

The Civil Rights Project



Proyecto Derechos Civiles

What People are Saying About...

**“Opportunities Suspended”
A National Report on Out of School Suspensions
By the Civil Rights Project at UCLA**

Curtis Decker, Executive Director, National Disability Rights Network

“This report provides important new data about the primary pathway into the school to prison pipeline, and the urgent need for change in practice in specific states and school districts. We have long known that African American students with disabilities are unfairly disciplined in our public schools and that this can lead to over incarceration, but the data this report provides is truly shocking. As effective alternatives to suspension exist, we have no choice now but to change these outdated practices.”

Russell Skiba, Professor, Indiana University School of Education

“Losen and Gillespie have put together a report of major national significance. It highlights how widespread the problem of exclusion from school is, especially for Black and Brown students. Such high rates of suspension are not inevitable—Losen and Gillespie show that a large number of school districts throughout the country do not have excessive rates of exclusionary discipline. But in many states and school districts, the rates at which students are excluded from school for disciplinary reasons are surprisingly high. The data make a strong case for a renewed national commitment to proven methods that can keep schools safe and well-disciplined without removing students from the opportunity to learn.”

Thomas A. Saenz, President and General Counsel, MALDEF

"This extremely valuable report demonstrates the importance of attention to educational disparities in all areas; attending to disparities frequently reveals deeper problems -- in this case, in our overused and misused disciplinary system -- that, once fully addressed, will yield a better educational system for students of all races and for our nation's future prosperity."

Dennis Parker, Director of Racial Justice Program, American Civil Liberties Union

“The effect of school suspensions on students, particularly students of color and those with disabilities, has for too long been absent from discussions of effective and fair education practices. In its timely and exhaustive report, **Opportunities Suspended: The Disparate Impact of Disciplinary Exclusion from School**, The Civil Rights Project sheds much-needed light on the destructive impact of student suspensions and invites all of those concerned with effective and fair education (which should include everyone in the nation) to examine and implement alternative means of school discipline that keep children in school while assuring safe educational environments. We ignore the important information in this report at our own peril. At stake is the opportunity for a meaningful education for millions of students and the assurance of a productive and fair society in the future.”

Mike Resnick, Associate Executive Director, National School Boards Association

"Local school board members across the nation remain focused on improving the academic achievement of all students enrolled in our public schools and minimizing any actions or policies that would negatively impact learning, including out-of-school suspensions. Local school boards will continue to monitor the data as well as best practices employed within their districts, recognizing that although school conditions and climate may vary from school to school, the desired constant is the strong collaboration between families and school personnel committed to excellence in both academic achievement and behavior."