

I. EXAMPLES FROM OTHER STATES: LIMITS ON SUSPENSION/EXPULSION

Currently, 16 states and the District of Columbia have laws limiting the use of exclusionary discipline by grade level, usually in the early grades (2019) [here](#)

- Connecticut prohibits school districts from using out-of-school suspension and expulsion to discipline students in prekindergarten through grade two, with exceptions including infractions related to violence, weapons and drugs.
 - Since Connecticut implemented the ban, in-school suspensions for PreK-2 students declined by over 45% and out-of-school suspensions declined by over 72%. ([Link](#))
- The District of Columbia prohibits suspending or expelling prekindergarten students except for those who commit violent infractions. In those exceptions, the District of Columbia allows suspensions to be no longer than three days for any particular incident.
- Oregon limits using out-of-school suspensions and expulsions for students in kindergarten through fifth grade; they may be used only to address violent infractions.
- California students in kindergarten through grade three may not be suspended as a consequence to disruption or defiance, and all K-12 students are prohibited from being expelled for disruption or defiance.
 - LAUSD has seen a 75% drop in suspensions across all categories of suspensions, and saw a narrowing of racial disparities amongst students who are suspended. ([Link](#))
 - The district also implemented Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, and in 2015 expanded its restorative practices protocol.
 - The schools have reported a more positive school culture.
- Louisiana prohibits students enrolled in prekindergarten through grade five from being suspended or expelled for uniform violations.
- Arkansas, Virginia and Rhode Island prohibit using out-of-school suspension to address truancy,
- Oregon and North Carolina prohibit the use of expulsion to address truancy, and
- Nevada, New Mexico and the District of Columbia prohibit both suspending and expelling truant students.

- Virginia, no student in preschool through grade three shall be suspended for more than three school days or expelled from attendance at school, unless (i) the offense involves physical harm or credible threat of physical harm to others or (ii) the local school board or the division superintendent or his designee finds that aggravating circumstances exist, as defined by the Department. [Cite here](#)

II. THE RESEARCH ON THE IMPACT OF SUSPENSIONS/EXPULSION

- Young students who are expelled or suspended are as much as ten times more likely to drop out of school, experience academic failure and grade retention, hold negative school attitudes, and face incarceration than those who are not. ([Link](#))
- Imposing negative consequences may increase negative behavior. Children who are removed from the classroom return to school further behind and minimal support for catching up. ([Link](#))
- Expulsions and suspensions are adult decisions. Research shows that implicit biases have a disproportionate impact on Black preK students. ([Link](#))
- Discipline strategies that remove students from the educational setting, such as suspension and expulsion, can hinder students' cognitive and social development, particularly in the early years. ([Link](#))
- Research suggests that removing students from the classroom in early childhood puts their future success in school at risk. ([Link](#))