

Equity in School Discipline Practices

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Together We Can

Vision

All students in Colorado will become educated and productive citizens capable of succeeding in society, the workforce, and life.

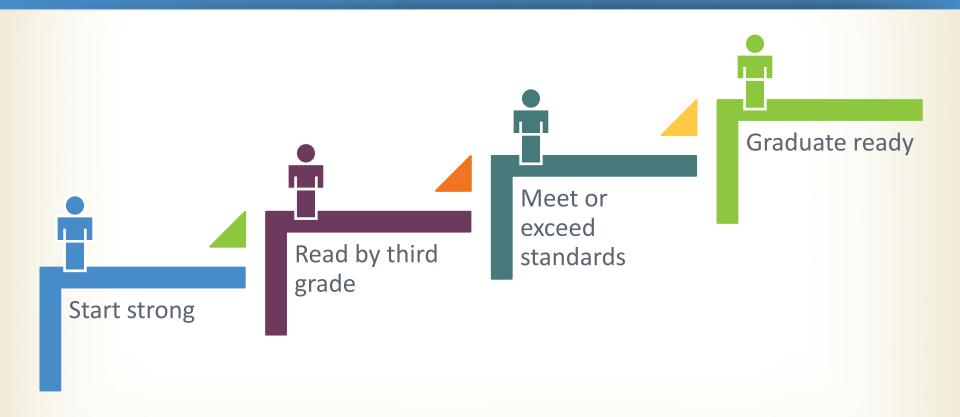
Mission

The mission of the Colorado Department of Education is to ensure that all students are prepared for success in society, work, and life by providing excellent leadership, service, and support to schools, districts, and communities across the state.



CDE Strategic Goals:

Every Student Every Step of the Way





Materials for this Session

- To access materials presented in this session, go to:
 - http://copbisuniversal.pbworks.com

Click on "Equity in School Discipline"



Acknowledgments

- Colorado Schools & Districts
- Florida PBIS Project
- Indiana University
 - The Equity Project
 - Dr. Russ Skiba
- National Association of School Psychologists
- OSEP PBIS National Technical Assistance Center

- University of Oregon
 - Kent McIntosh
 - Jennifer Frank
 - Seth May
- US Dept. of Education
- Office of Dropout Prevention, CDE



Learner Objectives

After this session, learners will...

- Understand state and federal legislative factors related to school discipline, specifically suspension/expulsion
- Compare local discipline data to the state-level data
- Explain the two factors influencing equity in education
- Apply a multi-component approach to reduce disproportionate discipline practices within local context



The Evolution of School Discipline



Etymology

Origin of DISCIPLINE

- Middle English, from Anglo-French & Latin; Anglo-French, from Latin disciplina
- Teaching
- Learning
- First Known Use: 13th century



Definition

dis·ci·pline noun \'di-sə-plən\

- Control that is gained by requiring that rules or orders be obeyed and punishing bad behavior
- A way of behaving that shows a willingness to obey rules or orders
- Behavior that is judged by how well it follows a set of rules or orders

Where did the teaching and learning go?



Corporal Punishment

- Physical punishment, such as spanking or paddling
- First use documented late 19th century
- Paddling became the "norm" in 1930's
- The US Supreme Court <u>ruled in 1977</u> that spanking or paddling by school officials or teachers is lawful, where it has not been explicitly outlawed by local authorities.
- 31 states (plus D.C. and Puerto Rico) have abolished it in public schools
- CP is still permitted in the other 19 states (including CO*), and it remains a widespread practice in three of them, all in the South: Alabama, Arkansas and Mississippi.

Zero Tolerance

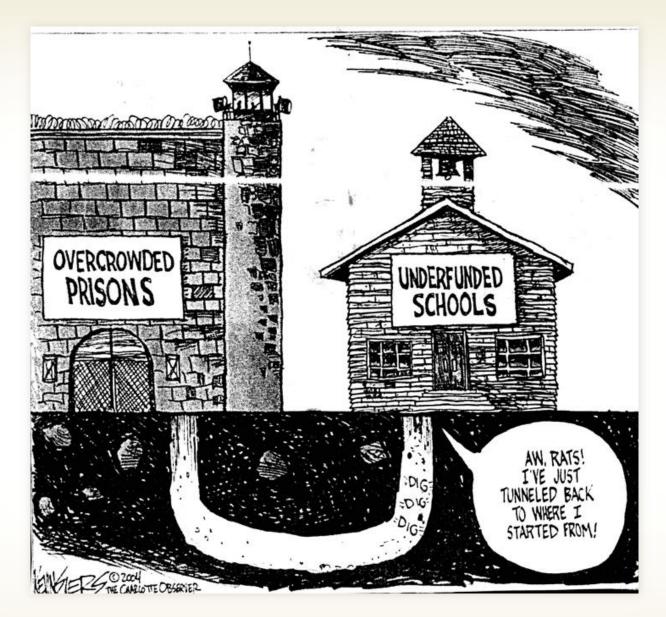
- Zero Tolerance harsh punishment for any amount of behavior regardless of the circumstances
 - Based in 1980's drug programs
 - Picked up in schools 1989-1990
 - 1994: Gun Free Schools Act becomes law (firearms)
 - 2000's: Zero Tolerance policies include a wide range of behaviors and offenses
- Has led to <u>significant increases</u> in disciplinary removal



Zero Tolerance: The use of suspension &

- "...there is little to no evidence that strict zero tolerance policies have contributed to reducing student misbehavior or improving school safety."
- "...at risk students do not change their behavior as a result of suspension, ...suspension is associated with school dropout and incarceration, and...schools with higher rates of suspension and expulsion tend to have lower test scores and less satisfactory school climate."







