



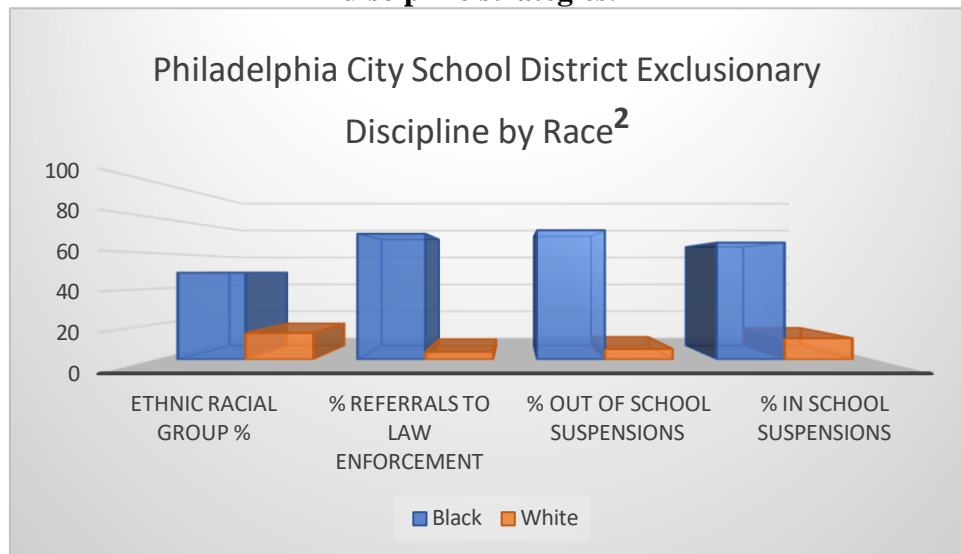
Pennsylvania's School Discipline Crisis Just Discipline: A Restorative Justice Solution

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- ◆ Starting as early as preschool,³ about 94,000 children were suspended in Pennsylvania schools for the 2017 - 2018 school year.¹
- ◆ Black children in Pennsylvania are about *5 times more likely* to be suspended than White children.¹
- ◆ Black children comprise 40% of out of school suspensions, and 32% of expulsions, yet they comprise about 15% of the school population.¹

Public schools with high proportions of Black children use more exclusionary and less reparative discipline strategies.⁴



- ◆ Black children are **more likely to be disciplined for minor infractions** than White children.⁵
- ◆ **Exclusionary practices cause psychological harm.**⁹ They also ignore and exacerbate Black children's traumatic responses from concurrent intergenerational and environmental racial stressors.^{6,9,10}
- ◆ **Exclusionary practices are ineffective.**⁵ They are associated with low academic performance even for non-suspended students,^{12,13} increased behavior problems,⁵ school drop-out,¹³ arrests and incarceration.⁷

Just Discipline

An Effective and Evidence-Based Restorative Justice Policy Solution

- A framework of restorative justice is a fundamental shift in thinking about school environments and discipline.¹⁰ Restorative practices promote:
 - School environments that focus on building strong relationships among teachers, staff, children, and families.^{8,10}
 - Discipline strategies prioritizing accountability, communal decision-making, and restoring relationships over punitive and exclusionary discipline.¹¹
- The **Just Discipline** intervention has demonstrated success in:
 - Reducing behavior infractions and suspensions.¹⁰
 - Improving academic performance.¹⁰
 - Improving student relationships, staff satisfaction, and school climate.¹⁰
- Implementing **Just Discipline** involves district buy-in, specialized staff and training, student therapeutic support, disaggregated data, and teacher collaboration.¹⁰



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