

Our Own Backyard: Maryland's Reality

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Advancement Project

“Courageous Conversations about Discipline:
Creating a Positive School Climate for All”
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Voices from Our Own Backyard

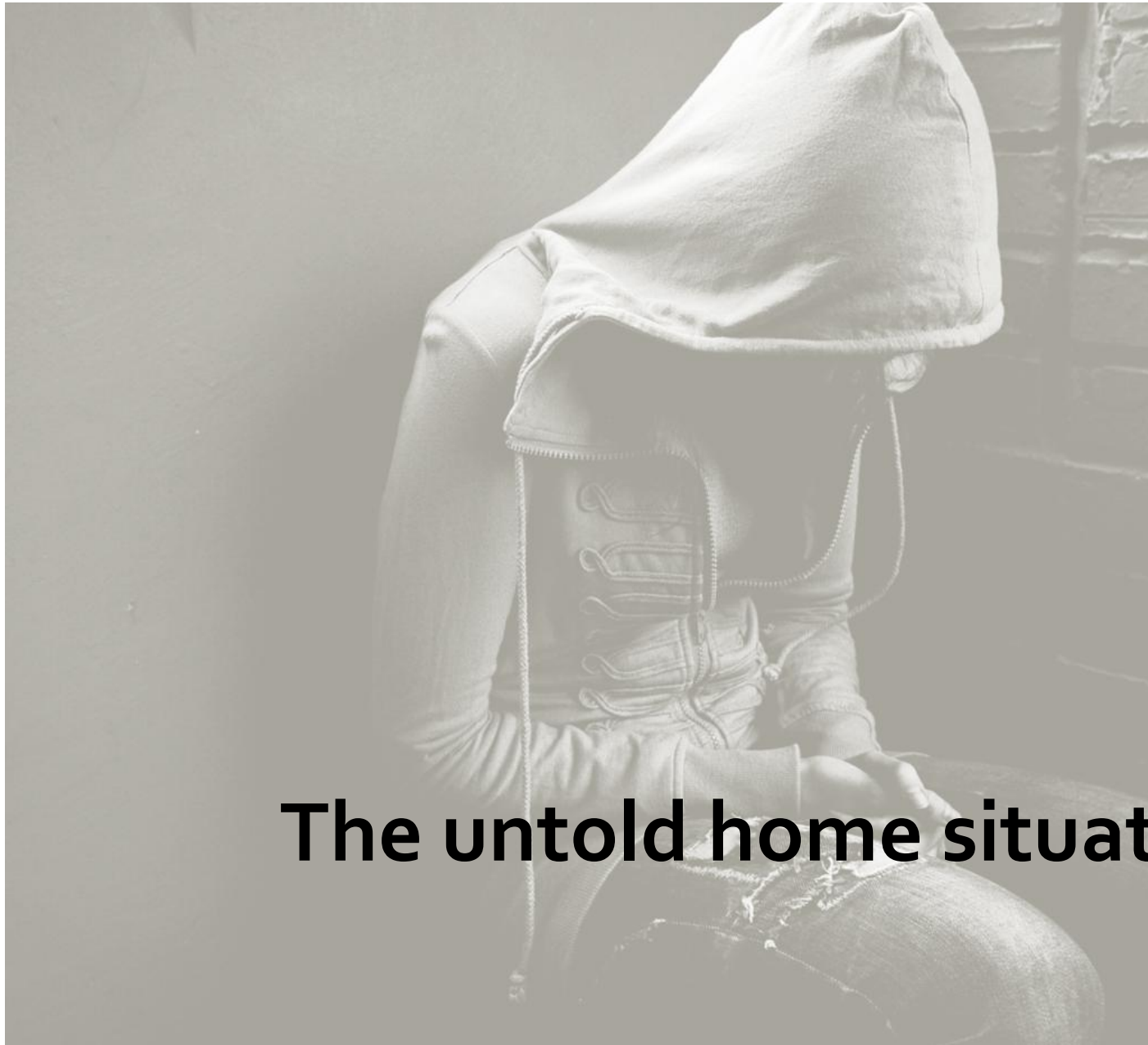


The lost year.



The tantrum that ended in a police car.





The untold home situation.

Maryland is an education leader...



- Education Week ranks Maryland #1 for public education.
- Maryland students pass AP exams at greater rates than students in other states.
- 13 years of PBIS in our districts.



