

The RAISE Act

Accountability for Inequities in School Discipline

H.4138 - An Act requiring accountability for inequities in suspension and expulsion (Rep. Ultrino)

The Reason

- **Students of color in Mass. are far more likely to be suspended out of school than white students**
 - **Black students: 3 times as likely**
 - **Hispanic/Latinx students: 2.5 times as likely**
 - **Native American students: 2 times as likely**
- **Students of color in secondary school also lose far more classroom time than their white peers when suspended out of school**
 - **Black students lost an average of 103 days of instruction suspension per 100 students**
 - **Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students lost 63 days of instruction per 100 students**
 - **Native American students lost 54 days of instruction per 100 students**
 - **White students lost just 21 days of instruction per 100 students**

The Bill

- **Requires rather than suggests that alternatives to suspension and expulsion must be attempted and documented before suspension or expulsion and narrows the acceptable parameters for suspension or expulsion by clarifying definitions of “assault” and “deadly weapon”**
- **Codifies student subgroups for which data collection is required in statute (maintaining: race/ethnicity, gender, ELL status, socioeconomic status, and disability status; adding: students in DCF custody or care and homeless students) and requires cross-tabulation of data**
- **Ensures that charter schools abide by these reporting requirements**
- **Inserts disciplinary data reporting and correction planning into triennial reports required under the Student Opportunity Act**
- **DOES NOT require any additional data collection by DESE or school districts, simply changes how we use and present data already collected in accordance with state and federal law and regulation**

Questions?

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