Problems Associated with Zero Tolerance Policies

- Racial disproportionality: Black students receive more harsh punitive measures (suspension, expulsion, corporal punishment) and less mild discipline than their non-minority peers, even controlling for Socio-economic Status.
- A greater negative impact on educational outcomes for students with disabilities
- Inconsistent application of Zero Tolerance policies, which often are not reserved exclusively for serious behaviors but applied indiscriminately to much lower levels of rule infraction.



Problems Associated with Zero Tolerance Policies

- An increasing rate of suspensions and expulsions throughout the country, even though school violence generally has been stable or declining.
- A high rate of repeat suspensions that may indicate that suspension is ineffective in changing behavior for challenging students.
- Elevated dropout rates related to the repeated use of suspension and expulsion - the most likely consequence of suspension is additional suspension.



Disproportionality

- Black students suspended 2 3x as frequently as their white peers
- Racial/ethnic disproportionality also found in:
 - Office referrals
 - Expulsion
 - Corporal punishment
- Students with disabilities over-represented:
 - 11-14% of overall population
 - Approx. 20-24% of suspensions



For what behaviors are students referred?

White students referred more for:

- Smoking
- Vandalism
- Leaving without permission
- Obscene language

Black students referred more for:

- Disrespect
- Excessive noise
- Threat
- Loitering

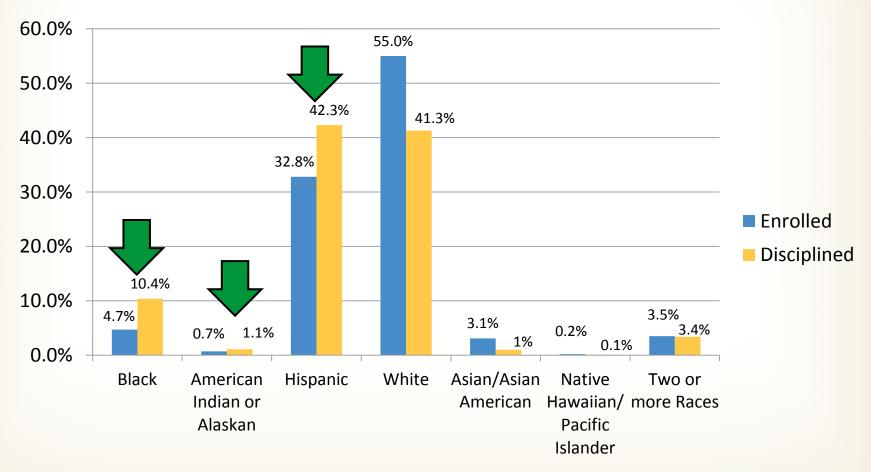




Colorado Data Share



2013-14 State Total Disciplinary Actions Taken <u>between</u> Race/Ethnicity (non-duplicate student level analysis)





2013-14 State Total Disciplinary Actions Taken <u>within</u> Race/Ethnicity (non-duplicate student level analysis)

Race/Ethnicity	# of Student Population	Total % of Students Disciplined <i>within</i> Race/Ethnicity
Black	41,107	13.9%
American Indian or Alaskan	6,574	9.4%
Hispanic	287,402	8.1%
Two or more Races	30,625	6.1%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	1,991	5.0%
White	482,405	4.8%
Asian/Asian American	26,895	2.1%
Total Student Enrollment:	876,999	

^{*} In order of most disproportionate to least disproportionate.



Total Disciplinary Actions Taken <u>within</u> Race/Ethnicity for the last 5 years (non-duplicate student level analysis)





2013-14 <u>between</u> Race/Ethnicity Comparison by Setting (non-duplicate student level analysis)

	Metro Denver		Outlying Cities		Urban-Suburban	
Race/Ethnicity	% of Student Population	Total % of Students Disciplined	% of Student Population	Total % of Students Disciplined	% of Student Population	Total % of Students Disciplined
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.6%	1.0%	2.5%	4.8%	0.6%	1.0%
Asian/Asian American	4.2%	1.4%	1.5%	0.8%	4.2%	1.4%
Black	6.1%	15.3%	0.8%	1.4%	6.2%	15.3%
Hispanic	33.6%	45.0%	44.2%	55.6%	33.6%	45.0%
White	51.7%	33.8%	48.8%	34.7%	51.7%	33.8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Two or More Races	3.5%	3.5%	2.0%	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%



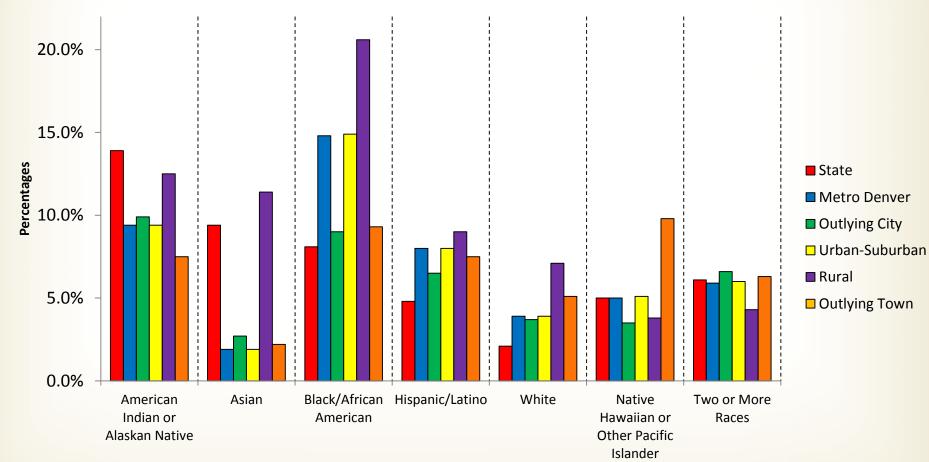
2013-14 <u>between</u> Race/Ethnicity Comparison by Setting (non-duplicate student level analysis)

