

THE POWER OF PRINCIPALS IN REDUCING RACIAL DISPARITIES IN K-12 EDUCATION



BLACK, HISPANIC, AND NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS FACE DISPROPORTIONATE LEVELS OF PUNISHMENT IN K-12 SCHOOLS

- Compared to White students, Black students are 3.2x more likely to be suspended or expelled from school. Native American students are 2.0x more likely, and Hispanic students are 1.3x more likely.
- Black students receive longer and more frequent suspensions than White and Hispanic students, even for the same incident.
- Black students are more likely to be referred to law enforcement than White students, even for the same offense.



SUSPENSIONS HARM K-12 STUDENTS AND FUEL THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

- Suspensions lead to a significant decline in students' academic performance, with both immediate and lasting effects.
- Strict disciplinary policies fail to improve overall academic performance in schools, undermining their justification as a means to improve the school environment.
- Suspensions result in higher rates of crime and arrests, creating a school-to-prison pipeline.



PRINCIPALS ARE PIVOTAL WHEN IT COMES TO SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

- Principals play a vital role in establishing and promoting positive school climate, which affects both students and teachers.
- Principal-imposed school discipline leads to large negative impacts on student attendance and test scores.
- Principal-driven school discipline policies are linked to increased high school dropout and increased criminal justice involvement among students.