

A brief history of time

Or

How MDE has addressed school attendance and student engagement since the turn of the century.

Model Code of Conduct

Designed to match recently passed Safe
Schools legislation

Policies on Bullying

Recommendations for Schools

Universal Education: Vision & Principles

All Means All

Policy on Seclusion and Restraint

Seclusion/Supervision

Restraint/Unintended Consequences

Keeping Kids in School

250,000

Unaccounted for school-age youth

Superintendent's Dropout Challenge

Huge Summit Kick-off

Many partners

Ongoing

Model Anti-Bullying Policy

- Designed to assist schools
- Reaction to legislature
- Includes alternative disciplinary methods

Re-do of Code of Conduct

- Didn't pass the board
- Subject dropped for some time

Building State Capacity Grant

- Prepare ourselves/partners to implement next grant: Safe and Supportive Schools
- Encourage state and schools to work on school climate/culture

Safe and Supportive Schools Grant S3

- Work with Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools
- Methods for improving school climate leading to student engagement and success

Re-do Policies on Bullying and Model Anti-Bullying Policy

- Updates to disciplinary methods
- Reduce reliance on suspensions
- Keep kids in school

National Leadership Summit

- Over-reliance on suspension & expulsion:
 - Disproportionately impacts African-American males, minorities, students w/disabilities, living in poverty, LGBTQ
 - Leads to push-out, dropout, failure

National Leadership Summit

- Solutions:
 - Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports
 - Restorative Justice
 - Better mental health services

Black Male Achievement

- “Honey, everybody’s got something”
- Relationship with adults
- High expectations
- Support

African-American Young Men with Promise

- Reducing disproportionate over-representation in suspensions/expulsions, dropping/pushing out
- Closing the achievement gap

NASBE Grant

- SBE policy on reducing suspensions and expulsions
- Model Code of Conduct
- Clear attendance definitions
- Create toolkit

Truancy Workgroup

Defining:

- Truancy
- Excused/Unexcused Absences
- Disciplinary Absences

School Discipline Workgroup

Revising Model Code of Conduct:

- Reduce suspensions
- Introduce alternative methods of discipline
- Change discipline from punishment to learning, repairing harm, restoring relationships

Researched benefits of students who feel connected to school:

Improved academic achievement

Improved participation in the classroom

Significant improvements in scores on statewide achievement tests

Increased prosocial behaviors

Less use of drugs and alcohol and tobacco

Reduced gang involvement and violence

Later age of sexual debut for teens

Lowers pregnancy rates

Positively impact on students' mental well-being

Less emotional distress, less suicidal ideation and fewer suicide attempts

Data Problems

- Relying on district self-reports
- Don't collect suspension data on regular education students
- Don't collect bullying incidents

Zero Tolerance Laws and local policies/procedures

- Hampered efforts to keep kids in school
- Often misunderstood/misused
- School-Justice Partnership to the rescue
 - Attempts to modify zero tolerance