	Rı	ıral	Outlying Towns		
Race/Ethnicity	% of Student Population	Total % of Students Disciplined	% of Student Population	Total % of Students Disciplined	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1.4%	2.3%	0.7%	0.9%	
Asian/Asian American	0.5%	0.8%	0.7%	0.3%	
Black	0.8%	2.2%	0.4%	0.7%	
Hispanic	21.5%	25.4%	32.5%	40.8%	
White	73.2%	68.0%	63.7%	55.3%	
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	
Two or More Races	2.4%	1.3%	1.8%	1.8%	



2013-14 within Race/Ethnicity Comparison by Setting

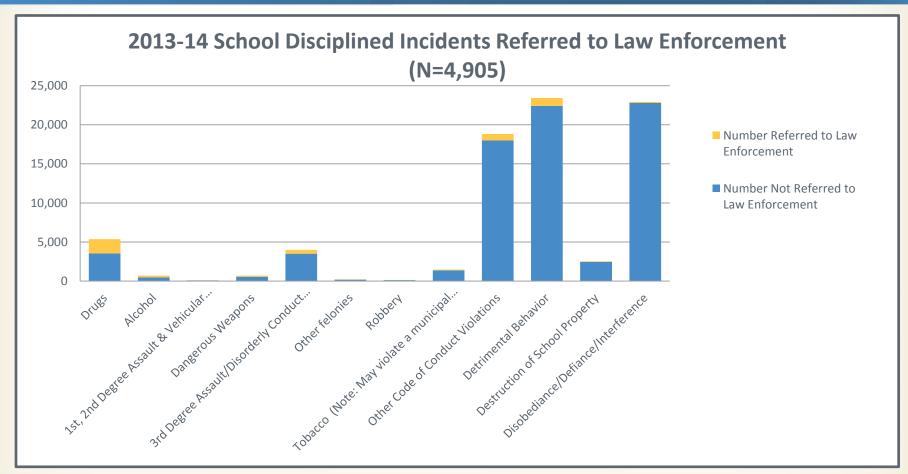
(non-duplicate student level analysis)



Race/Ethnicity



2013-14 Referrals to Law Enforcement: Number and Percent of Total Disciplined (incident level analysis)

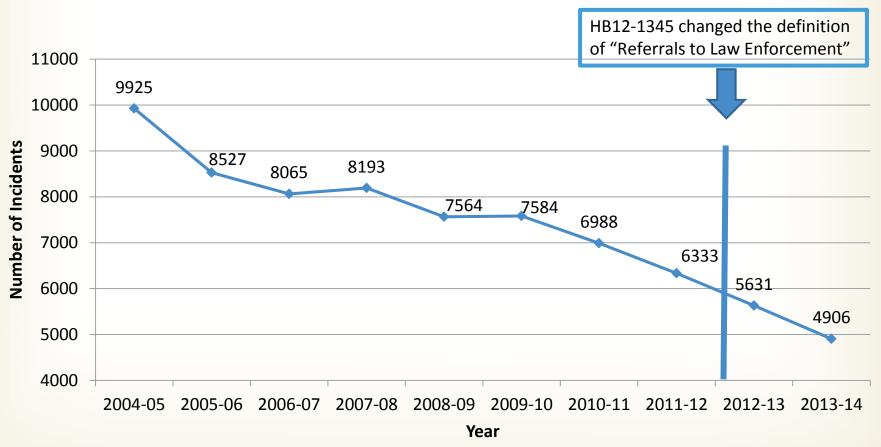


Data Source: Colorado Department of Education, Data Services



Colorado Trend Line Before and After HB12-1345 Referrals to Law Enforcement

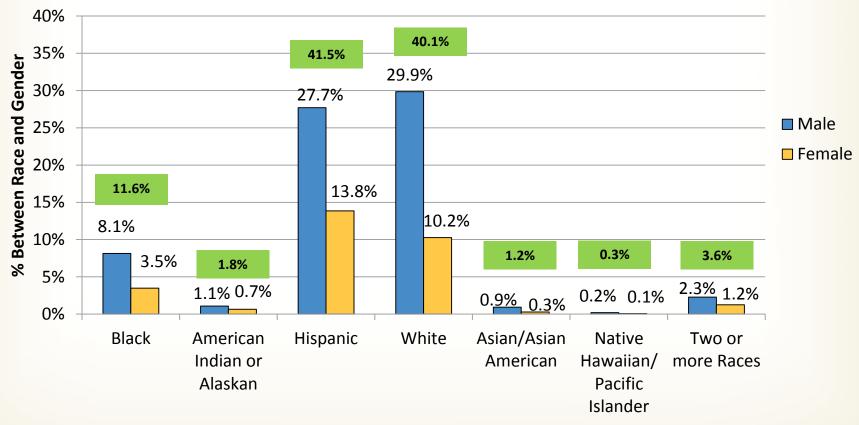
(incident level analysis)





2013-14 Referrals to Law Enforcement between Race/Ethnicity by Gender (duplicate student level analysis)

*Note: Students, not incidents (n=6,073). May include duplicate counts



Race/Ethnicity



Learning Activity

As a table group, investigate the CO discipline data on your table.

Discuss:

- What are your initial thoughts when you see these data?
- What questions do you have about these data?
- What are implications for how supports are provided to students?
- How do these data compare to data from your site?
 - Can you access similar disaggregated data at your site (e.g. race/ethnicity, special education, FRL, etc.)?
 - If so, what does discipline for those special populations look like at your site?



