# WHIEEAA – EDUCATION & AA STUDENTS W/ DISABILITIES

- Idea of diversity and inclusion starts in school
- Mainstream long term effects
  - Increase in self confidence, self-esteem, socialization
  - Ability to compete in a non-disabled world
- Outcomes of students in segregated classrooms
  - Held to lower expectations, less academic rigor, lack the ability to analyze and think critically
  - Leading to increase dropouts, lower employment status and wages, lower rates of self sufficiency

# WHIEEAA – EDUCATION & AA STUDENTS W/ DISABILITIES

- The role of parents and family is vital for African American students with disabilities
- Most families do not understand the process start by understanding IDEA and the basic rights of children with disabilities
- Then engage the school system in a more meaningful and informed conversation
- The implications of receiving a mainstream education and parental and family supports – better educational and employment outcomes

## WORKFORCE & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- Focus areas include working with college students with disabilities
- Train employers on disability inclusion strategies
- Host college tours for high school students with disabilities



www.wrightchoice.org

# WHIEEAA – EDUCATION & AA STUDENTS W/ DISABILITIES

- More than 1.6 million college students with disabilities and a disproportionately low number are African American
- Mainstream education is the foundation for college and career readiness
- Quality education leads to self sufficiency and higher quality of life

# It Really Does Take a Village!

Networks of Support Make A Difference

# African American Students with Disabilities

- Leadership matters at all levels
  - Inclusive
  - Knowledgeable
  - Adaptive
  - Culturally astute
- Strong teams = strong outcomes
  - Consistent
  - Focused
  - Prepared
- Student-centered programming requires adult engagement
  - Accountable
  - Responsive



# Communication is Key!

#### Parent(s)/Caregivers

- Do I know what my child needs are now?
- Who is responsible for what service for my child?
- Do I know what to do if I am not satisfied with the level of service?
- What do I do if there is a problem?
- Where are my child's records? What do they say about her?
- What are other options of support?
- Where can I get additional help or information?

#### School Teams/District

- How are we going to meet the needs of the student?
- Who is responsible for what services the student receives?
- □ How will challenges/conflicts be addressed?
- What is in the student's file? What do we know about the student now?
- What interventions and supports are available to the student?
- What other sources of information can be provided?

# The Supportive School Discipline Initiative (SSDI)

#### **Kristen Harper**

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)

# What We Know



### ⇒ Overuse of punitive discipline:

The majority of public school students in Texas were suspended or expelled at least once between 7th-12<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### ⇒ Discipline disparities:

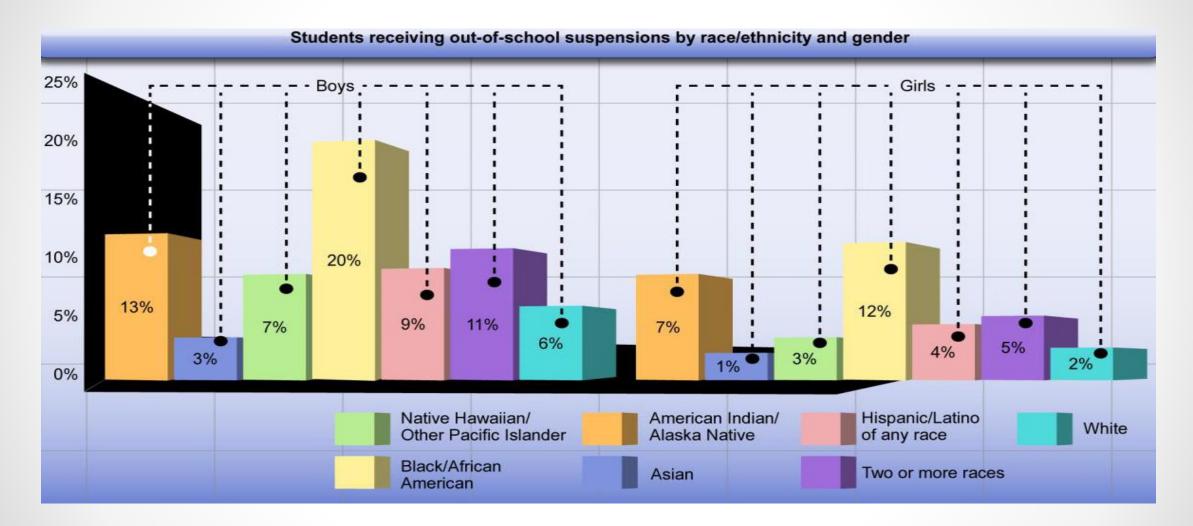
Black students had a **31 percent higher** likelihood of being disciplined for the same discretionary violation as white students.

