

Reducing the Effects of Implicit Bias in School Discipline

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Supports Initiative (MiBLSi)



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Overview of Today's Session

- Describe the term implicit bias and its role in disproportionality in school discipline
- 2. Share an intervention approach for addressing implicit bias
- 3. Provide an example of a implementation process for:
 - Ensuring district and school administrator commitment
 - 2. Delivering a sequenced professional development curriculum to school personnel Handouts: http://www.pbis.org



A 5-point Intervention Approach to Enhance Equity in School Discipline



Recommendations for Addressing Discipline Disproportionality in Education

Kent McIntosh, Erik J. Girvan, Robert H. Horner, Keith Smolkowski, & George Sugai

Disproportionality represents one of the most significant problems in education today (Gregory, Skiba, & Noguera, 2010; U.S. Government Accountability Office, 2013). The results of decades of research consistently show that students of color, particularly African American students (and even more so for those with disabilities), are at significantly increased risk for exposure to exclusionary discipline practices, including office discipline referrals and suspensions (e.g., Fabelo et al., 2011; Losen & Gillespie, 2012; Shaw & Braden, 1990). These differences have been found consistently across geographic regions and cannot be adequately explained by the correlation between race and poverty (Noltemeyer & Mcloughlin, 2010). Given the well-documented negative effects of exclusionary discipline on a range of student outcomes (American Academy of Pediatrics Council on School Health, 2013), educators must address this issue by identifying rates of discipline disproportionality, taking steps to reduce it, and monitoring the effects of intervention on disproportionality. Disproportionality in exclusionary discipline blocks us from the overall objective of promoting positive outcomes for all students.

Components of Effective Intervention to Prevent and Reduce Disproportionality

The existing research is clear that that no single strategy will be sufficient to produce substantive and sustainable change. Multiple components may be needed, but not all components may be necessary in all schools. We describe here a 5-point multicomponent approach to reduce disproportionality in schools.

1. Use Effective Instruction to Reduce the Achievement Gap

Because of the well-documented relation between academic achievement and problem behavior (McIntosh, Sadler, &

continued on next page

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS)

5-point Intervention Approach

- 1. Use engaging academic instruction to reduce the support gap (achievement gap)
- Implement a behavior framework that is preventive, multi-tiered, and culturally responsive
- Collect, use, and report disaggregated discipline data
- 4. Develop **policies** with accountability for disciplinary equity
- Teach neutralizing routines for vulnerable decision points

PBIS Forum Equity Strand

- 1. Use engaging academic instruction to reduce the support gap (achievement gap)
- 2. Implement a behavior framework that is preventive, multi-tiered, and culturally responsive
- 3. Collect, use, and report disaggregated discipline data
- 4. Develop **policies** with accountability for **EA** disciplinary equity
- Teach neutralizing routines for vulnerable decision points

 Supporting students who identify as LGBTQ

 Teach neutralizing routines for vulnerable A partner and a partner









2015: Ohio State wins a football game

Twitter





What is implicit bias?

- Unconscious, automatic
- Based on stereotypes
- We all have it (even those affected by it)
- Generally not an indication of our beliefs and values
- More likely to influence:
 - □ Snap decisions
 - □ Decisions that are ambiguous

Definitions

- Overt Bias
 - Conscious belief in superiority of a group
- Explicit Bias
 - Conscious belief that some groups aspire to desirable traits more than others
- Implicit Bias
 - Unconscious associations regarding some groups

Implicit Bias and Race

"the challenge is not a small number of twisted white supremacists but something infinitely more subtle and complex: People who believe in equality but who act in ways that perpetuate bias and inequality."

-Nicholas Kristof, The New York Times

Is discrimination the biggest factor in disproportionality?

With Malice Toward None and Charity for Some

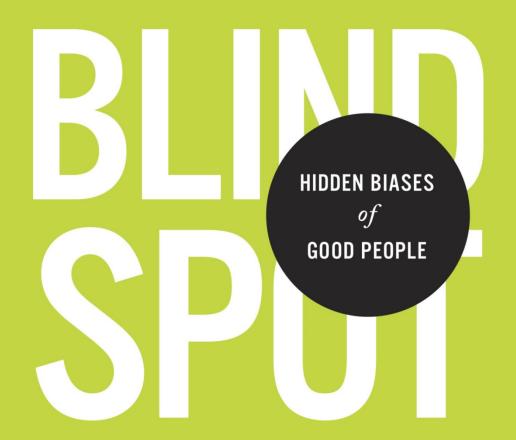
Ingroup Favoritism Enables Discrimination

Anthony G. Greenwald Thomas F. Pettigrew University of Washington
University of California, Santa Cruz

