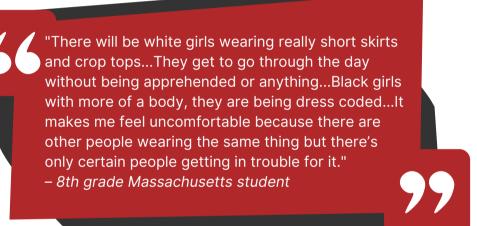
H.478/S.290 would prevent the suspension or expulsion of students for dress code violations



Sponsored by Rep. Fluker Oakley and Sen. Gomez

Despite efforts to address racial disparities in school discipline in Massachusetts, Black students remain 3 times more likely to be disciplined and 5 times more likely to receive an out-of-school suspension than their white counterparts.

Last year, Massachusetts enacted The CROWN Act, which limited school disciplinary actions that were aimed at protective and natural hairstyles. H.478/S.290 would complement that law by banning exclusionary discipline on the basis of dress code violations.





2018-2019 Scho	ol Year
Black female students are	3.2x
Latinx female students are	2.6x
American Indian	2.4x

Multiracial female students are

1.9x

...more likely to experience discipline than their white counterparts

This bill would:

- Authorize school committees to include a student dress code in the student code of conduct, but prohibit school officials from suspending or expelling students solely on the basis of a violation of a dress code
- Require that all school dress codes:
 - Allow students to wear clothing that is connected to their religion or ethnicity, including hijabs, yarmulkes, scarves, and headwraps
 - Ensure that the code is **applied with neutrality** to all students
 - Maintain gender neutrality regardless of gender identity
 - Have clear, specific, and objective definitions
 - Ensure dress codes are not enforced through direct physical contact with a student
 - Not force a student to undress in front of another person
- NOT prevent school officials from forbidding students from wearing clothing with a hateful or vulgar message

Questions?

Contact Kayla Pulliam at kayla@massappleseed.org