School Suspensions

Cortland County

Feb. 2025

School Districts and Charter Schools available upon request. LEAs retrieved from NYSED Public Reports Portal – "All Institutions: Active Institutions with Congressional, Assembly & Senate Districts"

In New York, students are suspended from schools in response to a wide range of behaviors, including minor infractions like being late to class and dress code violations. This form of punishment begins as early as Pre-Kindergarten. The overreliance on exclusionary discipline continues despite research that indicates suspensions are ineffective and harmful and that they deepen academic inequities, especially for students of color, those from low-income backgrounds, and students with disabilities.

Some of the short- and long-term impacts of suspension on a child include:

- Lower math and reading scores
- Decreased school trust and identification with school
- Increased risk of drop out and criminal justice system involvement

During the 2023-2024 school year…

New York State

137,511 students suspended

including 8,331 in Pre-K to Grade 3 and 9,177 for 20 or more days cumulatively

957,934 total lost days of education

Your County

438 students suspended

including 49 in Pre-K to Grade 3 and 13 for 20 or more days cumulatively

2,224 total lost days of education

Black students suspended

as often as

1.8x White students

Students with disabilities suspended

2x General education students

Economically disadvantaged students suspended

2.9x Students who are not economically disadvantaged

To learn more about suspensions in your region and statewide, please visit: https://thechildrensagenda.org/reports/ or scan the QR code

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Solutions Not Suspensions

S.134/A.118

The students in your district deserve policies that allow them to thrive in a supportive educational environment focused on **accountability, healing relationships, and repairing harm**. The Solutions Not Suspensions bill would:

1. **Require school codes of conduct to include restorative approaches** to discipline and proactively foster a positive school climate
2. **Limit the use of suspensions in Pre-Kindergarten through 3rd grade** to only the most serious behaviors
3. **Shorten the maximum length of suspension from 180 to 20 school days** (except when required by federal law)
4. **Prohibit suspensions for minor infractions** such as tardiness, dress code violations, or insubordination
5. **Require that students who are suspended receive academic instruction** and the opportunity to complete assignments, take exams, and earn credit
6. **Require charter schools to follow state education law** on student behavior and discipline

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states have already enacted similar legislation limiting the length of suspensions

Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Washington, D.C., Wisconsin

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states have already enacted similar legislation limiting suspensions by grade level

Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, D.C.

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