Dramatic forms of discrimination, such as lynching, property destruction, and hate crimes, are widely understood to be consequences of prejudicial hostility. This article focuses on what has heretofore been only an infrequent countertheme in scientific work on discrimination—that favoritism toward ingroups can be responsible for much discrimination. We extend this counterthesis to the strong conclusion that ingroup favoritism is plausibly more significant as a basis for discrimination in contemporary American society than is outgroup-directed hostility. This conclusion has implications for theory, research methods, and practical remedies.

perhaps even just a shared birthday (Finch & Cialdini, 1989)—can likewise result in tipping the balance toward a favorable judgment, giving "the benefit of the doubt." This role of ingroup connections in shaping favorable feelings, judgments, and actions underlies this article's thesis that ingroup-directed favoritism is, in the United States, a more potent engine for discriminatory impact than is outgroupdirected hostility.

Quite often ingroup favoritism is hidden even from those who practice it. Consider the way much job recruitment occurs. Good workers are asked frequently to seek out others for job openings. Because of extensive racial



MAHZARIN R. BANAJI ANTHONY G. GREENWALD



Implicit Bias predicts the extent to which...

- Police Officers use force when arresting African American children as opposed to White children (Goff et al., 2014)
- Arbitrators decide labor grievances in favor of men over women (Girvan, Deason, & Borgida, 2014)
- Pediatricians recommend less pain medication for African American children than White children with identical symptoms

(Cooper et al., 2012; Sabin & Greenwald, 2012)

Implicit Bias predicts the extent to which...

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- Pediatricians recommend less pain medication for African American children than White children with identical symptoms (Cooper et al., 2012; Sabin & Greenwald, 2012)
- Teachers expect their minority students to perform more poorly and the actual achievement gap in their classrooms (van den Bergh et al, 2010)



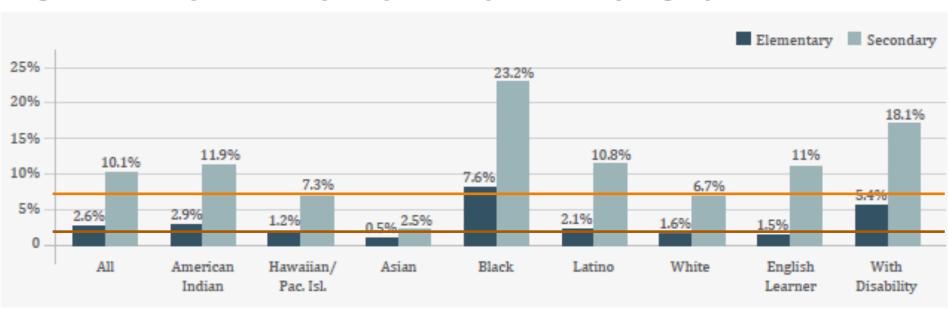
Implicit Bias Research: Racism is Real (Brave New Films)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTcSVQJ2h8g

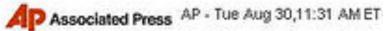
Disproportionality in School Discipline (Losen et al., 2015)

Figure 1. Elementary and Secondary Out-of-school Suspension Rates by Subgroup, 2011-12



http://civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/resources/projects/center-for-civil-rights-remedies/school-to-prison-folder/federal-reports/are-we-closing-the-school-discipline-gap





A young man walks through chest deep flood water after looting a grocery store in New Orleans on Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2005. Flood waters continue to rise in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina did extensive damage when it

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Bias in Google Web Searches

(Sweeney, 2013)

Ad related to latanya sweeney (1)

Latanya Sweeney Truth

www.instantcheckmate.com/

Looking for Latanya Sweeney? Check Latanya Sweeney's Arrests.

Ads by Google

Latanya Sweeney, Arrested?

 Enter Name and State. 2) Access Full Background Checks Instantly.

www.instantcheckmate.com/

Latanya Sweeney

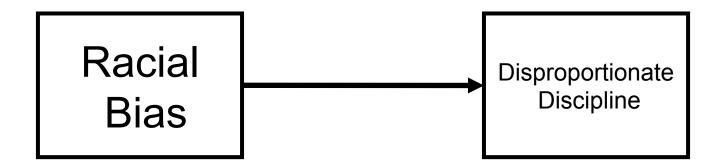
Public Records Found For: Latanya Sweeney. View Now. www.publicrecords.com/

