

PRIYDE / CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND  
"Zero Tolerance Profile and Impact on Children Living in Mississippi"

School Name / District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position of person completing survey:

Superintendent  Principal  Teacher / Staff

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUCTIONS: Please answer each question. Fill in the circle completely that corresponds with your choice.

**LAWS**

1. To what degree does your school district have a discipline plan that is in theory - a zero tolerance discipline plan?

Not at all  Somewhat  No opinion  Sometimes  Always

2. To what degree does your school district have a discipline plan that is in practice - a zero tolerance discipline plan?

Not at all  Somewhat  No opinion  Sometimes  Always

3. To what degree do students receive and discuss a copy of the school's disciplinary plan?

Not at all  Seldom  No opinion  Sometimes  Always

4. To what degree do parents receive and discuss a copy of the school district's discipline plan?

Not at all  Seldom  No opinion  Sometimes  Always

5. How many years has it been since your school district's official disciplinary plan engaged in a legal audit?

<12 months  13 - 24 months  25 - 36 months  37 - 48 months  49 - 60 months

6. Based on your last audit, was your school district considered to be in full compliance with the Mississippi Code of 1972, amended Section 37-11-53 and amended Section 37-11-18?

Totally Disagree  Somewhat Disagree  Neither agree nor disagree  Somewhat Agree  Totally Agree

7. How often do parents, guardians, or custodial parents who fail to attend a disciplinary conference get convicted and/or fined?

20% of the time  40% of the time  60% of the time  80% of the time  100% of the time

**POLICIES**

8. How many youth who are suspended or expelled in your district are in the child welfare or foster care system?

10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

9. To what degree do you agree that African-American children suspended and expelled at much higher rates than white students within the same schools?

Totally Disagree  Somewhat Disagree  Neither agree nor disagree  Somewhat Agree  Totally Agree

10. To what degree do you believe that one of the major racial disparities in administering school discipline appear to be higher rates of referral of black students for subjective offenses such as "disrespect?" "Disturbing schools?"

- Totally Disagree     Somewhat Disagree     Neither agree nor disagree     Somewhat Agree     Totally Agree

11. To what degree do you believe that one of the major racial disparities in administering school discipline appears to be higher rates of referral of white students for objective disciplinary code violations such as illegal drugs?

- Not at all     Seldom     No opinion     Sometimes     Always

12. To what degree do you apply remedies for children with disabilities commensurate with the amended Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act when administering discipline involving a child with a disability?

- Never     Sometimes     Don't Know     Often     Always

13. To what degree do you think social workers and counselors should be involved in the process of administering punishment when IDEA youth are involved?

- Never     Sometimes     Don't Know     Often     Always

14. What description best describes your school district?

- Totally Push Out     Somewhat Push Out     Don't Know     Somewhat Reach Out     Totally Reach Out

## PRACTICES

15. As a Superintendent/Principal, do you consider yourself culturally competent to address the social needs of a diverse student body and parent group?

- Never     Sometimes     Don't Know     Often     Always

16. Are punishments for subjective violations based on hard evidence and "just cause?"

- Never     Sometimes     Don't Know     Often     Always

17. Does "due process" factor into punishment decisions involving subjective violations?

- Never     Sometimes     Don't Know     Often     Always

18. Does your school district provide professional development training in culturally competent classroom management, conflict resolution, and innovative inclusiveness training for teachers?

- Never     Sometimes     Don't Know     Often     Always

19. Does your school district provide professional development training in cultural differences, conflict resolution, and mediation skills for safety resource officers and security personnel prior to them working with students?

- Never       Sometimes       Don't Know       Often       Always

20. To what degree does youth who get punished for code and subjective violations, also receive free or reduced school lunches?

- 10%      20%      30%      40%      50%      60%      70%      80%      90%      100%
- 

21. To what degree do you believe that schools where principals practice strict and harsh discipline, the number of suspensions and expulsions increase?

- Totally Disagree       Somewhat Disagree       Neither agree nor disagree       Somewhat Agree       Totally Agree

22. To what degree do you believe that schools where principals set the standard that no child should be suspended, except under extreme circumstances, teachers are less apt to refer a child for suspension for minor misconduct?

- Totally Disagree       Somewhat Disagree       Neither agree nor disagree       Somewhat Agree       Totally Agree

23. As a leader, what best describes your leadership style?

- Authoritarian       Task Oriented       Democratic, Equal Task and People       Group Oriented       Laissez -Faire

24. To what degree do you agree with the statement that there is an incentive for school officials to warehouse low achieving students in disciplinary schools in an attempt to raise their school's overall test scores?

- 10%      20%      30%      40%      50%      60%      70%      80%      90%      100%
- 

25. To what degree do you agree that "zero tolerance" policies (de facto or de jure) have resulted in a disproportionate number of low income, disabled and minority students being sent to alternative disciplinary schools, most of which have few books or computers and substandard teachers?

- 10%      20%      30%      40%      50%      60%      70%      80%      90%      100%
- 

26. To what degree do you agree that "groups who perform poorly on standardized tests, such as students with disabilities, minorities and low-income kids," targeted for expulsion by school administrators and kicked out for minor infractions?

- 10%      20%      30%      40%      50%      60%      70%      80%      90%      100%
- 

27. To what degree is district-wide test score performance linked to employment contracts for principles and school administrators?

- 10%      20%      30%      40%      50%      60%      70%      80%      90%      100%
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