SOLUTIONS NOT SUSPENSIONS

PARENT PERSPECTIVES ON EXCLUSIONARY DISCIPLINE & THE ALTERNATIVES

Results of a September 2024 countywide survey of 600 Monroe County parents

Research indicates that **suspensions are ineffective** in changing behavior, **harmful to students academically and socially**, and used in biased ways that **target students of color, students with disabilities, and students from low-income families**. In The Children's Agenda's Sept. 2024 poll, parents told us what concerns them most about exclusionary discipline and the guardrails they would like to see regarding the use of suspensions.

While concern that their own child may be suspended varied demographically, **parents' support for alternative approaches to school discipline and additional school funding for these initiatives was consistent.**

Support for Limitations & Alternatives to Suspension

	Rochester	*Suburbs*
Eliminating suspensions in Pre-K through 3rd grade for all but the most extreme cases	**72%**	**81%**
Limiting suspensions for all grades to no more than 20 days	**64%**	**58%**
Requiring schools to continue providing academic instruction when students are suspended	**89%**	**87%**
Requiring schools to provide social-emotional support or counseling instead of suspensions in Pre-K - 3rd	**82%**	**77%**
Requiring schools to utilize behavioral interventions instead of suspensions in Pre-K - 3rd	**80%**	**80%**

Support for More State Spending on Alternative Approaches to School Discipline

Parents across Monroe County support **additional state funding going to schools that pursue alternative solutions** rather than suspensions. This support remains strong across racial categories, geographic region, and personal concern for their own child being suspended.

94%	**83%**	**74%**	**92%**	**74%**
Black	**Hispanic**	**White**	**Rochester**	**Suburbs**

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When asked what concerns them most about suspensions, 59% of parents said the educational impact on both the disciplined child and other students in the classroom.

16% *of Monroe County parents are concerned their child will be suspended for minor infractions*

Higher for

Black parents	**41%**	*Parents with income under $50,000*	**34%**
Rochester parents	**28%**	*Parents of children with disabilities*	**25%**

S.1040/A.5691 The Solutions Not Suspensions Bill

Local parents have made it clear that they support alternatives to exclusionary discipline. New York State must pass legislation to **ensure school discipline policies foster supportive educational environments 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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