBCC - Bomb Threats
  - Update language and organization
  - Removes procedure language from policy

- EBCC R - Bomb Threats Admin Guidelines
  - Rescind and incorporate into EBCA Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

- ECAD Security Camera System
  - Update cross references

- ECAD R - Security Camera System Admin Procedure
  - Update language for clarity

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Board Workshop

Law Enforcement Policies

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