La Tanya

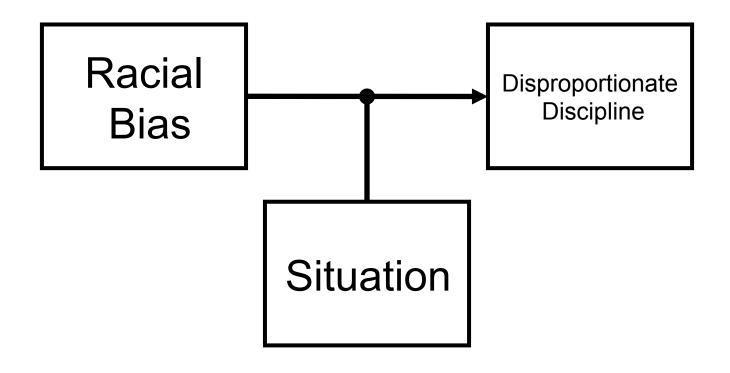
Search for La Tanya Look Up Fast Results now! www.ask.com/La+Tanya

- Likelihood of "Arrest Ad"
 - □ Black-sounding name: 60%
 - White-sounding name: 48%

A Unidimensional View of Bias



A Multidimensional View of Bias



Two Systems for Decision Making (Kahneman, 2011)

- System 1: Fast Decisions
 - □ Automatic, snap judgments
 - □ Intuitive, unconscious
- System 2: **Slow Decisions**
 - □ Deliberate decisions
 - □ Allows for conscious attention

Discussion

- Which decisions in schools are more likely to be snap judgments?
 - Correcting a student's behavior
 - Sending a student to the office
 - □ Picking which student to call on

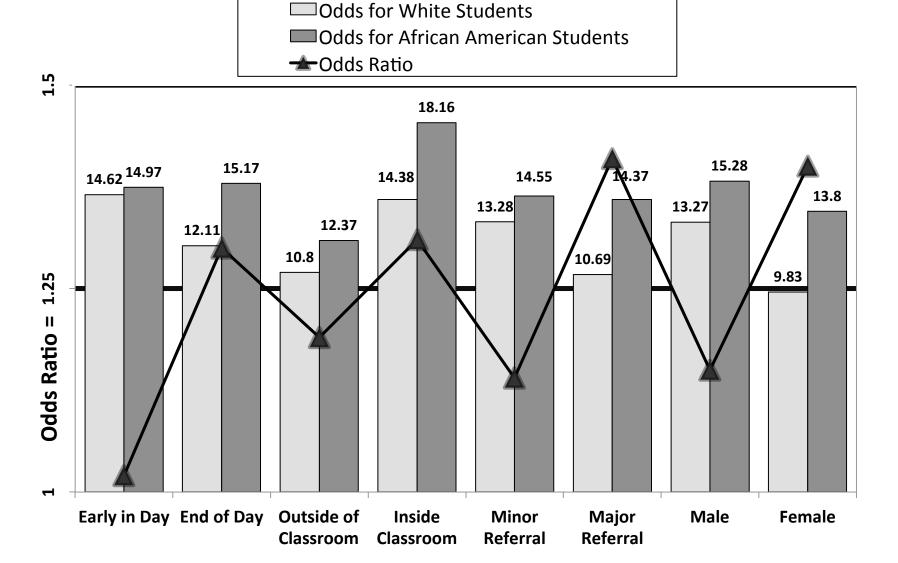
- Deciding whether to call a student's parent
- Suspending a student from school
- □ Grading students' work

National SWIS Data (2011-12)

483,686 ODRs
1,666 elementary schools
45 states







(Smolkowski et al., under review)



Situational Predictors of Disproportionality

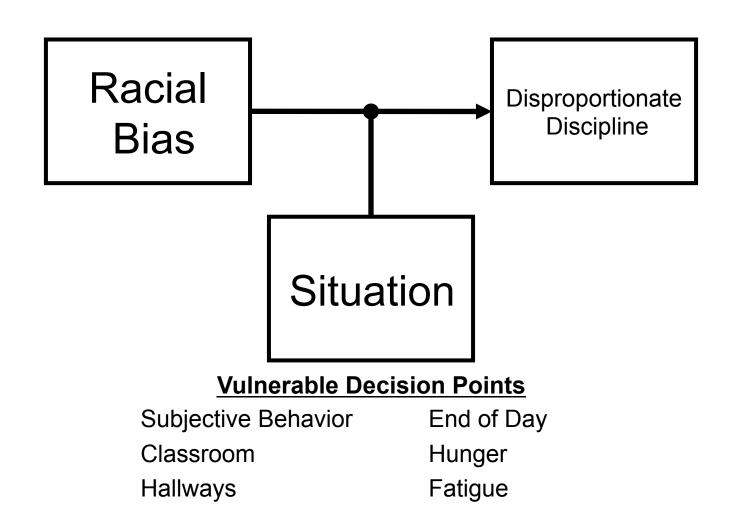
- Subjective problem behavior
- IMBIGUITY □ Defiance, Disrespect, Disruption
 - Major vs. minor
- Afternoons
- Classrooms