Discipline Data



Maryland Discipline Data

- Maryland student enrollment: **852,211**
- Number of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions in 2010-11: **95,868**
- That is **11** out-of-school suspensions / expulsions for every **100** Maryland public school students.

Maryland Discipline Data

- **7%** of all public school students were suspended out-of-school or expelled.
- That is **56,041 students**, including:
 - **11%** of **Black/African American** students
 - **6%** of students of **two or more races**
 - **4%** of **Latino** students
 - **4%** of **White** students
 - **9%** of **male** students
 - **4%** of **female** students



But New York, by comparison...

Students in Maryland are **3 times** more likely than those in New York to receive OSS & **1.2 times** more likely to be expelled.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights Data Collection

New Jersey, by comparison...

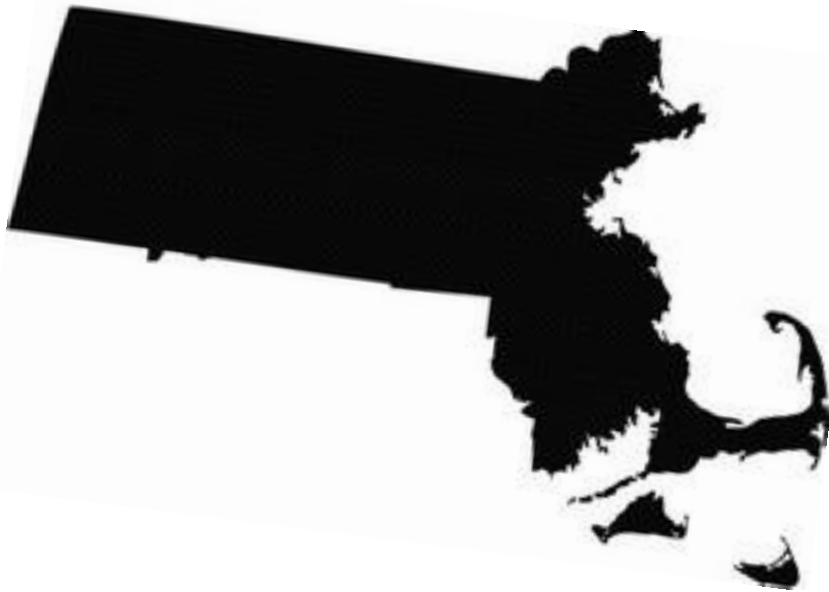
Students in Maryland are **1.5 times** more likely than those in New Jersey to receive OSS & **13 times** more likely to be expelled.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights Data Collection

Massachusetts, by comparison...