**Nearly 3/4 of students** qualified for special education services were suspended or expelled at least once.

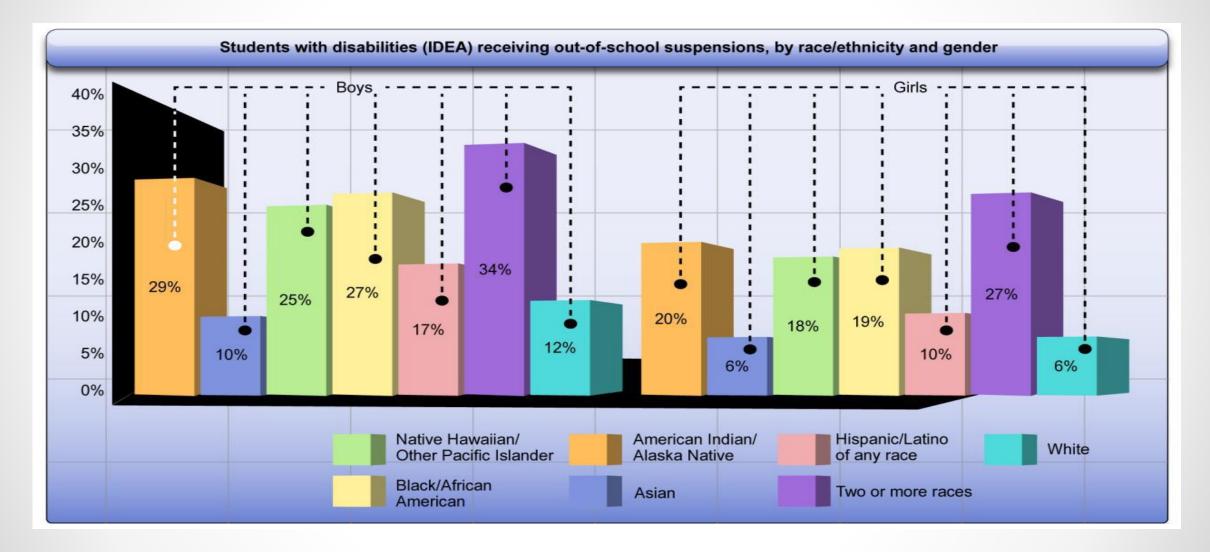
#### ⇒ Justice system involvement:

Students suspended or expelled for a discretionary incident were nearly **3 TIMES** as likely to be in contact with the juvenile justice system in the next year.

### **Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC)**



## **Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC)**



### **ED-DOJ School Discipline Guidance Package**

Dear Colleague Letter (DCL): Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline

Guiding Principles: A Resource Guide for Improving School Climate and Discipline

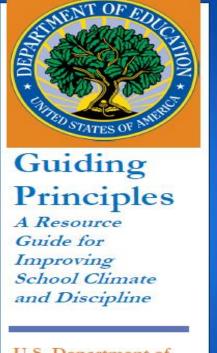
Appendix 1:

**Directory of Federal School Climate and Discipline Resources** 

Appendix 2:

**Compendium of School Discipline Laws and Regulations** 

### School Discipline Guidance Package – Guiding Principles



U.S. Department of Education A resource guide outlining **three priorities** for policymakers, district officials, school leaders, and **stakeholders** to consider as they work to improve school climate and discipline.

Principle #1: Climate and Prevention

Principle #2: Expectations & Consequences

Principle #3: Equity, Fairness & Continuous Improvement

### **Correctional Education Guidance Package**



Attorney General Holder and Secretary of Education Duncan at Dec. 8, 2014 release of package. **Guiding Principles** for Providing High-Quality Education in Juvenile Justice Secure Care Settings

**Dear Colleague Letter on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act** for Students with Disabilities in Correctional Facilities

**Dear Colleague Letter on the Civil Rights of Students** in Juvenile Justice Residential Facilities

**Dear Colleague Letter on Access to Pell Grants for Students** in Juvenile Justice

Package & other resources at <u>http://www.ojjdp.gov/correctionaled</u>

# Addressing the Root Causes of Disparities in School Discipline:

### An Educator's Action Planning Guide

- Stage 1: Digging into the Data -- "Do discipline disparities exist in our school or school district?"
- Stage 2: Getting at the Roots -- "What are the root causes of our discipline disparities?"
- Stage 3: Creating an Action Plan -- "How will root causes of discipline disparities be addressed?"

Includes excel-based Disciplinary Disparities Risk Assessment Tool, and...

- Planning Templates
- Real world examples
- Sidebars and tip sheets
- Links to useful resources