Multidimensional View of Bias



Reduce Effects of Implicit Bias through Specific Training

- Reduce ambiguity in ODR definitions and processes
 - Clear definitions of problem behaviors
 - Clear guidelines for staff vs. office-managed behaviors
- 2. Identify specific vulnerable decision points
 - National
 - □ Local (district or school)
- 3. Teach a neutralizing routine
 - 1. Self-assess presence of VDP
 - 2. Use alternative response



What is a Vulnerable Decision Point (VDP)?

- A specific decision that is more vulnerable to effects of implicit bias
- Two parts:
 - □ Elements of the situation
 - ☐ The person's <u>decision state</u> (internal state)



Situations:

Options for Identifying VDPs

- Levels of specificity:
- All ODR/suspension decisions (general self-instruction routine)
- 2. Identify VDPs through national data
- 3. Use school or district data



Using Discipline Data within SWPBIS to Identify and Address Disproportionality: A Guide for School Teams

This practice guide is one of a series of guides for enhancing equity in school discipline. The guides are based on a 5-point multicomponent intervention described by McIntosh, Girvan, Horner, Smolkowski, and Sugai (2014). The 5 points include effective instruction, School-wide PBIS as a foundation for culturally-responsive behavior support, use of disaggregated discipline data, effective policies, and reducing bias in discipline decisions. This guide addresses use of data.

The recommendations and guides are available at:

http://www.pbis.org/school/equity-pbis.



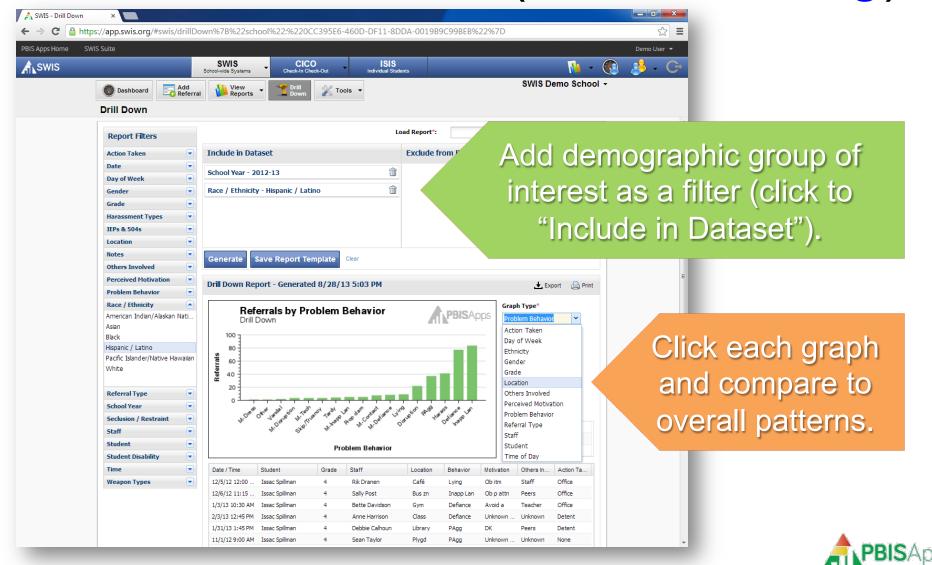
The purpose of this guide is to provide a reference for SWPBIS school teams in the use of discipline data (e.g., office discipline referrals, suspensions) in the area of racial and ethnic disproportionality in school discipline. The guide will describe a framework and steps for identifying levels of disproportionality, analyzing data to determine solutions, and monitoring the effectiveness of action plans in addressing disproportionality. Specific practices to address disproportionality are described in other guides in this series.

Audience

This guide is designed primarily for use by school or district teams seeking to reduce racial and ethnic disproportionality in school discipline, regardless of whether they are implementing SWPBIS.



