

Milwaukee Public Schools- Student Discipline Committee “Lesson” Ideas

Topic: Do Suspensions Work?

Overview for facilitator:

Students will reflect on and discuss if they feel like suspensions work or not? What could schools do instead of suspending students? Specifically when behaviors that threaten staff or student safety occur, what can the school and district do to ensure everyone’s safety.

Materials Needed:

Copies of “Is school-discipline reform moving too fast?”

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1leV3Hz1n-pGE1ebQaUwKnyuxnUEnWEs8/view?usp=sharing>

Intro:

Go around and have students honestly respond to: “What do you think is the purpose of suspending students?”

Discussion/Activity:

Watch video as a group: https://youtu.be/_0JvjTeYKDc

Have a discussion as a group on the following:

- What do you think school would be like without any suspensions?
- Would the school climate be better or worse?
- Do you think you would learn more or less in school?
- What discipline could be used instead of suspensions?

Have students read “is school-discipline reform moving too fast?”

As a group discuss “do you think suspensions work or is there a better way to handle discipline of students?”

Next steps:

What are any next steps or reflections from the students as a result of the session. These should be captured in the minutes.