

# PHILADELPHIA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, PA (2009-2010)

Suspension Rate K-12 for All Students: 10.3%

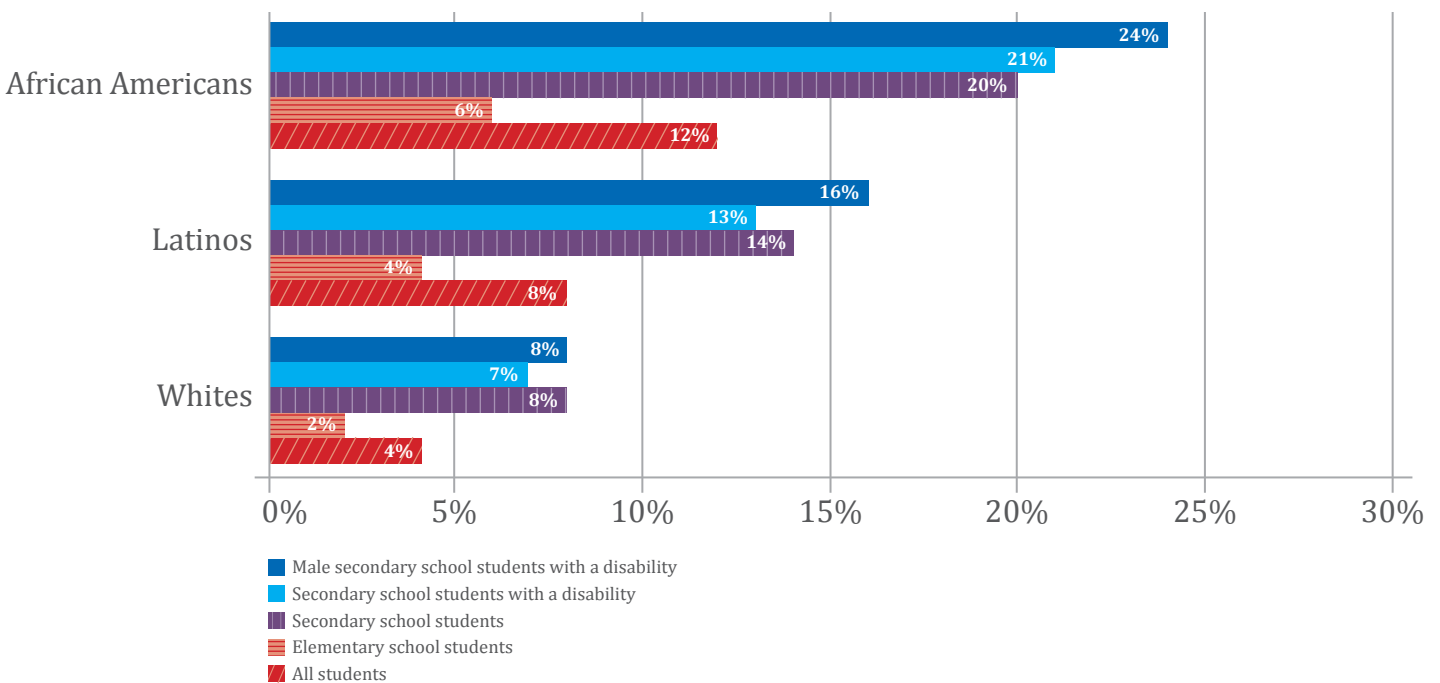
Suspension Rate for All Secondary School Students: 16.2%

Number of Students Suspended One or More Times: 17,320

Number of Secondary School Students Suspended One or More Times: 10,580

Disaggregation by school level, race, and disability status reveals profound disparities in the risk for out of school suspensions. The graph below and detailed tables that follow describe deep disparities along the lines of race, gender, disability status, and English learner status that are much greater at the secondary school level than at the elementary school level.

**Figure 1: Risk for Suspension at the Elementary and Secondary Levels by Selected Subgroups**



In the School District of Philadelphia, the risk for suspension grew from elementary to secondary school as follows: 6 points for Whites; 10 points for Latinos; and 14 points for Black students. However, for Latinos and Blacks it was males with disabilities enrolled at the secondary level that were most at risk for suspension.

