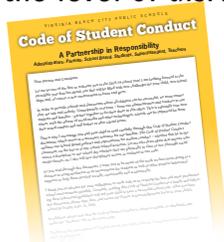


VBCPS FACT CHECKER

STUDENT DISCIPLINE:

Every student in every school has the right to learn in a safe classroom environment that is free from distractions and behavioral disruptions. For that to happen, students also have a responsibility to act appropriately and to follow rules of conduct. **When students choose to disobey the rules, there are consequences.** The severity of those consequences is determined based on the circumstances of the incident along with the level of disruption and pattern of behavior as outlined in the *Code of Student Conduct*.



TASK FORCE

In recent years, African American males made up only 12 percent of the VBCPS student population, but 30 percent of all school suspensions. Additionally, students with special needs made up 20 percent of all suspensions.

In 2016, a **student discipline task force** looked at VBCPS discipline data and practices before making recommendations on ways to support improved student behavior and consistently implement disciplinary action.

Recommendations included expanded use of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), increased training for staff, use of mediation when appropriate, the addition of more school psychologists, and the creation of an office focused on student opportunity and achievement.

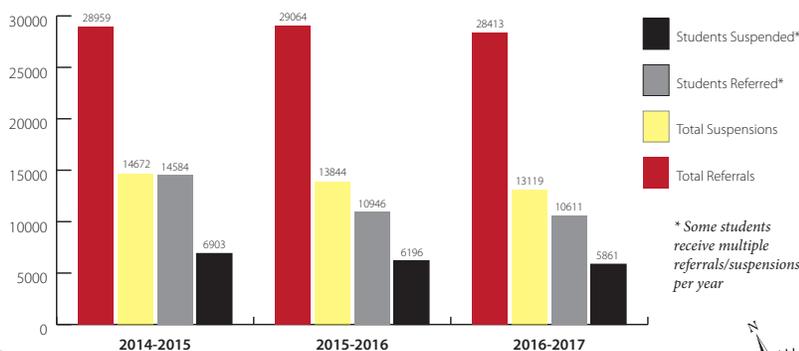
Less than
10%

Only a small percentage of VBCPS students are disciplined each year. Overall, less than 10 percent of the total student population are ever referred for administrative action.

Referrals

Teachers maintain high expectations for student behavior and conduct in the classroom. There are times when interventions and positive reinforcement can help change negative student behavior. Other times, disciplinary measures – including referrals and suspensions – are appropriate, and teachers have always had and still have the authority to refer children. Although the number of referrals has dipped slightly in recent years, the decrease has not been significant.

The goal through this work is to reduce negative behaviors, which should, in turn, reduce the need to refer or suspend students over time.



MEDIATION

VBCPS continues to build the capacity of specific staff members in school buildings – primarily school counselors – to offer mediation when it's appropriate. Again, it serves as a proactive measure to help meet students' emotional needs to prevent poor decision-making in the future.