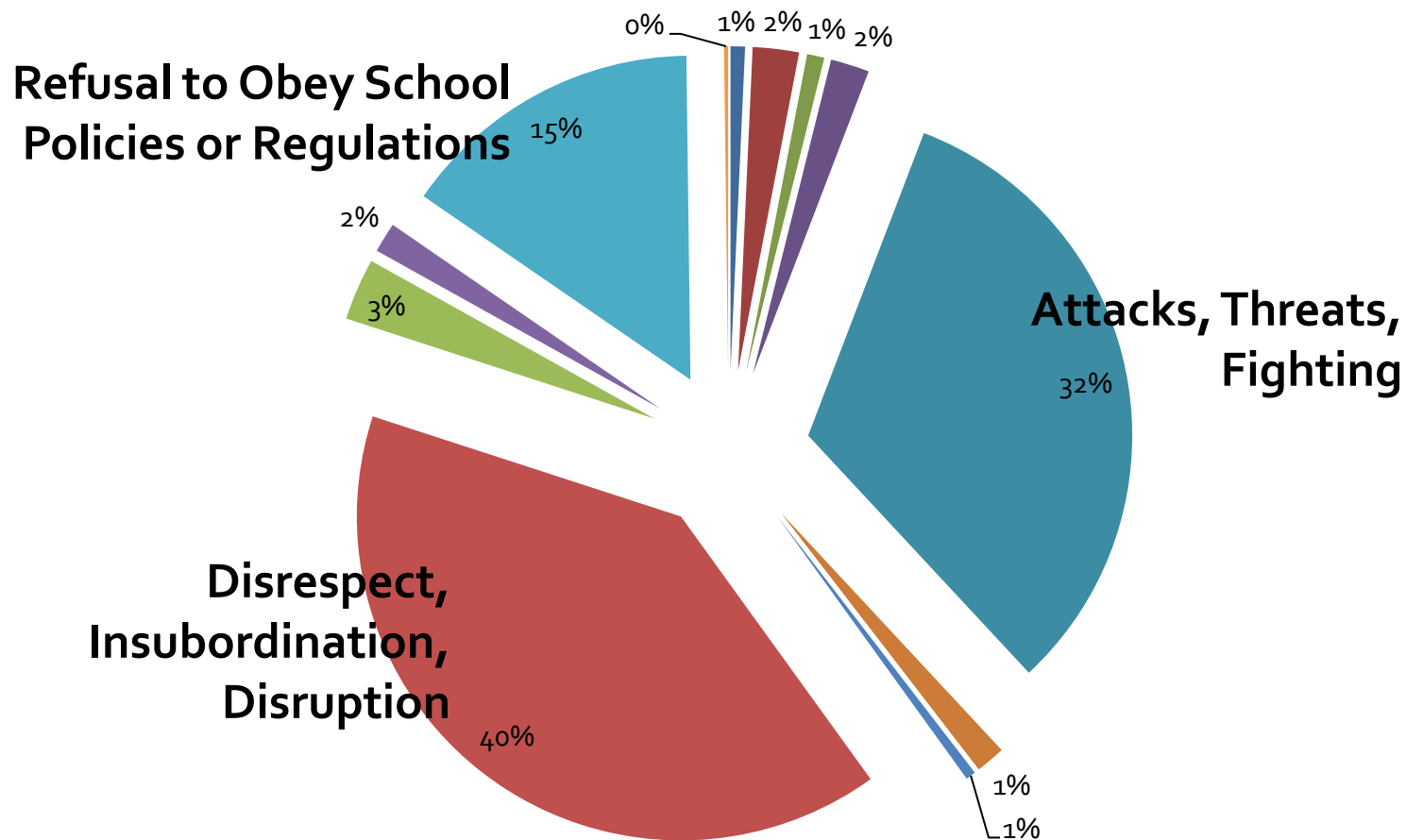
Students in Maryland are **1.5 times** more likely than those in Massachusetts to receive OSS & **over 2 times** more likely to be expelled.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights Data Collection

Reasons for Out-of-School Suspensions and Expulsions

Out-of-School Suspensions & Expulsions from Maryland Schools by
Type of Offense, 2010-2011



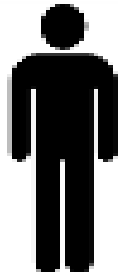
Source: MSDE (2010-2011)

Disproportionality in Discipline

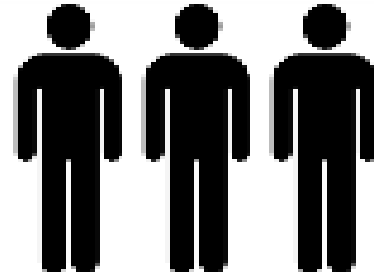


Race

For every 1 white student
to receive an OSS or
expulsion...

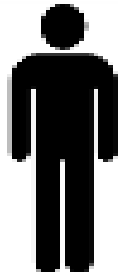


...3 black students
received an OSS or
expulsion.

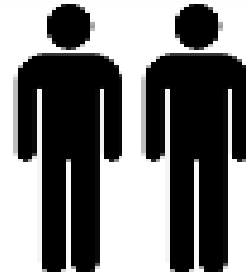


Race

For every 1 white student
to receive an OSS or
expulsion...