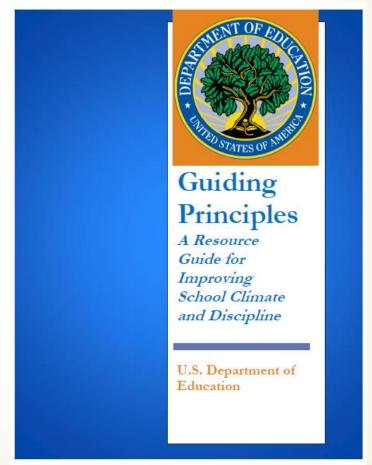


Equity in Education



A Shift in Thinking - Nationally

- US Dept. of Education
 "Guiding Principles: A
 Resource Guide for
 Improving School Climate
 and Discipline"
 - Collaboration between
 Departments of Education
 and Justice
 - Recognizes disproportionality within school discipline
 - Provides guiding principles for intervention





A Shift in Thinking – Closer to Home

- CO HB 12-1345 Section 21: **Disciplinary Measures in Public Schools**
 - Firearm is only mandatory offense for expulsion
 - Use prevention, intervention, restorative justice, peer mediation, counseling to address misconduct

COLORADO POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS

Colorado House Bill 12-1345: School Finance Bill

Summary of the provisions of Section 21: Disciplinary Measures in Public Schools

- 1. Section 21 (1) (a) The use of inflexible "zero-tolerance" policies has resulted in unnecessary expulsions, out-of-school suspension and referrals to law enforcement agencies.
- 2. 22-32-109.1 (1.5) School district shall adopt a mission statement that includes "making safety for all students and staff a priority in each public school of the district" and create a "Safe School Plan", including a Conduct and Discipline Code and Safe School Reporting Requirements
 - 22-32-109.1 (1) (a) "Action taken means a specific type of discipline including but not limited to the following categories of discipline":
 - In school suspension Out-of-school suspension
 - Classroom removal in accordance with board policy
 - Expulsion
 - o Referral to a law enforcement agency, or
 - Any other form of discipline, which shall be officially identified as part of board policy
 - 22-32-101.1 (1) (b) (IV) "The number of conduct and discipline code violations, each of which violations...including, but not limited to specific information identifying the number of, and the action taken with respect to, each of the following types of violations":
 - Possessing a dangerous weapon
 - Use or possession of alcohol
 - o Use, possession or sale of a drug or controlled
 - Use or possession of a tobacco product
 - Being willfully disobedient or openly and persistently defiant or repeated interfering with the school's ability to provide educational opportunities, and a safe environment for, other students
 - First degree assault Second degree assault

 - Vehicular assault
 - Behavior that is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students or of school personnel
 - Willful destruction or defacement of school property
 - Other violations of the code of conduct and discipline that resulted
 - Referral to law enforcement:
 - o Section 21 (1) (f) (i) Encouraged to include...which violations of the code require a referral to law
 - Section 21 (1) (f) (II) Encouraged to include...which violations of the code may result in a referral to law enforcement, subject to the discretion of a school administration or a local board of education
- 3. Amends ground for suspension and expulsion
 - 22-33-106 (1.5) Firearm is only mandatory offense
 - 22-33-106 May suspend or expel for: habitually disruptive student: possession of dangerous weapon; use possession or sale of drug or controlled substance; robbery; third degree assault; false accusation of criminal
- 4. 22-32-109.1 (II) (A) Impose proportionate disciplinary interventions and consequences
- 5. 22-32-109.1 (2) (II) (B) Use prevention, intervention, restorative justice, peer mediation, counseling and other approaches



What Can We Do to Enhance Equity in School Discipline





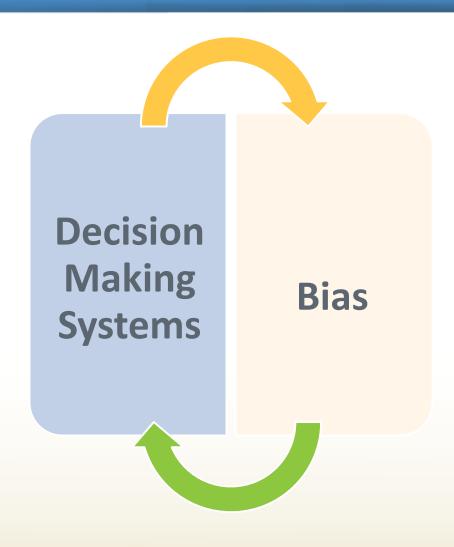
http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/school-discipline/index.html

http://www.pbis.org/school/equity-pbis

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS)

continued on sent page

Two Factors Influencing Equity in Education





Two Systems for Decision Making

System 1: Fast Decisions

- Automatic
- Snap judgments
- Intuitive
- Unconscious

System 2: Slow Decisions

- Deliberate
- Allows for conscious attention



Multiple Types of Bias

Overt Bias

 Conscious belief in superiority of a group

Explicit Bias

Conscious
 belief that
 some groups
 aspire to
 desirable
 traits more
 than others

Implicit Bias

 Unconscious associations regarding some groups



What is Implicit bias?

- Unconscious, automatic
- Based on stereotypes
- We all have it (even those affected by it)
- Generally not an indication of what we believe or would endorse
- More likely to influence:
 - Snap decisions
 - Decisions that are ambiguous



Implicit Bias at Work

Attractiveness

Real estate agents rated as more attractive sell homes for significantly higher prices (Salter, Mixon, & King, 2012)

Height

 One inch of height is worth \$789 per year in salary (Judge & Cable, 2004)

Gender

Employers more likely to choose lower performing male candidates for a job, than higher performing female candidates (Reuben et al., 2004)



Different Biases, Different Solutions

Explicit Bias (System 2)

- Ineffective: Cultural sensitivity training, explaining value of diversity, telling people to be less biased
- Effective: Top-down policies with accountability

Implicit Bias (System 1)

- Ineffective: Top-down policies with accountability
- Effective: Clear discipline systems, specific guidance in decisionmaking





Build Upon What You Have

The world's best discipline won't work without a foundation in place!!!



