

LEAGUE OF EDUCATION VOTERS™

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE BEST PRACTICES

8.8.13

Working to improve
public education
in Washington State
from cradle to career
with ample, equitable,
and stable funding

Discipline Best Practices

- Effective discipline practices demonstrate a school wide culture shift and lead to improvements in student achievement
 - Rooted in research
 - Utilize current resources
 - Specific to district and student needs
 - Set goals and benchmarks with data
 - Alter written policy and institutionalize change

Discipline Policies Should...

- Limit the amount of time students are out of school
- Avoid referrals to law enforcement
- Students should receive an education even if they are suspended or expelled
- Ensure smooth reenrollment after exclusion

Improving School Climate

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

- Prevention-based model that promotes and rewards positive behavior
- 3-tiered system that incentivizes good behavior and uses targeted solutions
- Many schools in WA, Highline School District
- Schools track and analyze data
- Results: 40-60% reduction in discipline referrals in just the 1st year

Improving School Climate

Restorative Justice

- Identifying the misconduct and attempting to repair the damage
- Including all people impacted in the process of responding to conflict
- Creating a process that promotes healing, reconciliation, and the rebuilding of relationships
- Results: seen in 3 to 6 months of starting the program
- First Creek Middle School in Tacoma

Improving School Climate

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- ACEs
 - emotional, sexual or physical abuse
 - emotional or physical neglect
 - a parent addicted to drugs or alcohol
 - a family member in prison
- Children with toxic stress live in flight or fight
- Lincoln Alternative High School in Walla Walla
- Results: decreased suspensions 85% in 1 year

Success Stories

Baltimore

- Keep students in school, address student needs, support academic achievement, and use alternatives to harsh discipline
- Formal trainings on the new policies
- Data is built into the district's accountability system
- Results: suspensions have dropped by 60 percent
- Results: dropout rate decreased 7.9 percent (2008) to 4.2 percent (2011)

Success Stories

Denver

- Decrease referrals to police, graduated discipline levels, and work to eliminate racial disparities
- Results: high school attendance rates, graduation, completion, and dropout rates have all improved
- Results: dropout rate decreased from 10.4% (2006-07) to 6.4% (2010-11)

QUESTIONS?



Get Involved!

Improve discipline in your community

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