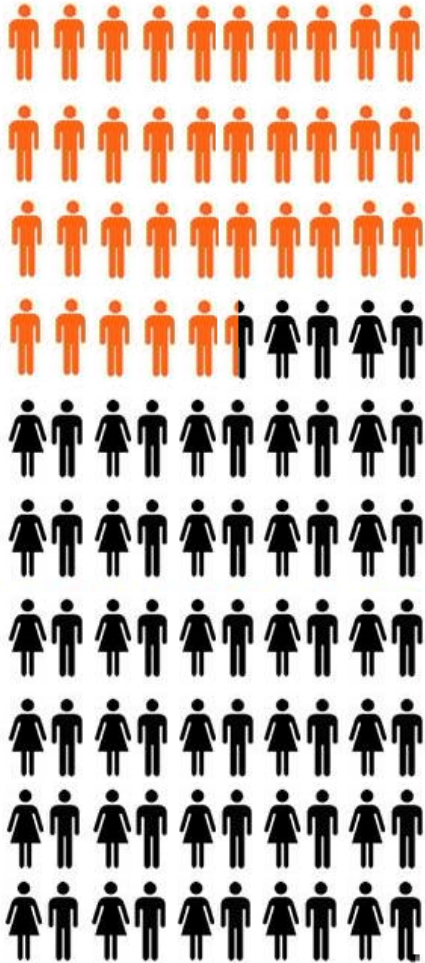


...2 non-white students
received an OSS or
expulsion.



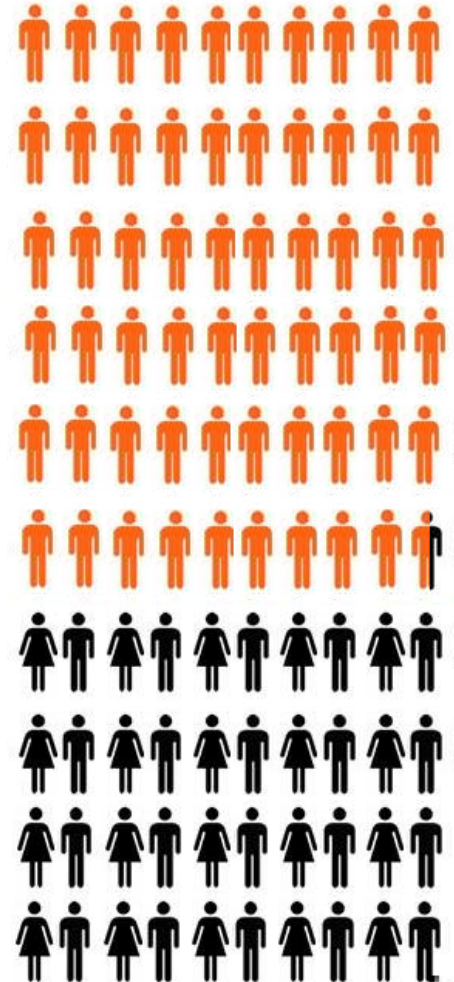
Source: MSDE (2010-2011)

Race



African American / Black students made up **35.8%** of all Maryland public school students...

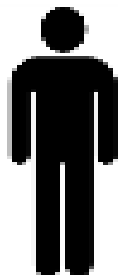
...but **59.7%** of all students receiving out-of-school suspensions / expulsions.



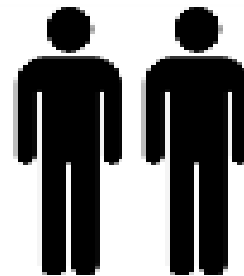
Source: MSDE (2010-2011)

Gender

For every 1 female student
to receive an OSS or
expulsion...

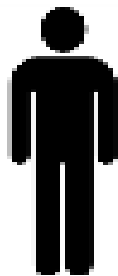


...2 male students
received an OSS or
expulsion.

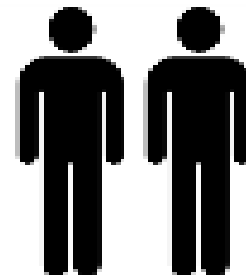


Students with Disabilities

**For every 1 student
without disability
to receive an OSS or
expulsion...**



**...2 students with
disabilities received an
OSS or expulsion.**



Source: MSDE (2010-2011)