SWIS Drill Down (www.swis.org)



VDPs from national ODR data

- Subjective problem behavior
 - □ Defiance, Disrespect, Disruption
 - Major vs. minor
- Afternoons
- Classrooms





University of oregon Decision States:

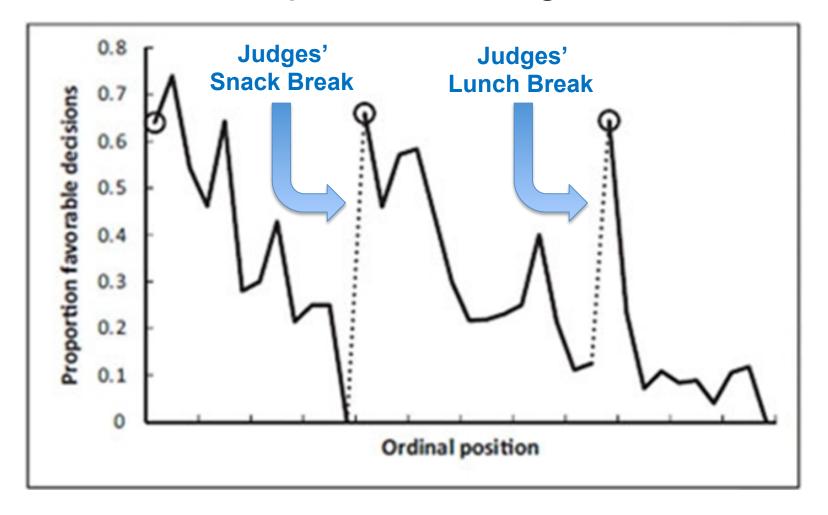
Resource Depletion

(Girvan et al., 2014)

- As we become fatigued, our filters for appropriate behavior can be affected
- Effects of hunger (Gailliot et al., 2009)
- Decreases in willpower later in day
 - "The Morning Morality Effect" (Kouchaki & Smith, 2014)
 - □ Examples...

Resource Depletion in Action

■ Outcomes of parole hearings (Danziger et al., 2011)

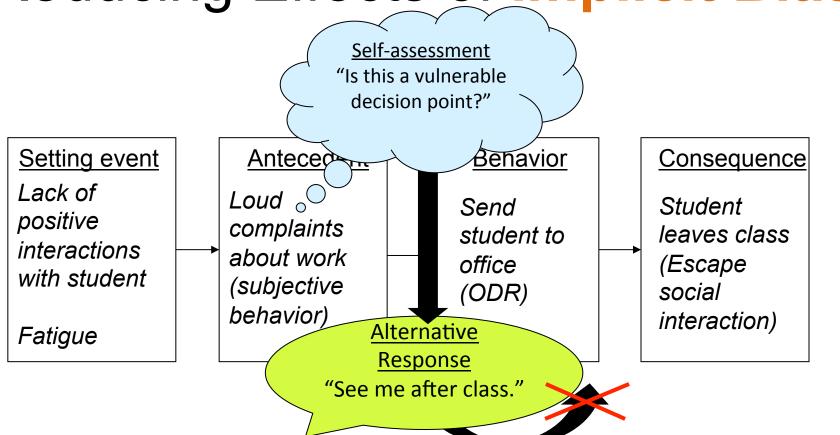




Two-step Neutralizing Routine for Staff:

- When you see problem behavior, stop and ask yourself:
- 1. Is this a VDP?
 - □ Situation
 - Decision state
- 2. If so, use an agreed-upon alternative response

Neutralizing Routines for Reducing Effects of Implicit Bias





What makes for a good neutralizing routine?

- 1. If-then statement
- 2. Brief
- 3. Clear steps
- 4. Doable
- 5. Interrupts the chain of events

Neutralizing Routine Examples

- If this is a VDP...,
 - □ "See me after class/at the next break"
 - □ am I acting in line with my values?
 - delay decision until I can think clearly
 - □ ask the student to reflect on their feelings/behavior
 - □ take two deep breaths
 - recognize my upset feelings and let them go
 - □ "I love you, but that behavior is not ok"
 - □ picture this student as a future doctor/lawyer
 - □ assume student's best effort at getting needs met
 - □ model cool-down strategy
 - □ know that's Rock Brain talking to me



Two-step Neutralizing Routine for **Staff**:

- Can also be used as precorrection
- 1. Am I about to enter a VDP?
- 2. What are my values?
- 3. When I see problem behavior, I'll use the alternative response



We just discussed one kind of discipline decision...

The staff decision to send a student to the office (i.e., issue an ODR)

What about the administrator's decision?

What is the strongest predictor of disproportionality in school discipline?

The school principal's endorsement of exclusionary discipline and zero tolerance policies.

Two-step Neutralizing Routine for Administrators:

(Susan Barrett)

- When you have to handle problem behavior, stop and tell yourself:
- 1. Don't just do something, stand there!
 - Be sure you are ready to act in line with values
 - Get information from student and staff
 - Assess student-teacher relationship
- 2. Whenever possible, use an agreed-upon instructional response
 - Teaches missing skills
 - Connects student to school and staff

The Restorative Chat

(Alton School District, Alton, IL)

- 1. Tell me what happened.
- 2. What you were thinking at the time?
- 3. What do you think about it now?
- 4. Who did this affect?
- 5. What do you need to do about it?
- 6. How can we make sure this doesn't happen again?
- 7. What can I do to help you?

