

School to Prison Pipeline Ohio Discipline Data



Creative Commons

The American Correctional Association estimates the average cost of incarcerating a juvenile in a JDC is estimated at \$88,000-\$94,000 per year (average cost \$240.99/day). States spend approximately \$5.7 billion / year incarcerating youth, although the majority are for nonviolent offenses.

Ohio (2009)

Youth in Residential Placement	Cost per day per youth	Total cost <u>per day</u> for total population
2,898	\$216	\$624,924.72

Did you know that the average cost of sending a student to Harvard is \$68,000 for tuition, room and board (2018-2019)? How are we spending our money and allocating our resources?

Theory behind zero-tolerance and discipline-heavy approaches to misconduct is **“behaviorism.”**

Behaviorism **assumes that humans respond to incentives, reinforcement, and consequences.** In the short term, these work.

But for youth whose neurological and psychological development has been shaped by toxic stress or trauma, reward and consequence systems do not work.

According to the Civil Rights Data Collection, although students served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) represent 12% of students in the country, they are more than twice as likely to receive one or more out-of-school suspensions

as non-IDEA students. They make up 25% of students referred to law enforcement or are arrested in school.

As of the 2015-2016 school year, students with emotional disturbance (ED) are 9 times more likely to be suspended than students with no disability.

Low-income students are now 6 times more likely to be suspended than their higher-income peers.

Ohio Poverty Law Center noted that between 2005 and 2016, 76% to 85% of all out-of-school suspensions were given to economically disadvantaged students (2017).

According to Senator Peggy Lehner (October 2017, 6th District of the Ohio Senate), in 2015-2016, Ohio issued over 36,000 out-of-school suspensions to children in grades kindergarten through third.

One study of school discipline in New Hampshire elementary schools found that the average office disciplinary referral resulted in 45 minutes of lost classroom instruction for students.

During the 2015-2016 school year, just under 203,000 Ohio students received an out-of-school suspension. By approximation, then, just the disciplinary referrals alone for out-of-school suspensions cost Ohio students roughly 154,000 instructional hours without even counting instructional time lost due to the suspension.

While 61% of out-of-school suspensions were for disobedient or disruptive behavior, truancy, or intimidation (which often includes dress code violations or a disrespectful attitude), only 5.7% percent were for weapon or drug offenses.

To learn more about the pipeline, the American Bar Association published a document (January 2018) located on this link:

https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/images/racial_ethnic_justice/Final%20School2PrisonPipeline-2nd-012618.pdf