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K-12 Racial Disparities in School Discipline

Title

Nationwide Survey of State Education Agencies' Online School Disciplinary Data for Students with Disabilities

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Data Availability

The data associated with this publication are in the supplemental files.

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# The Center for Civil Rights Remedies

at The Civil Rights Project | *Proyecto Derechos Civiles*

## Nation-wide Survey of State Education Agencies' Online School Disciplinary Data for Students with Disabilities

### Instructions and Description of the Survey

The spreadsheets provide the results of a survey of suspension/expulsion data sources located on state-level (including Washington, DC) department of education websites throughout the United States conducted between May 2014 and July 2014. The state-level data provides information regarding discipline of students with disabilities. The purpose of this tool is to provide the public, including advocates, researchers, education policymakers, and parents, with information regarding the availability of school discipline data on their state's website, including direct live links to the data source where available. In most states, additional data can be obtained by filing a request, most often pursuant to the state's "sunshine act." For each state, we have listed the contact person for requesting additional data. Furthermore, The Center for Civil Rights Remedies (CCRR) has provided an [analysis of suspension rates in each state for the 2009-2010 academic year](#). An analysis of suspension rates in each state and nationwide discipline trends for the 2011-2012 academic year will be published on our [website](#) in Fall 2014.

This *Survey* is limited to what reviewers found to have been publicly reported on each state's website. Thirty-four states did not publically report any school discipline data. Furthermore, only eight states disaggregate disciplinary data by race in their SEA website reporting.

**Widespread state non-compliance with federal law found:** As indicated in **Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.**, **49 states failed to report discipline data for students with disabilities despite the following explicit federal requirement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):** "(a) In general Each State that receives assistance under this subchapter, and the Secretary of the Interior, **shall provide data each year to the Secretary of Education and the public on the following:** (1)...(D) **The incidence and duration of disciplinary actions by race, ethnicity, limited English proficiency status, gender, and disability category, of children with disabilities, including suspensions of 1 day or more.**"

20 U.S.C. Sec. 1418 (a)(1)(D) [emphasis added].

**Table 1. Overview of Discipline Data Reporting across States (excluding Washington, DC)**

SWD Discipline Data Online at State Department of ED Website	States with Some Discipline Data	States with Some Data Disaggregated by Race	States Fully Complying with IDEA 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1418 (a)(1)(d)
YES	16	8	1
NO	34	42	49

### Spreadsheet Overview:

The *SWD Overview* and *Survey* spreadsheets detail what data is accessible online for public consumption. The *SWD Overview* spreadsheet provides a summary of our findings. The *Survey* spreadsheet indicates whether discipline data is available online at the department of education website of each state and the District of Columbia. The spreadsheet also indicates whether the data may be disaggregated by subgroups (i.e., race/ethnicity, gender,



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limited English proficiency, & disability category) and number of days disciplined. For some states, more detailed discipline data is available offline. Therefore, we have provided each state's contact information where one can request data that are more detailed. The availability of detailed data varies by state and will be determined upon correspondence with the provided contacts. *It is important to note that this spreadsheet is accurate as of July 2014.* Due to the nature of data availability, some changes may occur periodically. Accordingly, we will provide updates to this spreadsheet on an annual basis.