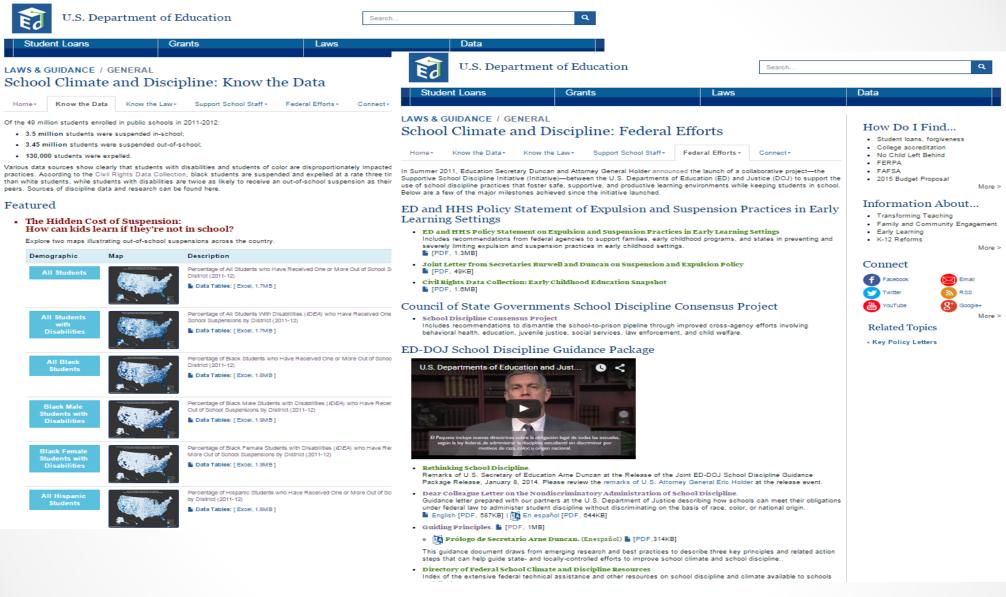
# **#RethinkDiscipline**

Social media campaign – twitter & google hangouts -- to raise awareness by:

- Highlighting national data on discipline;
- Clarify the impact of removal;
- Share info in effective approaches.

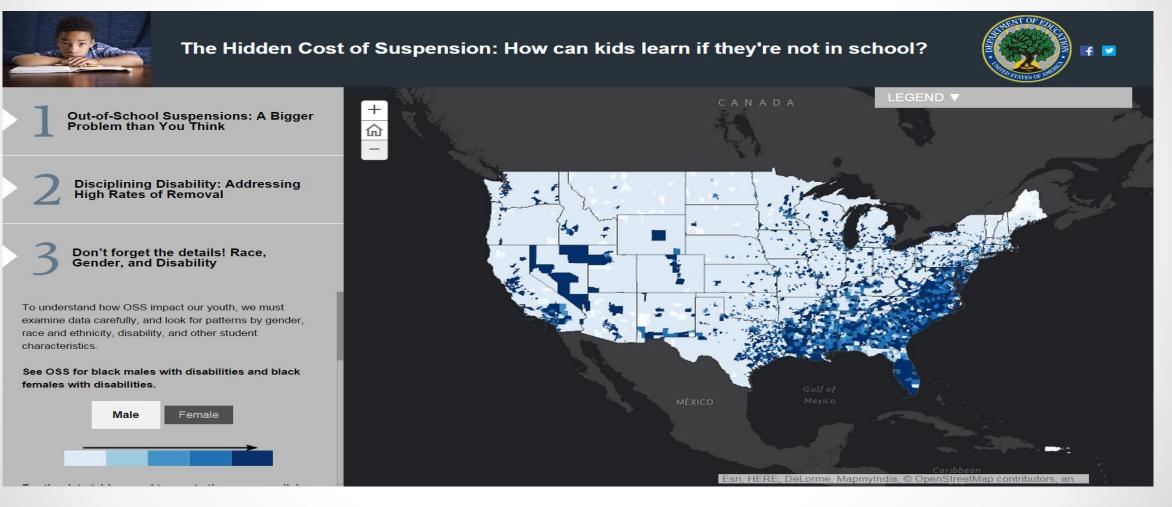


Look out for our Google hangouts!



## www.ed.gov/rethinkdiscipline

# New Data Tool!



## SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES

Patrick Cokley, Program Director, Workforce Recruitment Program Office of Disability Employment Policy



Defense Division BSSD Status

# GUIDEPOSTS FOR SUCCESS

 ODEP and NCWD/Youth identified five elements as essential for all youth, including youth with disabilities, to effectively transition into postsecondary education and employment.

20



# GUIDEPOSTS FOR SUCCESS

The five Guideposts are as follows:

- School-Based Preparatory Experiences
- Career Preparation and Work-Based Learning Experiences

21

CHARLENE

- Youth Development and Leadership
- Connecting Activities
- Family Involvement and Supports



### CAREER PREPARATION AND WORK-BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

 Exposure to career opportunities that ultimately lead to information about educational requirements, entry requirements, income and benefits potential, and asset accumulation, and 22

 Training designed to improve job-seeking skills and work-place basic skills (sometimes called soft skills).



## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP

- Mentoring activities designed to establish strong relationships with adults through formal and informal settings
- Peer-to-peer mentoring opportunities
- Exposure to role models in a variety of contexts
- Training in skills such as self-advocacy and conflict resolution
- Exposure to personal leadership and youth development activities, including community service, and
- Opportunities that allow youth to exercise leadership and build selfesteem.



# WHAT IS EFFECTIVE (WHAT IS BEING DONE)

24

- Executive level engagement
- Mentoring
- Accessible tech at work
- Inclusive programs
- Affinity Groups



## IMPORTANCE OF WORKPLACE INCLUSION

25

- A culture of inclusion is the key element in supporting individuals with disabilities in the workplace
- Organizations that value and appreciate each person for their individual differences and experiences benefit from diverse perspectives. Creating such an inclusive culture isn't difficult, but does require some forethought.



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