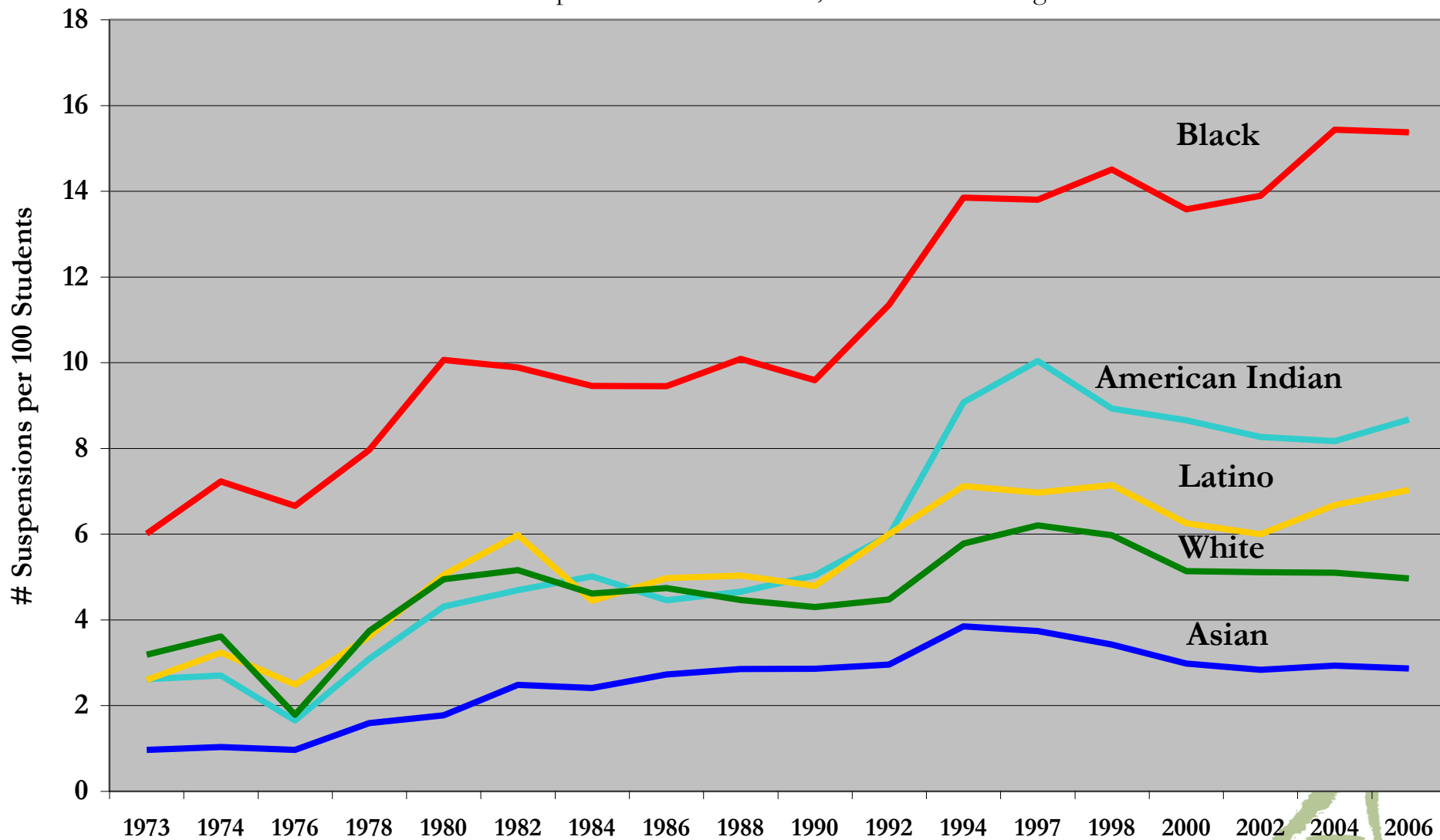
Disproportionality in Achievement

- Graduation rates for class of 2010.
 - Asian students: **94.56%**
 - White students: **89.65%**
 - Hispanic students: **78.15%**
 - African American students: **77.87%**
- **18% of African American** students scored at least “proficient” on the 8th grade math exam, compared to **56% of White** students.

Suspension Rates, By Race

1973-2006

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights



But we can do better

- The law gives us a lot of room:
- It only **requires** expulsion if a student brings a “firearm” onto school property.
- A school **may** suspend or expel a student if her or his behavior is “disruptive and detrimental to the operation of the school.”



And we know better

- Overuse and misuse of suspension and other harsh disciplinary practices...
 - fail to make schools safer
 - fail to improve student behavior
 - fail to promote academic success
 - harm our students, our schools, and communities
- Rehabilitative practices and focus on positive school climate...
 - keep students in school
 - are essential to academic achievement



Looking Forward

- For years, Maryland educators have been laying the groundwork for discipline reform.
- But there is much work still to be done.
- If we rise to the challenge, Maryland's efforts will be a model for other states.

