

Discipline Policies

Factors to Consider

Availability

Knowing where, when and how your school makes the discipline policies available is key. Some schools policies are only posted online or issued to parents once a year.

Punishable Behaviors

Each school may have different punishable behaviors. Charter schools may differ how particular offenses are disciplined. Some LEAs have discipline policies that rely on tiers that outlines the offense and consequence(s).

Suspension Data

Each year, OSSE publishes a discipline report that includes the number of suspensions and expulsions reported by each LEA. This report can be found at:
<https://osse.dc.gov/page/discipline-report>.

Alternative Arrangements

LEAs differ in how they allow suspended students to complete class assignments.

Due Process

LEAs differ in how they interpret due process rights. For example, some schools allow students to appeal to a third party while others do not.

Alternatives to Exclusionary Discipline

Trauma Centered

Schools promote emotional health as a way to prevent student misbehavior.

PBIS

Schools create individualized plans to help prevent student misbehavior. The plans should include interventions based on the student's needs and the severity of the misbehavior.

Restorative Justice

Students are able to identify their own misbehavior using community exercises in an effort to restore the relationship between the student and the victim/community. There are not severe punitive consequences at risk. The school offers the opportunity for the student to learn about the impact of their misbehavior on the victims. The school facilitates a conversation between the offender and victim. The school implements measures to prevent future misbehavior.