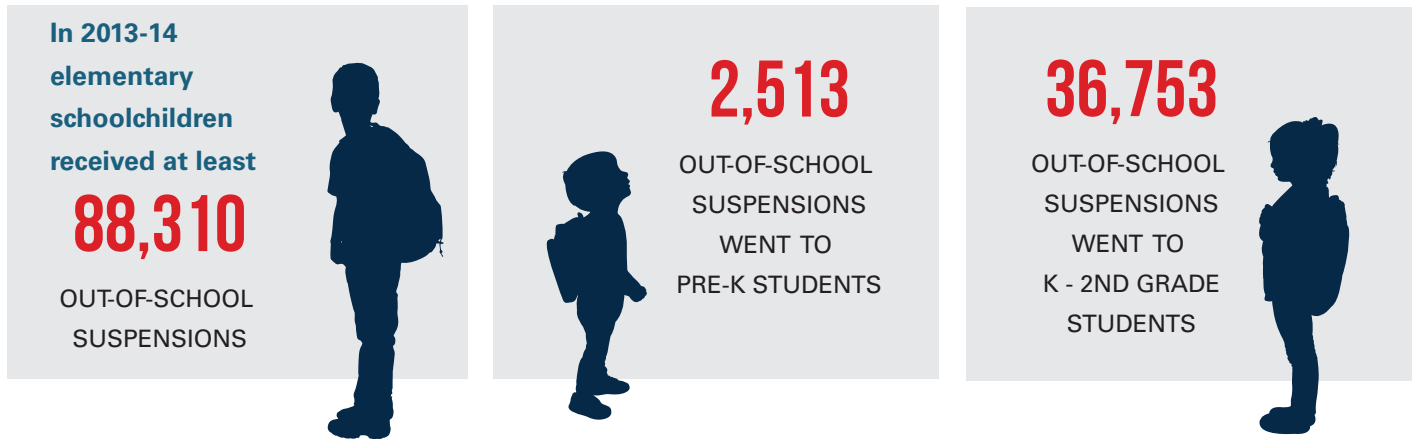


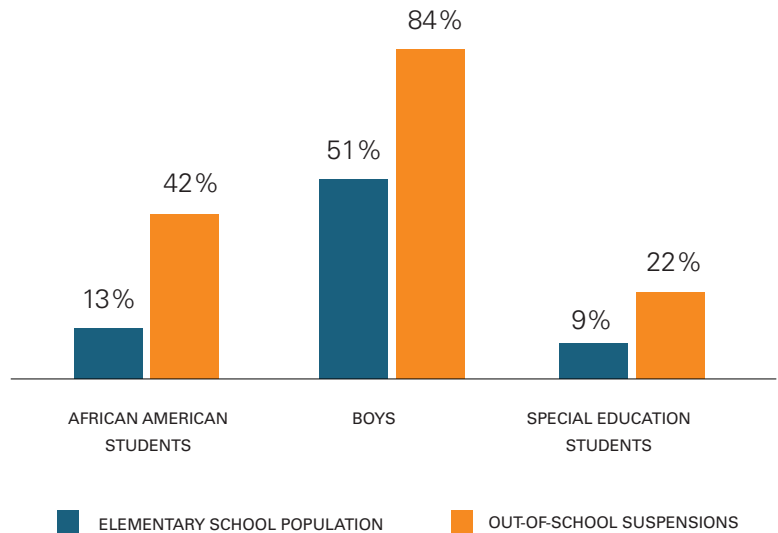
KIDS CAN'T LEARN IF THEY'RE PUSHED OUT OF SCHOOL

**END UNNECESSARY
SUSPENSIONS OF
YOUNG CHILDREN**

Texas elementary schoolchildren—some as young as four—are suspended, sent to alternative schools and expelled at alarming rates.

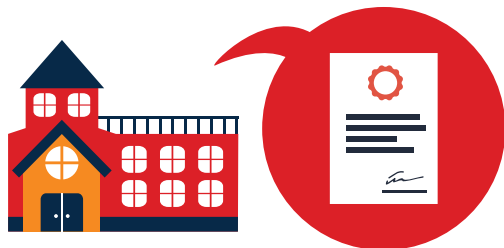


AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN, BOYS AND SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS ARE SUSPENDED AT PARTICULARLY HIGH RATES.



THE CURRENT LAW

Many removals are for **minor** Student Code of Conduct violations such as horseplay, disruption of class or dress code violations. These removals are **not required under state law**.



BUT SCHOOL DISTRICTS CREATE THEIR OWN STUDENT CODES OF CONDUCT that go well beyond the state law, allowing suspension of our youngest students for normal, age-appropriate behavior.

SUSPENDING YOUNG CHILDREN IS HARMFUL AND INEFFECTIVE

POOR OUTCOMES INCLUDE:

UP TO **10** TIMES GREATER **LIKELIHOOD** that the child will fail academically, be held back, feel negatively about school, drop out and be incarcerated.¹

Failure to address the underlying causes of misbehavior in children with serious problems, often **LEADING TO WORSENING BEHAVIOR.**

HARDSHIPS FOR TEXAS FAMILIES who must miss work to stay home with young students.

Missed instructional time and early labeling as a **“PROBLEM CHILD.”**



NEGATIVE IMPACT ON STUDENTS who remain in the classroom—suspensions are associated with lower schoolwide academic achievement and lower school climate ratings.²

TEXAS SHOULD FOLLOW THE LEAD OF OTHER STATES AND MUNICIPALITIES

States, cities and districts nationwide have passed laws and policies banning suspensions for the youngest students.³ These jurisdictions have found that removing students from class is not necessary to address behavior or manage a classroom:

PASSED LAWS OR POLICY:



LEGISLATION PENDING:



SCHOOLS SHOULD:

Use evidence-based practices to address student behavior and ensure successful classroom management. These include Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, Social Emotional Learning and Restorative Justice.

Many districts are already using these approaches. For those that are not, the Texas Education Agency and Regional Education Service Centers provide technical assistance and resources to help put alternative discipline programs in place.⁴

LEGISLATORS SHOULD:

End all classroom removals for young children that are not required by state law.

¹ U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services, Policy Statement on Expulsion and Suspension Policies in Early Childhood Settings, 2014.
² See American Psychological Association Zero Tolerance Task Force, Are Zero Tolerance Policies Effective in Schools?: An Evidentiary Review and Recommendations, American Psychologist, 854, Dec. 2008
³ As of February 2016
⁴ For more information visit:
http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Other_Services/Education_Service_Centers/Education_Service_Centers/