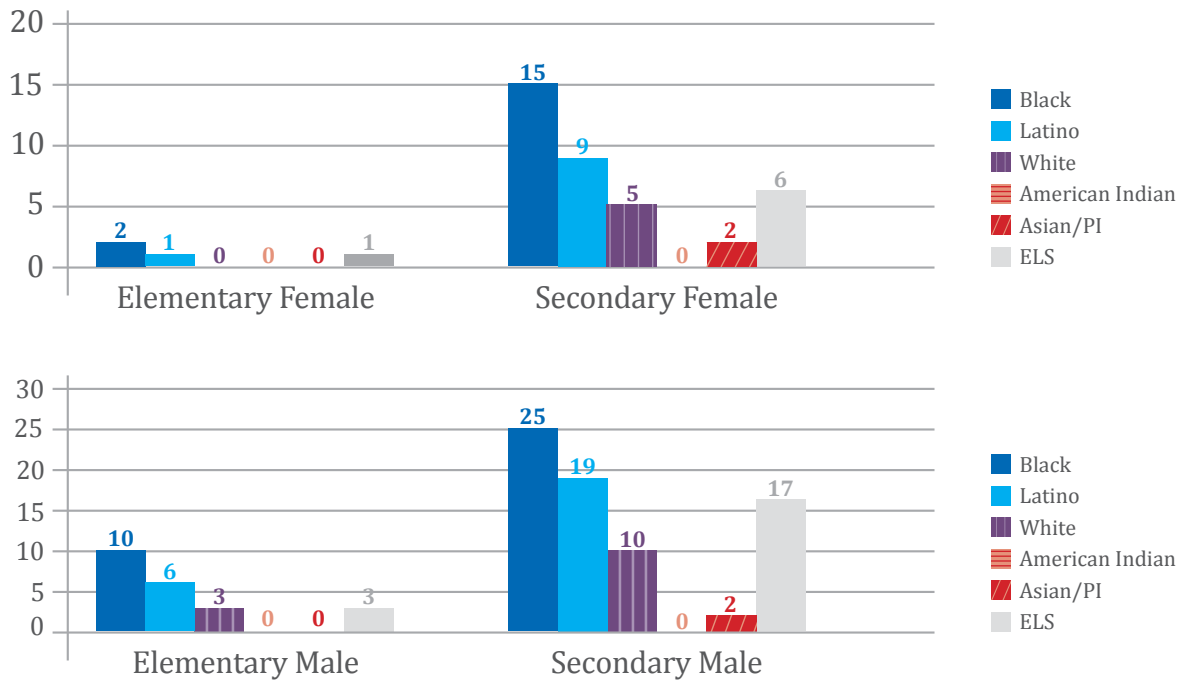
**Table 1: Students With Disabilities Compared to Students Without Disabilities by Race and School Level:**

| School District of Philadelphia | Elementary School Students Without Disabilities | Elementary School Students With Disabilities | Secondary School Students Without Disabilities | Secondary School Students With Disabilities |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| White                           | 2%  | 1%   | 8%   | 7%  |
| Latino                          | 4%  | 3%   | 15%  | 13%   |
| Black                           | 6%  | 6%   | 20%  | 21%   |
| Asian/Pacific Islander          | 0%  | 0%   | 2%   | 0%  |

Note: All numbers rounded to the nearest whole number; only included if 100 students enrolled in subgroup were enrolled.

In the School District of Philadelphia, the gap between Black and White students ranged between 4 points for elementary students without disabilities to 14 points for students with disabilities at the secondary level. The Latino/White gap also increased at the secondary school level.

**Figure 2: Percentage of Enrolled Subgroup Suspended at Least Once by Race and English Learner Status (ELS) with Gender by School Level**



Note: All numbers rounded to the nearest whole number

The graph shows a steep rise in the risk for suspension at the secondary level in the School District of Philadelphia that is especially large for Black male students and male Latino students. Most notable is that one in four Black male secondary students was suspended at least once. Second, for English learners, especially for males who were suspended at relatively low rates in elementary school, they became the third most frequently suspended male group at the secondary school level.

## Hotspot and Lower-Suspending Secondary Schools in the School District of Philadelphia:

Research has indicated that profound differences in the rates of suspension can be found at the school level within the same district. The second and third columns in the chart below show the number of secondary schools in the School District of Philadelphia that suspended 25% or more and 50% or more of any subgroup by race/ethnicity, gender, disability status, or English learner status. The fourth column shows the number of schools that suspended 25% of their total enrollment without disaggregation and the last column shows the number of schools that did not suspend more than 10% of any subgroup.

**Table 2: Number of Hot Spots and Lower-Suspending Secondary Schools for All Groups in the School District of Philadelphia**

| Number of Secondary Schools | Suspended Any Group Over 25% | Suspended any group Over 50% | All Student Rate Over 25% | Suspended No Group Over 10% |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 89                          | 33                           | 5                            | 17                        | 35                          |

- 17 secondary schools in Philadelphia suspended over 25% of their student body in the aggregate.
- About one-third of Philadelphia's secondary schools (33) suspended at least one subgroup at that high rate.
- Of these, five secondary schools suspended at least one subgroup at a rate of 50% of their total enrollment.
- However, more than one-third (35) of Philadelphia's secondary schools were lower suspending schools where not one subgroup experienced a suspension rate above 10%.
- This analysis did not look at race with disability with gender at the secondary school level.

**Where to find out more about the School District of Philadelphia or other school districts:** The information in these charts are available for every school district that reported its data to OCR in 2009-10. For your convenience we have provided a two-page analysis like that of the School District of Philadelphia above for 20 large districts representing every region of the United States.

**The full set of analyzed data on every district OCR collected data from in 2009-10 are available via the spreadsheets posted (along with instructions) on our website.** The excel sheet allows users to sort and filter by all the indicators represented in these graphs and tables, and also to compare district data to districts within each state or across the nation. Much of this information will soon be available by using a web tool on our website that will allow for some degree of comparison. Additional data on school discipline, for 2011-12, that is otherwise identical to the raw data analyzed for this report can be obtained by filing a Freedom of Information Act request with your school district. Moreover in Pennsylvania, discipline data for the 2011-12 school year will be posted on the state's website here: <http://penndata.hbg.psu.edu/FederalReports.aspx>.