Build Upon Your Foundation

- Proactive, instructional approach may prevent problem behavior and exposure to biased responses to problem behavior
- Increasing positive student-teacher interactions may enhance relationships to prevent challenges

- More objective referral and discipline procedures may reduce subjectivity and influence of cultural bias
- Professional development may provide teachers with more instructional responses



5-point Intervention to Enhance Equity in School Discipline

- 1. Use effective instruction to reduce the achievement gap
- 2. Implement SWPBIS to build a foundation of prevention
- 3. Collect, use, and report disaggregated student discipline data
- 4. Develop policies with accountability for disciplinary equity
- 5. Teach neutralizing routines for vulnerable decision points

1. Use Effective Instruction to Reduce the Achievement Gap

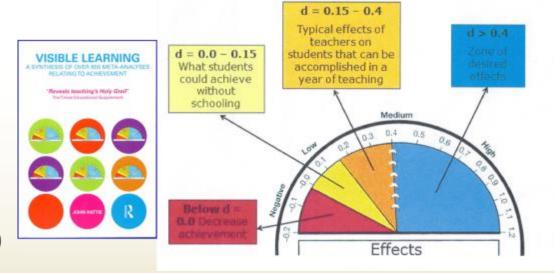
Why a focus on effective academic instruction?

- The discipline gap may be related to the achievement gap
 - Academic skills (or the lack thereof) dramatically shapes school experiences
 - Students who fall behind are more likely to act out, exposing themselves to discipline
 - By catching and intervening with students early, we can change students' school experiences for the better



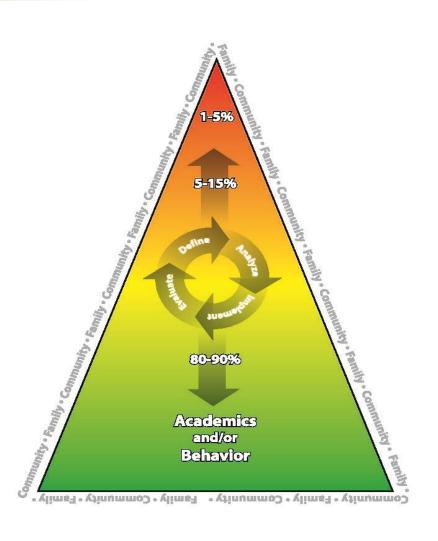
What do we mean by effective academic instruction?

- Direct, explicit instruction (d = 0.57)
- High rates of engagement and OTRs (0.60)
- Quality performance feedback (d = 0.75)
- Progress monitoring and data-based decision making (d = 0.90, d = 0.61)





2. Implement SWPBIS to Build a Foundation of Prevention



TERTIARY PREVENTION

- Function-based support
- Wraparound
- Person-centered planning

SECONDARY PREVENTION

- Check in/out
- Targeted social skills instruction
- Peer-based supports

PRIMARY PREVENTION

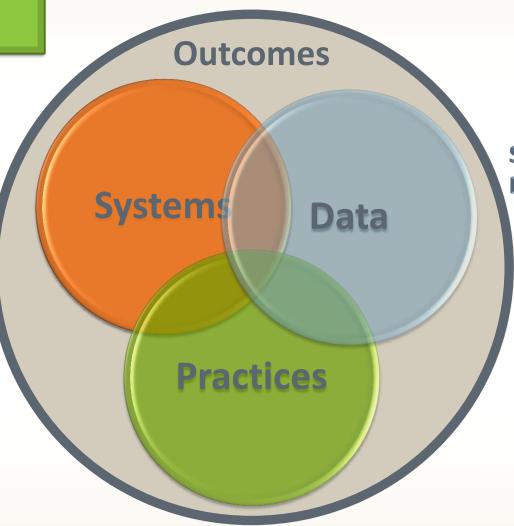
- Teach SW expectations
- Proactive SW discipline
- Positive reinforcement
- Effective instruction
- Parent & family partnerships
- Classroom Management
- BP-PBIS



INTEGRATED ELEMENTS

SUPPORTING SOCIAL COMPETENCE & ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

SUPPORTING ADULTS



SUPPORTING DECISION MAKING

SUPPORTING STUDENTS



3. Collect, Use, and Report Disaggregated Student Discipline Data

- School-wide and Individual Students
 - Look at trends, peaks, comparison with other schools
- Look at race/ethnicity reporting options within your data collection system
 - District-wide
 - Specific schools
- Determine time out of class for suspensions

