



School Discipline Task Force

SB 23-029

SB 23-029: Disproportionate Discipline in Public Schools

During the 2023 legislative session, the General Assembly passed and the Governor signed [SB 23-029](#): Disproportionate Discipline in Public Schools. The bill changes current law from encouraging to requiring consideration of certain factors prior to suspension or expulsion and establishes a task force to study and make recommendations regarding school district discipline policies and practices, state and local discipline reporting requirements, and local engagement. The task force will meet during the 2023-24 school year and produce a final report by August 1, 2024.

Disproportionate Discipline Findings

The General Assembly included a legislative declaration in the bill regarding disproportionality in discipline. A summary of the declaration is described below:

- Students who are suspended and expelled are more likely to fall behind in school work;
- In the 2018-19 school year in Colorado, Black and Hispanic students had higher rates of suspension than White students;
- Suspended youth are less likely than nonsuspended youth to have earned a high school diploma or a bachelor's degree;
- "The General Assembly finds that discrimination plays a significant role in perpetuating school safety policies that push students into the criminal justice system"

Task Force Members

In accordance with SB 23-029, the School Discipline Task Force is made up of the following members. The Commissioner of Education is required to appoint all members, with the exception of the legislative member and the Executive Director of the Department of Early Childhood:

- The legislative member, who is the chairperson of the review committee, or the legislative member's designee
- The executive director of the department of early childhood or the executive director's designee
- The commissioner of education, or the commissioner's designee
- One representative of a statewide organization for school district administrators
- One representative of a statewide organization for school district boards of education
- One representative of a statewide organization for rural school districts

Timeline

September 30, 2023: Task force members must be appointed.

October 15, 2023: The first meeting of the task force must be held by this date.

August 1, 2024: The task force must submit a final report.

2024: The task force presents its findings and recommendations to the review committee during the first meeting of the review committee.



- One representative of a statewide organization representing charter schools
- One representative of a statewide association for teachers
- One representative of a statewide organization representing special education directors
- One representative of a statewide disability advocacy organization
- One representative of a statewide mental health advocacy organization
- One representative of a statewide organization representing students who have experienced suspension, expulsion, or other school discipline issues
- One representative of a statewide organization specializing in equity and inclusion
- One representative of a statewide organization that represents the interests of students and families
- One representative of a statewide organization that represents victims of violent crimes or sexual assault
- Three former students who attended Colorado public schools and who have lived experience with the school discipline system

Task Force Duties

The following tasks are required to be completed by the school discipline task force. CDE will hire a facilitator to support the task force's work:

- Define "disproportionate discipline";
- Review the CDE's plan and progress in standardizing discipline data;
- Review the department's plan for creating district profile reports;
- Determine whether the department's plan and progress in standardizing discipline data should include reports of alternative disciplinary measures taken prior to a student's suspension or expulsion;
- Recommend processes and provide resources for public engagement in a local school district board of education's discussions of discipline data;
- Review existing public engagement processes;
- Review best practices identified by the department concerning dropout prevention and student re-engagement;
- Identify alternative approaches to discipline and address concerns around workforce and other resource shortages in school districts in relation to school discipline practices and reporting; and
- Recommend legislative and administrative changes, as necessary, and analyze the costs and time frames required to implement the changes.

If you have questions or would like additional information regarding the disproportionate discipline task force, please contact us using the information below.

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