## Definitions of Terms used in Spreadsheet:

Term	Definition
In-School Suspension	Student removed from his or her regular classroom(s) for a period of time but remains under the supervision of school personnel. The time period could vary from hours within a single day to several days. <i>Please see the help file located on the site of your particular state of interest for specific definition.</i>
Out-of-School Suspension	Student removed from school grounds for a finite period of time. Typically, the student is removed for 10 days or less. <i>Please see the help file located on the site of your particular state of interest for specific definition.</i>
Expulsion	Student removed from a school or school district for an extended period of time or permanently. The student may or may not be provided with educational support services or placed in alternative location. <i>Please see the help file located on the site of your particular state of interest for specific definition.</i>
Race &/or Ethnicity	Generally defined as: African-American/Black, American Indian, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino, White, Multi-Racial. <i>Please see the help file located on the site of your particular state of interest for specific definition.</i>
# of Students (In-School Suspensions: Students unduplicated)	If marked, the number of students suspended <i>In School</i> is provided. Unduplicated means that each student is counted a single time even if the student received more than one in-school suspension during the year.
# of Students (Out-of-School Suspensions: Students unduplicated)	If marked, the number of students suspended <i>Out-of-School</i> is provided. Unduplicated means that each student is counted a single time even if the student received more than one out-of-school suspension during the year. A student that received 10 suspensions in the same year would only be recorded once.
# of Students (Suspensions & Expulsions Combined: Students unduplicated)	If marked, the number of students <i>Suspended &amp;/or Expelled</i> is provided. Unduplicated means that each student is counted a single time even if the student received more than one out-of-school suspension during the year or was suspended and later expelled during the same academic year.
# of Students (Expulsions: Students unduplicated)	If marked, the number of students <i>Expelled</i> is provided. Each student is counted a single time. Typically expelled students are removed for the balance of the academic year or longer, but definitions vary by state.
# of Suspensions (In-School: Students may be duplicated)	If marked, the number of <i>In-School Suspensions</i> is provided. The # of in-school suspensions counts every suspension meted out during the year. A student that received 10 in-school suspensions during the same year would generate a count of 10 suspensions.
# of Suspensions (Out-of-School: Students may be duplicated)	If marked, the number of <i>Out-of-School Suspensions</i> is provided. The # of out-of-school suspensions counts every suspension meted out during the year. A student that received 10 out-of-school suspensions during the same year would generate a count of 10 out-of-school suspensions.
# of Suspensions (In & Out-of-School Combined: Students may be duplicated)	If marked, the number of <i>In-School &amp;/or Out-of-School Suspensions</i> is provided. Combined # of suspensions means that each suspension is counted with no distinction as to whether it was served in-school or out-of-school.
# of Expulsions (Students may be duplicated)	If marked, the number of <i>Expulsions</i> is provided. This category provides the number of expulsions meted out. Some states attach the term "expulsion" to long-term suspensions. Therefore it is conceivable that one student could be expelled more than once in a given year. In most states, however, the number of expulsions should match the number of students expelled because expulsions typically entail removal of the student from school for



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Term	Definition
	the balance of the school year.
Type of Offense/Reason	If marked, the type of offense that resulted in disciplinary action is provided. For example, states often indicate the number of suspensions under the category of particular offenses such as: theft, assault, bullying, cheating, weapon or firearm possession, sexual assault, destruction of property, and some states also include less serious offense categories such as dress code violations or willful defiance. Most often, where one suspension resulted from multiple offenses, only the most serious offense is counted. However, in some states, each offense may be counted even only one disciplinary response results.
Disciplinary Action (other than Suspension/Expulsion)	If marked, a disciplinary action other than suspension or expulsion is provided. Examples of other disciplinary actions typically include after-school detention, Saturday school, and parent-teacher conferences.
Discipline Data Link	The link(s) to the most current disciplinary data is (are) provided, if available.
Students with Disabilities Link	The link(s) to the most current disciplinary data for Students with Disabilities is provided.
Detailed Data Request Link	If disciplinary data are not available on the web, or more detailed information is desired this link provides instructions on how to request data from the state.
Detailed Data Contact	Information regarding who to contact regarding the request of data is provided.
Notes	This section provides additional information regarding the disciplinary data, if applicable.

## Methods:

As a first step in the survey, the researchers went to each state's department of education website (and the District of Columbia) to ascertain what discipline data was available. More specifically, the researchers tried to determine if suspension/expulsion data was located on the state's department of education website and if so, whether the data was disaggregated by subgroups (i.e., race/ethnicity, gender, limited English proficiency, & disability category) and number of days disciplined. If the researchers were unable to find discipline data, they contacted the department of education to inquire if and how the data might be obtained.

## How to use the *Survey* spreadsheet:

In the *Survey* spreadsheet, the states and the District of Columbia are listed in the columns and type of data, contact information, & data notes are listed in the rows of the spreadsheet. Data indicators are further disaggregated at the state, district, and school level. The states are listed alphabetically. You may search for a state by using the search feature (Ctrl-F [PC] or CMD-F [Mac]). If available, we have provided a link to the data sources in the spreadsheet (indicated by a [hyperlink](#)). When applicable, the name of the report is indicated in the hyperlink to aid in locating the data on the department's website. Definitions for the terms used in the *SWD Data Directory 2014* spreadsheet are provided on the *Definitions* spreadsheet.

If you have any questions or comments about the use of or accuracy of this data, please contact Cheri Hodson at [closingthegap@ucla.edu](mailto:closingthegap@ucla.edu).