Professional Development

- 1. Use data to identify:
 - □ The extent of the problem
 - □ Vulnerable Decision Points (VDPs)
- 2. Teach and practice:
 - □ Implicit bias
 - □ VDPs
 - Neutralizing routines
- 3. Follow up:
 - Ongoing coaching
 - Monitor progress with data



School Example

Urban K-8 School

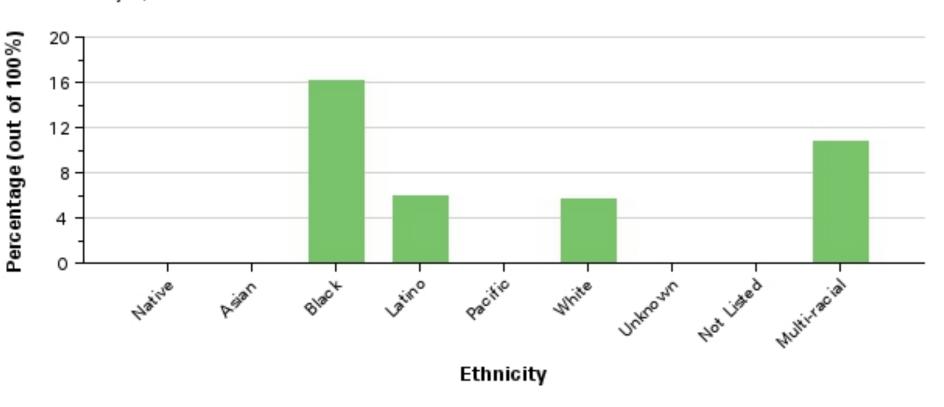


Risk Indices

Referral Risk Index

Major, 2013-14

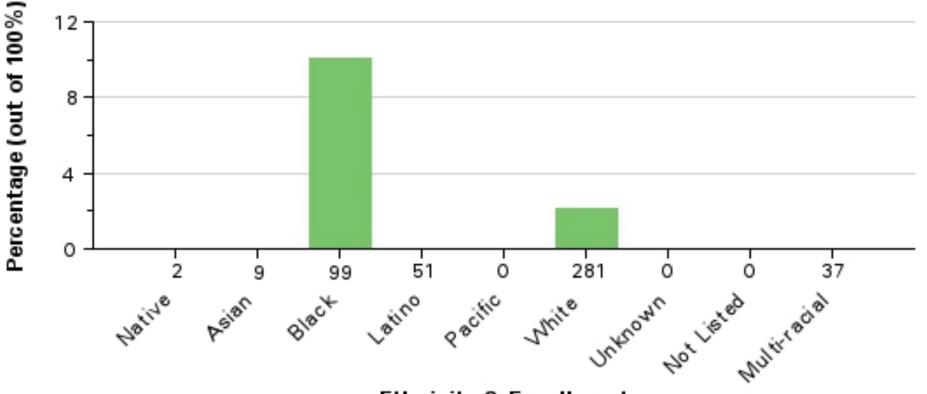




Black/White ODR Risk Ratio = 2.67

Drill Down: Phys. Aggression on Playground Referral Risk Index (Ethnicity)





Ethnicity & Enrollment

Black/White ODR Risk Ratio = 4.5



The School PBIS Team's Intervention

- ODRs and observations indicated differences in perceived basketball rules
- Team clarified rules for staff and students
 □ Aka "code-switching"
- Additional teaching, practice, and acknowledgement
- Monitor with ODRs and Black-White RRs



The School PBIS Team's Intervention Outcomes

Black-White Risk Ratios

- Overall
 - □2013-14: **2.67**
 - □2014-15 (Sept to Dec): **2.0**
- Physical Aggression on Playground
 - □2013-14: **4.5**
 - □2014-15 (Sept to Dec): can't calculate (1 ODR)



Big Ideas

- Thinking about and discussing solutions is the first step
- Pick a neutralizing routine and try it out
- Use your data to assess and monitor
 - If you don't have the data you need at hand, advocate for it
- This is hard work but you know how to do it!