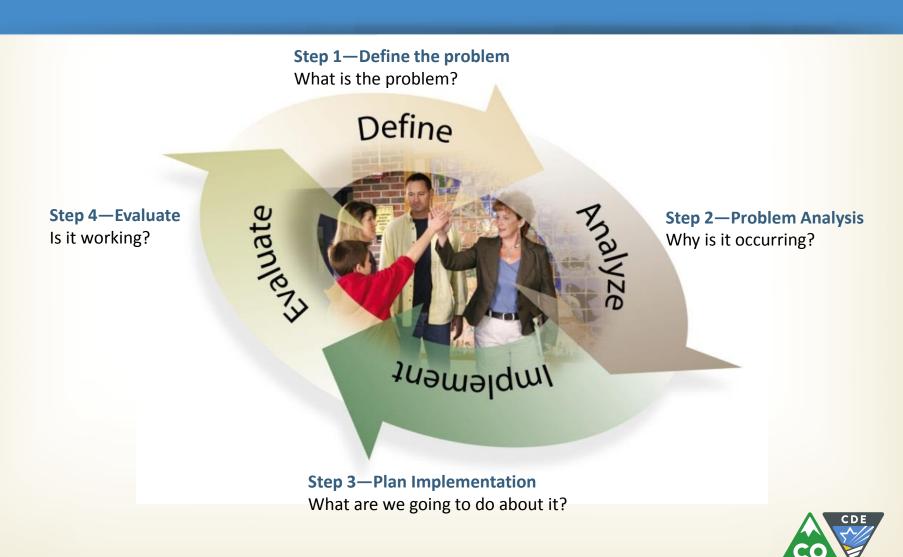




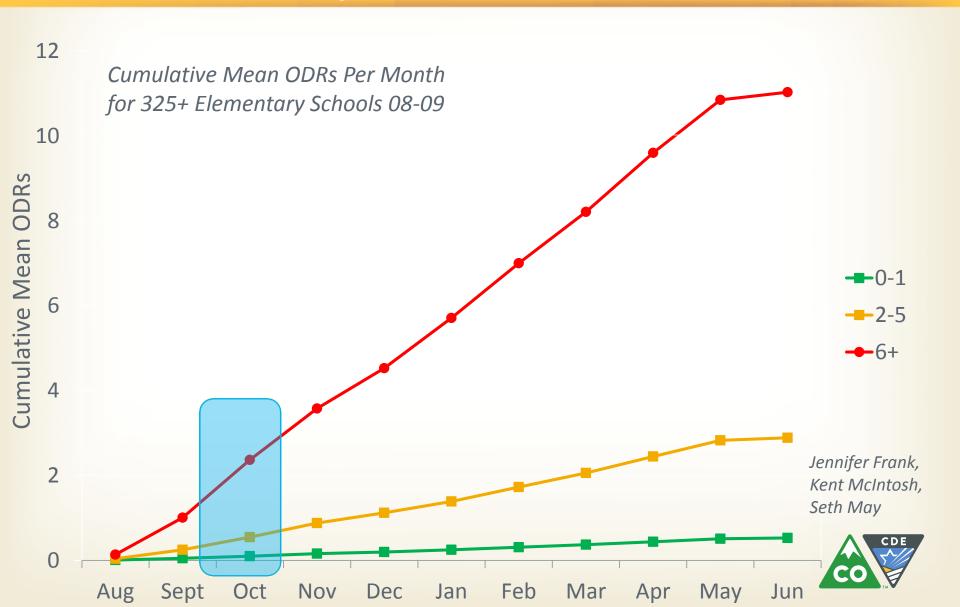
Equity in Education: What Does the Research Say?

- When students in a specific subgroup receive higher rates of discipline referrals than their counterparts, the relationship between student and school is weakened
- Analyzing disaggregated ODR data allows schools to evaluate whether their disciplinary practices are disproportionately affecting various student groups (e.g., ethnic minority students)
- Overrepresentation of minority students in a school's discipline data may indicate that a school's current systems and practices are not meeting the needs of minority students.
- Analyzing discipline data for disproportionality allows school teams to evaluate and adjust current systems and practices to provide proper supports that promote success for all students

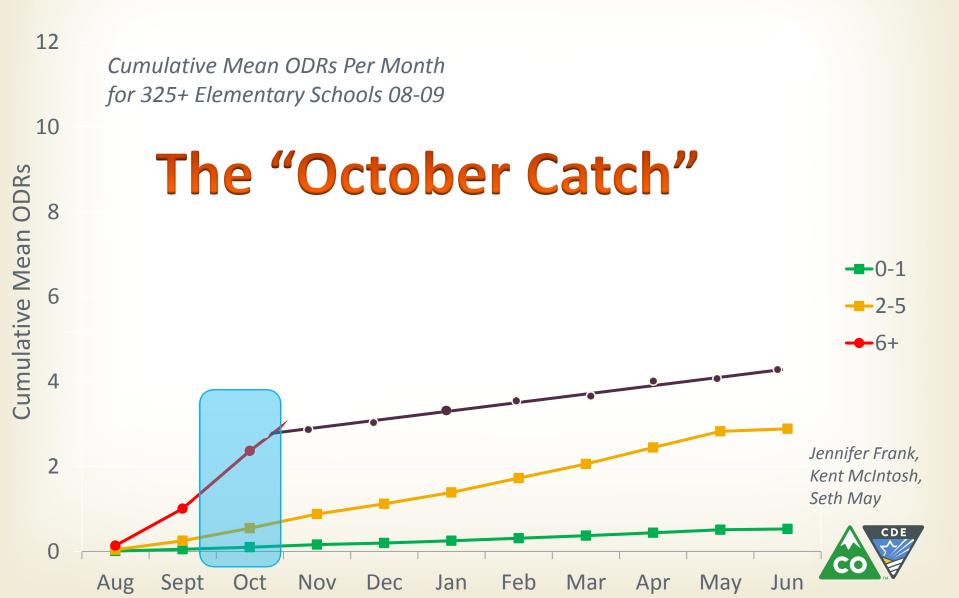
Colorado MTSS PROBLEM SOLVING PROCESS



Research Study on Early Intervention



Research Study on Early Intervention



A Shift in Thinking

"What about the student is causing a problem?"

Instead

This shift alters everything else!

What about the interaction of the instruction, curriculum, and *learning* environment should be altered so that the student(s) will learn?



The Bottom Line...

Are we matching instruction and intervention to student need?





Identifying Patterns of Explicit vs. Implicit Bias

Explicit Bias

- Pattern: Consistent disproportionality across all situations
- Implications: Address through strong policy, regular reporting of data, and accountability for change

Implicit Bias

- Pattern: Peaks and valleys of disproportionality depending on the situation
- Implications: Clarify discipline procedures, provide strategies for decision making



Results Matter

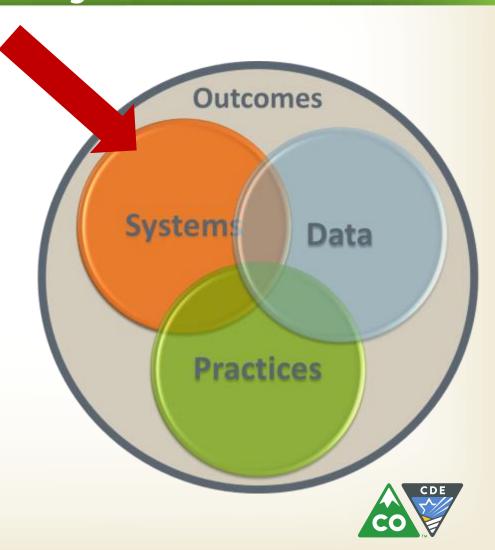
"All organizations and systems are designed, intentionally or unwittingly, to achieve precisely the results they get."

