

# Suspension & Expulsion in Virginia Public Schools (2014-15)

## Huge Numbers

Punishment	# Issued
Out-of-School Suspensions	126,029
Expulsions	388
<b>Total</b>	<b>126,417</b>

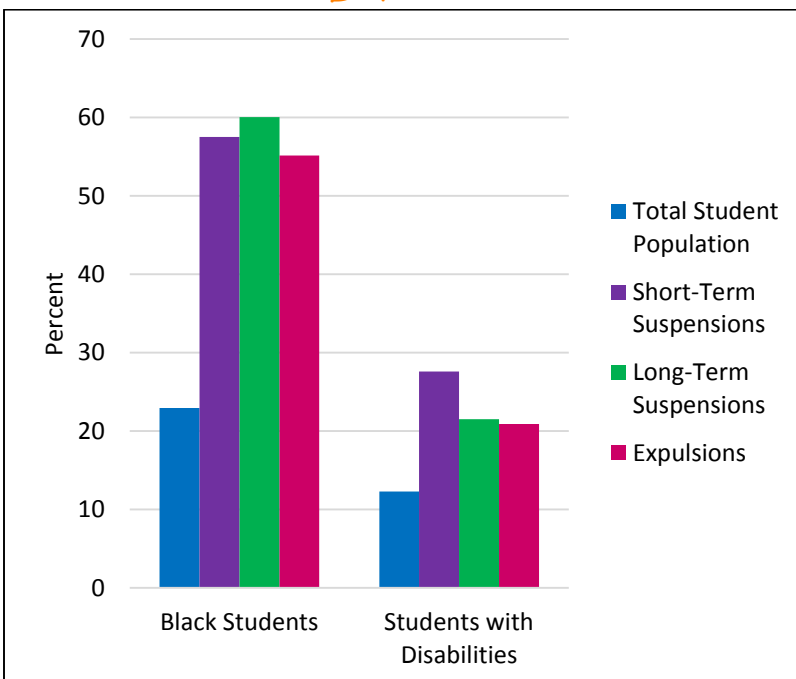
## Very Young Students

Grade	Out-of-School Suspensions Issued
Pre-K	295
K	3,142
1	3,920
2	3,852
3	4,423
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,632</b>

## Just 8 of the Non-Violent Offenses

Offense	# of Short-Term Suspensions
Attendance	670
Cellular Telephones	2,119
Classroom or Campus Disruption	15,098
Defiance of Authority/ Insubordination	18,469
Disrespect/Walking Away	7,817
Disruptive Demonstrations	14,149
Inappropriate Personal Property (food, drink, clothing, toys, etc.)	509
Minor Insubordination	4,130
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,961</b>

## Disparities



“higher rates of out-of-school suspension are associated with poorer school climate, higher dropout rates, and lower achievement” – Virginia Department of Education, *Zero Tolerance Policies: An Issue Brief* (Nov. 2005)

“schools with higher rates of out-of-school suspension and expulsion are not safer for students or faculty ... research indicates a negative relationship between the use of suspension and expulsion and school-wide academic achievement, even when controlling for demographics such as socioeconomic status ... out-of-school suspension and expulsion that are used too readily are ineffective deterrents to inappropriate behavior and are harmful and counterproductive to the student, the family, the school district, and the community as a whole, both short- and long-term.” – American Academy of Pediatrics, *Policy Statement: Out-of-School Suspension and Expulsion* (Mar. 2013)

## Research and Model Districts Prove THERE'S A BETTER WAY FOR VA!

### Prevention

- Small school and class sizes
- Engaging and rigorous curriculums and instruction
- Extra supports for students who are struggling academically
- Staff training in cultural competency, implicit bias, and behavior management
- Social and emotional learning programming
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

### Interventions & Alternatives

- Behavioral intervention plans
- Mediation and restorative justice
- Mentoring
- Community service
- Counseling and social work services
- High-quality alternative education

### Accountability

- Suspension and expulsion rates and disparities incorporated into accreditation ratings and report cards
- Corrective action plans for schools and divisions with high rates or disparities