http://miblsi.cenmi.org

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MiBLSi Equity Team



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MiBLSi Equity Team



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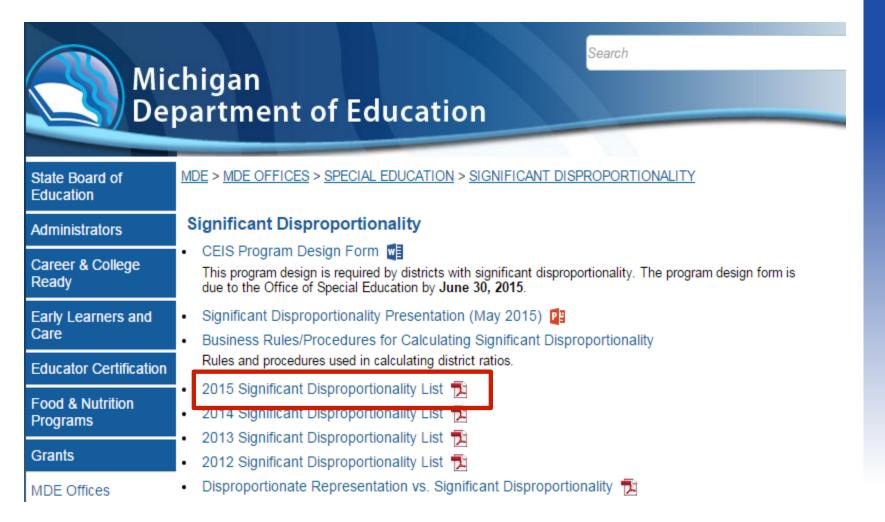
A Call to Action



251,410

The Selection Process







Reactions To The List

- That's not fair!
- The data are wrong
- Students with disabilities move into our district which skews our data
- Our policies, procedures and practices are fine

The Selection Process



LEA Name Race Black 27 Districts sited Black Two or More Black Black Black Black Black **Identified Districts** Black Black Black on the list that have: Black Black partnered Black Black with our Black Black Black project American Indian Black implemented Black Black Black components Black Black of PBIS American Indian Black



The Selection Process



- Met with key administrators from the district to review:
 - Expectations
 - Scope & sequence of the work
 - Resources
- District identified potential buildings
- Meeting with building principal and key administrators with intended outcomes of mutual selection and agreement



Demographic Data From Partnering Schools



The Letter of Agreement



- Working agreements specific to MiBLSi's equity work
- Expectations For:
 - MiBLSi Staff
 - School Leadership Team
 - Participating School Staff
- Fiscal Support
- Data Collection and Sharing

Challenges and Lessons Learned



- Readiness
- Time
- Resources
- Competing Initiatives
- Communication

Reflect



- What challenges would you encounter at the state and district level if you engaged in equity work?
- On your hand out, jot down any thoughts you may have on some of these challenges.

 Make note of any questions you would like to ask or comments you would like to make during our Q&A



Scope and Sequence

Spring 2015		Status
MiBLSi Work	Partnering District Work	Indicate When Complete
Select Pilot Schools Meet with District Leadership to discuss Scope and Sequence and Letter of Agreement Make mutually agreed upon modifications to Scope and Sequence and Letter of Agreement as needed	Discuss Scope and Sequence and LOA Sign LOA	
Summer 2015		
MiBLSi Work	Partnering District Work	
 Meet with District Leader(s) to discuss potential school(s) selection Meet with District Leader(s) and school principal(s) of selected pilot school to review the Scope and Sequence and LOA of the Equity Pilot Meet with the School Leadership Team (SLT) Review the Scope and Sequence of the Equity Pilot Schedule monthly meetings Begin discussing PD for the entire staff 	 Select school(s) to participate in the Equity Pilot taking into consideration the features outlined in the LOA cover letter District Leader(s) and school principal meet with MiBLSi Equity Team to review expectations and begin mapping out when Professional Development time will be scheduled School Leadership Team (SLT) Set monthly meetings with the MiBLSi Equity Team Review the Scope and Sequence Discuss initial plans for rolling out PD to whole staff and possible barriers to be addressed 	

Scope and Sequence

Fall 2015		Status
MiBLSi Work	Partnering District Work	Indicate When Complete
Introduction Session with the SLT – (2 hours*) Big picture overview of the Equity Framework (defining the why, data guide, 5 potential interventions) Introduction Session with the Entire Staff–(2 hours*) Big picture overview of the Equity Framework (defining the why, data guide, 5 potential interventions) Data Guide Session with the SLT – (2 hours*) Obvious data pattern – let the team/staff identify their own Precise Problem Statement Less obvious data pattern or little comfort with data – project staff would guide the review of data along with someone from the school to identify a Precise Problem Statement	District and School Leadership commit time and verbalize support for professional development and SLT meetings. • The members of the SLT will be active participants in analyzing school data, adding context, problem solving and identifying 1-2 intervention areas to address the Precise Problem Statement identified	
 Data Guide Session with the Full Staff – (1 hour* possibly during Monthly staff meeting*) Review data pattern and Precise Problem Statement Leadership team identified Planning Session with SLT– (2 hours*) Identify the 1 or 2 potential intervention areas 		
 Identify the 1 or 2 potential intervention areas (based on recommendation from the National Center) 		

