Suspensions and Expulsions of Students with Disabilities in Public Schools

The Civil Rights Data Collection gathers and publishes key information about student access to educational opportunities and school climate from public schools (pre-K through 12th grade) in all 50 states, D.C., and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

2017-18 Overview of Student Discipline K-Grade 12

Students with disabilities include students served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and students served only under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504).

Boys with disabilities served under IDEA and Section 504 were disproportionately represented in student discipline, receiving suspensions and expulsions that were greater than their share of total enrollment for students with disabilities.

Black students were the only race/ethnicity of students with disabilities served under IDEA whose boys and girls were both disproportionately represented in suspensions and expulsions.

In addition to Black boys and girls, American Indian or Alaska Native boys and multiracial boys also received suspensions and expulsions that exceeded their share of enrollment among students with disabilities.


More information on students with disabilities and other civil rights data is available at https://ocrdata.ed.gov. The entire Focus on Student Discipline series can be found at https://ocrdata.ed.gov/resources/datareports.

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