R. Spencer Darling



4. Develop Policies With Accountability for Disciplinary Equity

- Policies and procedures that are transparent & consistently implemented
- Clear, mutually exhaustive definitions of behavior
- Be clear about what behaviors are handled in the classroom vs. administratively
 - Office vs. Classroom



Equity Policy Recommendations

Include a Specific Commitment to Equity

- Create mission statements that include equity
- Enact hiring preferences for equitable discipline

Install Effective Practices

- Require clear, objective school discipline procedures
- Support implementation of proactive, positive approaches to discipline
- Replace exclusionary practices w/ instructional ones

Create Accountability for Efforts

- Create teams and procedures to enhance equity
- Share disproportionality data regularly
- Build equity outcomes into evaluations

What Does **NOT** Work In Policy?

- Enacting policies that nobody knows about
- Enacting policies that don't change practice
- Policies without accountability for implementation



How Are "Race-Neutral" Policies Discriminatory?

Regardless of intent...

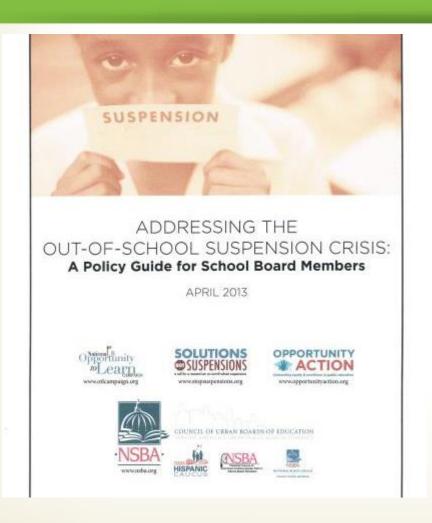
- Policies such as zero tolerance and three-strikes policies are disproportionately applied to students of color (Losen & Skiba, 2010)
- Suspension, expulsion, and other exclusionary practices have been shown to cause <u>harm</u> (Am. Academy of Pediatrics, 2013)
- This disproportionate harm is what makes the policy discriminatory

Policy Example: Equitable Mission Statements

The teachers, administrators and staff of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) believe in the equal worth and dignity of all students and are committed to educate all students to their maximum potential.



Policy Guide for School Board Members



This guide provides local leaders with a systemic framework for reducing out-of-school suspensions, including guiding questions, action steps and promising examples of school district solutions.



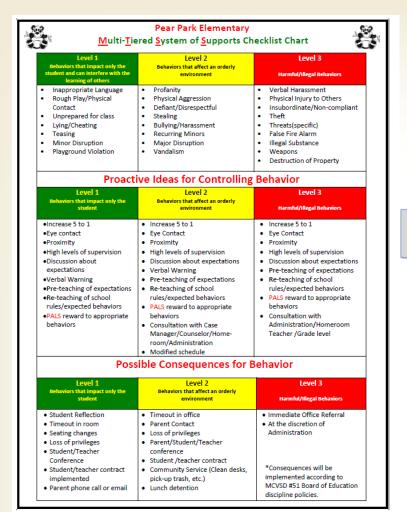
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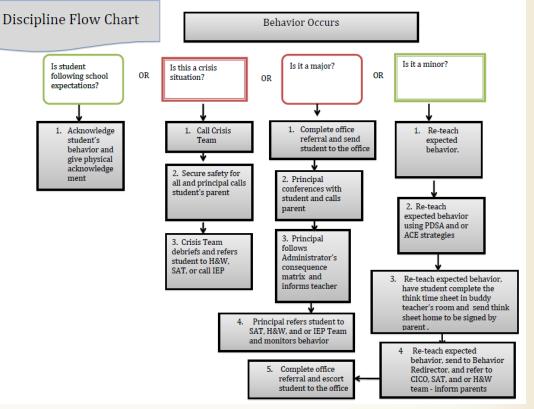
BATTLE MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL

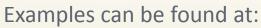


BEHAVIOR & ATTENDANCE 2010 - 2011

Minor Problem Behavior	Definition	
Defiance/Disrespect/ Non-compliance (M-Disrespt)	Student engages in brief or low-intensity failure to respond to adult requests. Including lack of engagement or participation.	
Disruption (M-Disruption)	Student engages in low-intensity, but inappropriate disruption.	
Dress Code Violation (M-Dress)	Student wears clothing that is near, but not within, the dress code guidelines defined by the school/district.	
Inappropriate Language (M-Inapp Lan)	Student engages in low-intensity instance of inappropriate language.	
Other (M-Other)	Student engages in any other minor problem behaviors that do not fall within the above categories.	
Physical Contact/ Physical Aggression (M-Contact)	Student engages in non-serious, but inappropriate physical contact.	
Property Misuse (M-Prpty Misuse)	Student engages in low-intensity misuse of property.	
Tardy (M-Tardy)	Student arrives at class less than 20 minutes after the bell. Classroom teacher will address the first 5 tardies of the trimester. Each tardy beyond 5 will result in an office referral.	
Technology Violation (M-Tech)	Student engages in non-serious but inappropriate use of technology on school grounds or in any way related to the school.	
Personal Electronic Device Use Violation (M-Tech)	Personal Electronic Device use constitutes actively calling, texting, gaming, surfing web, viewing/recording video, audio or picture, etc. *Use does not include possession.	



