

K-12 Expulsion Rates

Public education is a fundamental right in the State of Ohio. Education is closely tied to opportunities in adulthood including the types of jobs people can access and wages they earn over their lifetime. Expulsion from school sets students on a negative trajectory that can impact their entire lives. Connecting the Dots¹ cites education access and engagement as both risk and protective factors for preventing intimate partner violence. In 2018 Ohio ranked 29th in the US for rate of school expulsions², setting those students on a path that will impact their educational careers and potentially their life course. Ohio Domestic Violence Network seeks to prevent perpetration of intimate partner violence by partnering with organizations to support students staying in school.

Statistics

Ohio has over 9,000 public and private schools. In 2018, 1.7 million students were in Ohio's K-12 public schools. Another 200,000 Ohio students attend non-public schools or are home schooled.³ Almost 50% of Ohio's public school children were economically disadvantaged in 2018.⁴

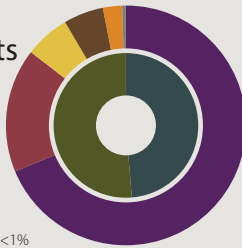
Of those school age children, the rate of overall school expulsion was 12.8 students per 100 enrolled students. The rate of expulsions has remained relatively constant since 2010.

Disparities

Demographics for Ohio Students

Female - 48.7%
Male - 51.3%

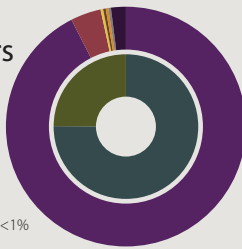
White - 69%
African American - 16.8%
Hispanic - 6.1%
Multi-Racial - 5.4%
Asian/Pacific Islander - 2.6%
Native American/Alaskan Native - <1%



Demographics for Ohio Teachers

Female - 75.1%
Male - 24.9%

White - 92.5%
African American - 4.1%
Hispanic - <1%
Multi-Racial - <1%
Asian/Pacific Islander - <1%
Native American/Alaskan Native - <1%
Not Specified - 2%



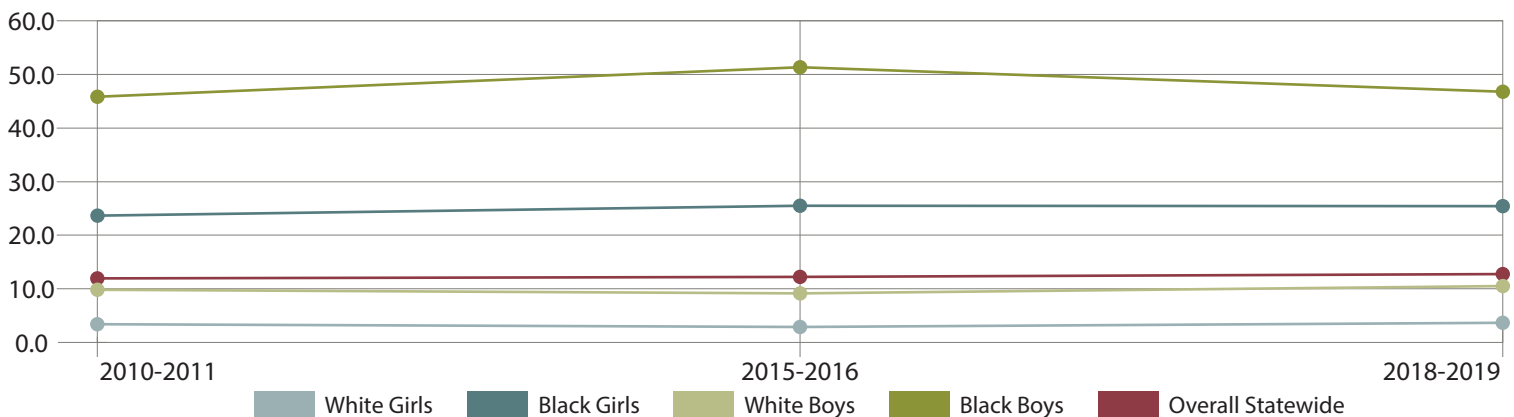
As the Children's Defense Fund of Ohio points out, Ohio's school funding system has led to generations of inequitably and inadequately funded schools.⁵ These disparities in funding lead to differential impacts in the classrooms and hallways for teachers and students. The funding disparities have an impact on supports and services for students and teachers, including those that can set in motion school discipline.

Research points to two (2) factors that promote disparities in school discipline; implicit bias and zero tolerance policies.⁶ Looking at disparities in school expulsions the Children's Defense Fund of Ohio found that compared to white boys, Black boys in Ohio were 4.5 times more likely to have disciplinary action leading to out-of-school suspension or expulsion in the 2018-2019 school year. The disparities are even greater for Black girls. In the 2018-2019 school year, Black girls faced 7 times more out-of-school suspensions than white girls. Another factor that the Ohio School Report Card indicates is that students in districts with high poverty are also more likely to be disciplined with out of school suspensions and expulsions. Thus, widening out of school time and reducing the likelihood for successful graduation for students who live in those districts.

Barriers

- Ohio's school funding has been deemed unconstitutional for over 20 years. The property tax-based formula used for school funding under-resources many schools in poorer communities and benefits richer, predominantly white students relative to poorer students and students of color.
- Research demonstrates that schools with law enforcement resource officers are more likely to enforce zero tolerance policies and use out of school suspensions and expulsions. Zero tolerance policies increase the likelihood that Black and Latino students will be suspended or expelled for school infractions.
- The imbalance of teacher and student race lends itself to inherent bias in making decisions about school discipline.

Ohio Out of School Expulsions and Suspensions (per 100 Enrolled Students)



All measures provided are rates created from the enrollment and discipline data from the Ohio Department of Education Warehouse.

Remedies

- Diversify the education workforce by working with universities to recruit and retain more students of color for education majors.
- In 2018 the Ohio Legislature passed the SAFE Act, which prohibits a schools use of out of school suspensions and expulsions for behavior that is non-violent and/or disruptive for prek-3rd grades.
- In 2018 Ohio also legislated HB 318 that requires additional training beyond the peace academy for school resource officers to improve their understanding of student behavior and appropriate techniques for interacting with youth as well as handling school disciplinary matters.
- Ohio has a Positive Behavioral and Intervention Supports System (PBIS) in place and monitors school progress on implementation of PBIS.
- Encourage and possibly mandate that schools and school districts adopt a trauma informed approach to ensure that teachers and administrators better understand the impact of trauma on student behavior.
- Designate a school official as a discipline supervisor to ensure that the school implements its discipline policies fairly and equitably.
- Revise discipline policies to provide clear definitions of infractions to ensure that consequences are fair and consistent.
- Develop training and information programs for students and community members that explain the school's discipline policies and what is expected of student in an age-appropriate, easily understood manner.
- Include school discipline as one of the indicators in the racial disparities report card for Ohio schools.⁷



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References can be found online at www.odvn.org/Ohio-Measures-Up.

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