Students at the Center of Improving School Climate
Lock-out Policy
Constructive Feedback
Student input in Teacher Evaluation
BPS Code of Conduct (COCAC)
Boston Student Rights phone app
Student Rights and Responsibilities

Climate Justice
Education Equity
Transportation Equity
Credit Bearing BSAC Course
Chapter 222
Boston’s Climate Action Plan
Boston Student Rights App

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1. Know your rights as a student
   • the process of suspensions, expulsions, and hearings

2. Legal Resources

1. Learn more about BSAC
The Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC)/Youth on Board (YOB), Youth Organizers United for the Now Generation (YOUNG) and the Boston Area Youth Organizing Project (BYOP) conducted a survey at subway stations for the 5th year in a row.

246 young people’s experiences with school discipline and zero tolerance policies.

Here’s what they said...
60% said they felt their race, ethnicity, physical appearance, gender, gender expression, sexuality, sexual identity, disability, or English Language Learner status influenced why and how often they got disciplined at school.

75% think out-of-school suspension is not effective as a disciplinary tactic.

60% think out-of-school suspension should end completely as a disciplinary tactic.

50% did not know how disciplinary hearings work at their school.

70% did not know that their school is required to try alternatives to suspension before suspending them in most cases (i.e., restorative practices).
Quotes from the Survey:
If you or someone you know has been disciplined at school, how has it changed them or you?

“By the time I was in sixth grade I had been suspended 52 times for not having belts, for not putting stuff away, little things. I had no clue about stuff on the school tests because I was always suspended. I ended up getting held back a year.”

“In sixth grade my teacher called me violent and I was suspended, but no one ever asked me how I felt or even cared.”

“It changes most people into not wanting to try at all.”

“It makes me feel like someone is getting bullied.”

“Being suspended didn’t change my friends’ attitude or mine. We keep getting suspended.”
Massachusetts Youth Summit

[Images of youth in a meeting and a hand-drawn poster with the text: Youth School - What would be an ideal school for us: classes, learning, experiences, etc...]

[Handwritten note: We all have ideas of what we actually want to learn]