Fall 2015		Status
MiBLSi Work	Partnering District Work	Indicate Wher Complete
Professional Development (4 hours*, split into 2 sessions) Implicit Bias Firming up Culturally Responsive PBIS Coaching Classroom level to assist teachers in implementing effective instruction Planning Session with SLT (2 hours*) to conduct the Tiered Fidelity Inventory (TFI) and plan for ongoing progress monitoring of fidelity and student outcome data Conduct the School-Wide Evaluation Tool (SET). The SET is a research tool designed to assess and evaluate the critical features of School-Wide PBIS (SWPBIS).	District and School Leadership commit time and verbalize support for professional development and SLT meetings. • The members of the SLT will meet one day per month to attend professional development and implementation planning/progress monitoring with support from MiBLSi. • The members of the SLT will assist with Professional Development, preparing for possible barriers, encouraging staff participation and being active participants in the training.	Complete

coaching



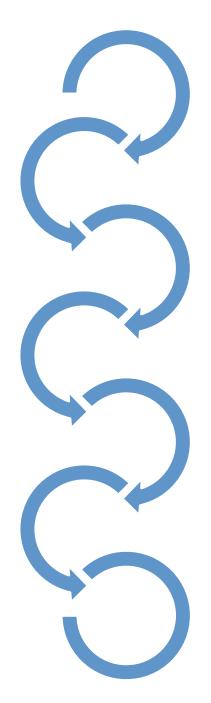
School Leadership Team

Staff Professional Learning

Implementation

& Progress

Monitoring



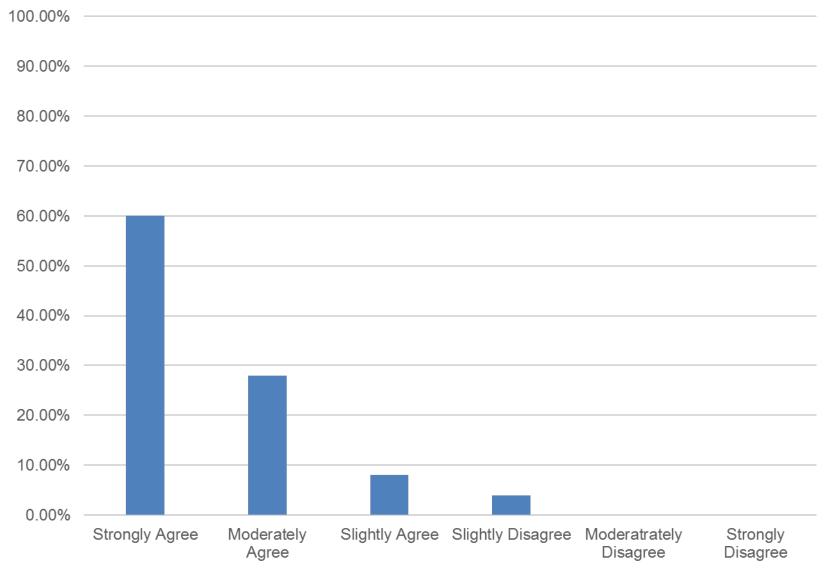
The Process



- Relationships with SLT
- Context
- Staff professional learning
- Data Guide
 - Excel Tool
 - TFI
 - SWIS
 - Student outcome data
- Recommendations for addressing discipline disproportionality in education

Feedback from Professional Development





Overall, this professional development experience was worthwhile

Challenges and Lessons Learned



- Awareness
- Emotional responses to and/or misunderstandings of data
- Time
- Resources
- Firming up PBIS implementation

Reflect



 What challenges would you encounter at the building level if you engaged in equity work?

Considerations for Moving Forward



Build 80% commitment

- District administration
- Principals
- Team

Build trust & relationships



Build Trust & Relationships



- Celebrate things that are going well
- Terms to use or avoid
- Learning is mutual
- Enhance don't add on
- Be a part of the team
- Appreciate context and culture
- Act on feedback
- Get into the building

Team Involvement



Who introduces the partnership and the work?

Who shares/interprets data?



Establish and follow ground rules



- Ask questions throughout
- Speak your truth
- Get comfortable with discomfort
- Expect and accept non-closure

What questions do you have or comments to share?

Contact Information

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