



Support the Dignity in Schools Campaign-New York 2012 Goals for Positive Discipline in NYC Schools!

Research shows that punitive school discipline policies, like suspensions, do not reduce conflict, but instead increase the likelihood that students will fall behind, drop out and/or become incarcerated. Our goal is to create safe and supportive school climates in all New York City public schools where young people are not suspended and removed from class, and where teachers and students have training and support to prevent and resolve conflicts in positive ways.

We call on the New York City Department of Education to:

Reduce suspensions in New York City schools by 50% by September 2013 and implement positive approaches to discipline, like restorative justice, conflict resolution and peer mediation, including by taking the following steps in 2012:

1. **End all suspensions for minor behavior infractions**, like being insubordinate or shoving or pushing, listed in Levels 1-3 of the Discipline Code.*
2. **Require that schools use positive interventions before they can suspend a student**, including for behaviors like fighting listed in Levels 4-5 of the Discipline Code, and direct schools to use suspension only as a last resort.*
3. **End long-term suspensions of more than 10 days** and prohibit students from being suspended for more than 10 days total over the school year.
4. **Fund and implement positive school-wide approaches to discipline in 10 high need schools**, including those with the highest suspension and arrest rates, and in each of those schools designate and train a Restorative Discipline Coordinator.

**In the limited cases when suspension is required by state law, the Discipline Code must require schools to use the least exclusionary suspension possible and to combine suspension with positive interventions.*

Members of DSC-NY: Advocates for Children, Center for Community Alternatives, Children's Defense Fund-NY, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, Coalition for Gender Equity in Schools, Desis Rising Up and Moving, Future of Tomorrow, Make the Road New York, Mass Transit Street Theater, NESRI, New Settlement Apartments Parent Action Committee, Pumphouse Projects, Sikh Coalition, Sistas and Brothas United, Teachers Unite, Urban Youth Collaborative, Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice, Youth on the Move and Youth Represent.

Contact us: www.dignityinschools.org/dsc-ny 212-253-1710 x 314 dscny@dignityinschools.org

I/We support the Dignity in Schools Campaign-NY Goals for Positive School Discipline

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