

For kids to succeed, dismantle the school to prison pipeline

Alternatives to suspension help keep kids out of juvenile justice

CURRENT SCHOOL DISCIPLINE PRACTICES LEAD TO A HIGH NUMBER OF REFERRALS TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



When kids are not in school they are more likely to engage in delinquent behavior



1 IN EVERY 10

KIDS MISSED 10% OR MORE OF SCHOOL IN THE 2015 - 2016 SCHOOL YEAR

Too often law enforcement intervenes in school discipline

VIRGINIA RANKS _____
WORST FOR NUMBER OF REFERRALS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT
 _____ IN THE COUNTRY

Children are suspended early and in large numbers

FOR PRE-K TO 12TH GRADE IN THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR:

123,000

SHORT-TERM SUSPENSIONS

3,000

LONG TERM SUSPENSIONS



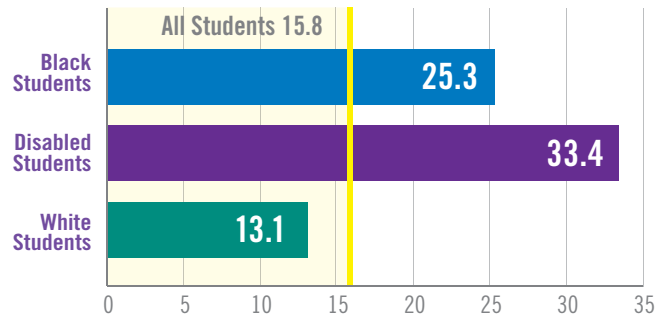
1 OUT OF 5

SUSPENDED STUDENTS ARE IN PRE-K TO 5TH GRADE



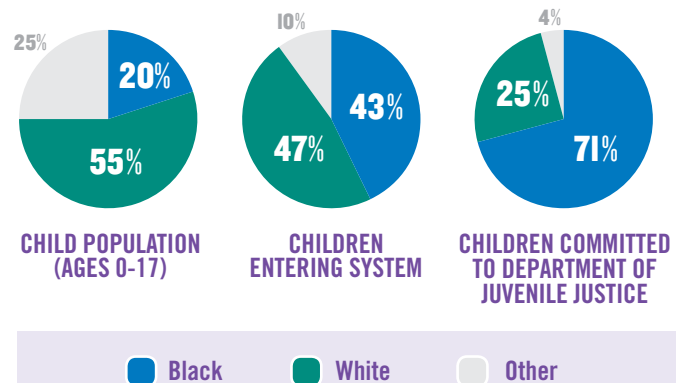
BLACK STUDENTS AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY REFERRED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Referrals to law enforcement per 1,000 students 2011-2012



Once children have been referred to the juvenile justice system from school, their experiences vary. Children in foster care, students with disabilities, children with mental health needs, and children who are homeless enter the system at higher rates, and have greater difficulty exiting, than other populations of children.

THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM COMMITS BLACK CHILDREN TO THE JUVENILE CORRECTIONS SYSTEM AT DISPROPORTIONATE RATES



* All sources available at vakids.org/kids-count-data/virginia-data

Dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline

The commonwealth ranks among the top five states in the nation for referring students to law enforcement for school discipline issues. During the 2015–2016 school year, Virginia schools issued over 131,500 out-of-school suspensions to over 70,000 individual students, representing an increase in the overall suspension rate for the second year in a row. In addition, students of color and students with disabilities were disproportionately suspended.

Call to Action

- ✓ Support school suspension reform and alternative discipline interventions as ways to reduce suspension rates and improve student behavior.