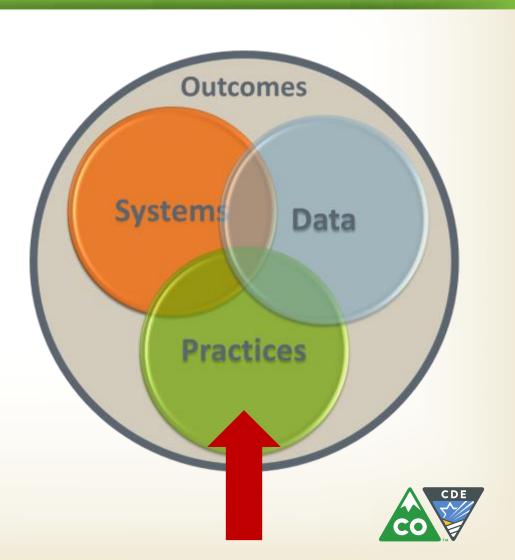






5. Identify Neutralizing Routines for Vulnerable Decision Points

- Reduce ambiguity in ODR definitions and processes
 - Office vs. classroom guidelines
- Identify <u>specific</u> vulnerable decision points (VDP)
 - General
 - Local (school)
- Teach a neutralizing routine to the adults
 - Self-assess presence of VDP
 - Use alternate response

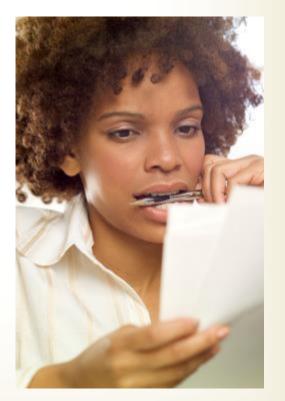


What is a Vulnerable Decision Point (VDP)?

A specific decision that is more vulnerable to effects of implicit

bias

- Two parts:
 - The person's decision state (internal state)
 - The situation





Conditions Necessary to Neutralize Implicit Bias

- 1. We must be <u>aware</u> of our biases
- 2. We must be <u>concerned</u> about the consequences of our biases
- 3. We must know when biased responses are most likely
- 4. We must have <u>replacement behaviors</u> to respond in ways consistent with our values



Two-step Neutralizing Routine for Staff:

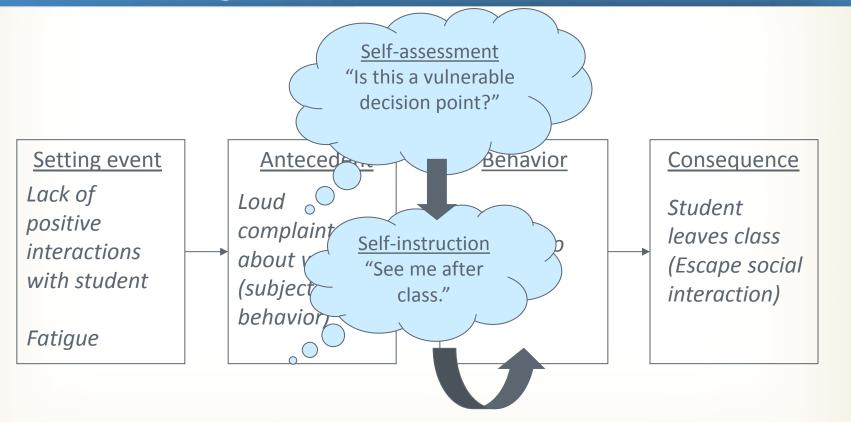
- When you see problem behavior, stop and ask yourself:
- 1. Is this a VDP?
 - Situation
 - Decision state



2. If so, use an agreed-upon alternative response



Neutralizing Routines for Reducing Effects of Implicit Bias





What makes for a good neutralizing routine?

Good Neutralizing Routine:

- Brief
- If-then statements
- Clear steps
- Doable

Don't get caught up in finding the "perfect" response – identify multiple responses

Good Alternative Response:

- Delay
 - "See me after class"
- Pause
 - Think it through
- Use least exclusionary choice
 - Delay ODR
- Ask
 - State your confidence in them
 - Privately

Two-step Neutralizing Routine for Staff:

- Can also be used as precorrection
- 1. Am I about to enter a VDP?
- 2. What are my values?
- 3. When I see problem behavior, I'll use the alternative response
 - 1. Example: "If defiance, keep in class"
 - 2. Example: "If I am tired, delay decision until I can think clearly"



Two-step Neutralizing Routine for Administrators:

- When you have to handle problem behavior, stop and tell yourself:
- 1. Don't just do something, stand there!
 - Be sure you are ready to act in line with values
 - Get information from student and staff
 - Assess student-teacher relationship
- 2. Whenever possible, use an agreed-upon instructional response
 - Teaches missing skills
 - Connects student to school and staff





Putting It All Together



Action Planning

Based on what you learned about and discussed today,

- Consider your data sources
 - Do you have the information you need?
 - If not, how can you get access to the information?
- Consider ways to take this information back to your site
 - Who can you enlist for support and help?
 - How can you build capacity and sustain efforts?
- Consider how to get these action steps and items included in your site's UIP

Additional Resources

- MTSS website: www.cde.state.co.us/mtss/r esources
 - Problem solving overview
 - Problem solving materials
 - Problem solving video
- PBIS website: www.cde.state.co.us/pbis
 - Alt to suspension materials
 - Data audit
 - Using SWIS to Investigate
 Disproportionate Discipline
 Practices Webinar

- National TA Center for PBIS: www.pbis.org
 - Equity and Discipline section
- US Dept. of Education
 website:
 http://www2.ed.gov/policy/
 gen/guid/school discipline/index.html





Final Thoughts



Thanks for all you do...

To support a learning environment conducive to student achievement and social competency.

Please complete the workshop evaluation, which will sent via Survey Monkey

"I never teach my pupils. I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn."

Albert Einstein





Contact Information

Thanks!

Name	Role	Email
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