



POLICY CORNER

Your resource for updates about our policy priorities.

Our Policy Priorities:

RETHINKING SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE, CAREER, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

REDUCING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

INVESTING IN THE SUCCESS OF OUR STUDENTS

At Communities In Schools, we support students in ways that go beyond the classroom, helping them stay focused on graduating today, so they can go further tomorrow. We participate in policy discussions to ensure that lawmakers prioritize strategies, like integrated student supports, that empower young people to achieve in school and in life.

Policy makers want to hear from their constituents about what matters to their communities. Use the simple, secure form on this page to go #AllinforKids and take action to support our federal policy priorities.

Rethinking School Discipline

Missing class time for any reason has a negative impact on student achievement – and this includes time missed when a student is suspended or expelled from school. Research shows that these exclusionary discipline practices can also increase both the risk of dropping out and the likelihood of future involvement with the criminal justice system. Because of disparities in use of school discipline, these consequences disproportionately affect students of color and students with disabilities (1). Communities In Schools advocates for a shift in our approach to school discipline that addresses the underlying issues that affect student behavior so teachers can focus on teaching. When students are empowered with the appropriate supports to address the multiple barriers they may face and are provided with the necessary social emotional skills to self-regulate behavior, the need for disciplinary referrals can be reduced. This also improves the overall climate of a school (2). Thanks to this approach, ninety percent of our case-managed students met their behavior goals last school year (3).

Supporting Data

Disparities in discipline rates demonstrate the need for schools to address implicit biases that affect the use of exclusionary measures. Each year:

16%
OF BLACK STUDENTS
ARE SUSPENDED OR
EXPELLED FROM
SCHOOL

5%
OF WHITE STUDENTS
ARE SUSPENDED OR
EXPELLED FROM
SCHOOL



Join Our Movement

We owe it to our young people to demonstrate that we are all in this together for their future success. Click on the button below and join our movement today!

85 Signatures

Sign with Facebook

Mr. Full Name *

Email (jsmith@email.com) *

Mobile Phone ? *

Home Address (123 Any St) *

Zip Code *

Let us know if you are:

A former Communities In Schools student

Communities In Schools board

Communities In Schools staff

13%
OF STUDENTS WITH
DISABILITIES RECEIVE
OUT-OF-SCHOOL
SUSPENSION

6%
OF STUDENTS WITHOUT
DISABILITIES RECEIVE
OUT-OF-SCHOOL
SUSPENSION

90%
OF OUR STUDENTS
MEET THEIR
BEHAVIOR GOALS

Sources:

¹U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, [2014 Civil Rights Data Collection: Data Snapshot \(School Discipline\)](#)

²The Aspen Institute, National Commission on Social, Emotional and Academic Development, [Caring Communities: Linking School Culture and Student Development](#)

³Communities In Schools, [2018 Community Matters Report](#)

Policy Brief

Every young person needs and deserves a safe place to learn and grow. Our school-based coordinators bring the right community resources into schools to ensure that school environments that are safe and inclusive of all students. Working with teachers and school leaders, Communities In Schools site coordinators implement key initiatives that improve school climate, resolve conflicts and prevent violence, and help students cope with trauma. [We've made recommendations to lawmakers about improving school climate.](#)

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Preparing Students for College, Career, and Civic Engagement



Reducing Chronic Absenteeism



Investing in the Success of our Students



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