

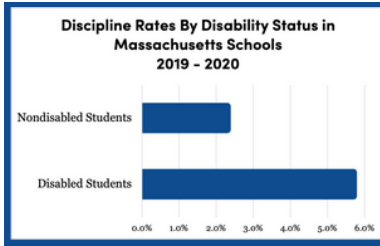
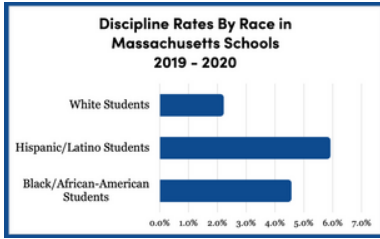
# The RAISE Act

H.4646

Act requiring accountability for inequities in suspension and expulsion  
(Rep. Ultrino)

**\*Redrafted with H.664/S.344**

An Act to promote the education success of court involved children  
(Rep. Meschino/ Sen. Jehlen)



## The Problem

- Students of color in MA are far more likely to be suspended out of school than white students:
  - Hispanic/Latinx students: 3x as likely
  - Black students: 2.5x as likely
- Students with disabilities are suspended at 3x the average suspension rate
- Children of color, those living with disabilities, and child-welfare involved children are also overrepresented in the child welfare, juvenile justice, and later, adult criminal legal systems.

## The Solution

### Narrow the acceptable parameters for suspension or expulsion

- Further specifies that assaults must be “willful, with intent and means to harm” to allow exclusion
- Requires rather than suggests that alternatives to suspension and expulsion must be attempted and documented before suspension or expulsion
- Outlines models which administrators can use as a direct response to a specific incident and as a school- or district-wide models to re-engage students

### Ensure due process protections for students

- Student and their parents must receive a notice of the charges and a principal's hearing for suspension or expulsion
- The notice must:
  - Be in both English and the family's home language, and
  - Outline the student's rights during the hearing

