

Notes from Task Force Meeting #1 – DEC 19, 2013

The following notes were the result of small group exercises during which members discussed what they would like to see more of in schools in relation to student support and student discipline, and what they would like to see less of.

Regarding discipline and student support, I would like to see LESS of....	Regarding discipline and student support, I would like to see MORE of....
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less punishment 2. Less removal from classroom 3. Fewer suspensions 4. Less reactive approach 5. Less escalation of power struggles 6. Higher expectations for all students 7. Re-entry assistance to support change in behavior after suspension or accumulated incidents 8. More consensus around “what is unacceptable behavior”? 9. Less blaming and shaming of parents and students; less blaming and shaming of staff; get off the blaming/shaming cycle 10. Less biases and emotional responses that drive disciplinary approach – less drama and anger 11. Less suspending and removing students as a “first resort” for minor problematic behaviors 12. Less empty threats and no follow-through 13. Less stereotyping students based on their dress and appearance 14. Less “hit and miss” consequences and reactive approach 15. Not actually ensuring that students are accountable for their behavior – “nothing really happens” 16. Less yelling, threats, hostile responses, labeling, finger pointing, discounting, shaming from adults 17. Less treating all children the same 18. Less giving up on reaching our students – low expectations 19. Less trying to be friends rather than role models for students 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More staff to shift ideas about discipline to a more positive, pro-active approach 2. More positive goals for discipline 3. More focus on learning from mistakes and missteps 4. More alternatives to out-of-school suspension 5. More proactive, preventive approach 6. More restorative strategies and practices 7. More engagement of student in reflection about behavior and doing something to correct it 8. More support for students who need extra help academically and behaviorally 9. More holistic practices that affirm that students can change 10. More responsive listening to students and families 11. More rewards , recognitions, and incentives to do the right thing and promote positive behaviors 12. More culturally responsive teaching, cultural competency, more understanding of the diversity of students in our schools 13. More support for innovative thinking 14. Focus more on the problem than the person 15. More interventions and supports that will enable students to change their behavior 16. Better understand sources (root causes) of the unwanted behavior 17. Earlier intervention with high needs students 18. More parental involvement earlier in the process 19. More engaged, active learning opportunities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20. Less stereotyping of kids because of disabilities 21. Less “doom and gloom” about certain kids (nothing will change) 22. Less police presence in schools 23. Fewer assumptions about parents and kids before we listen and ask questions 24. Less thinking, “Discipline is not my job.” 25. Less teacher frustration and anxiety around discipline 26. Less adversarial stance between admin and teachers, teachers and parents, and neighborhood, etc. 27. Less acceptance of negative behaviors 28. Less exclusion as a disciplinary response 	<p>More consistent and predictable consequences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20. More dealing with each student individually with fairness 21. More building relationships that support better behavior 22. More reaching out to parents 23. Higher expectations for all students 24. Re-entry assistance to support change in behavior after suspension or accumulated incidents 25. More consensus around “what is unacceptable behavior?” Get better at choosing the right battles with kids 26. More emphasis on redirection and prevention More preventive practices 27. More careful collection of data to inform disciplinary and support response 28. More treating parents as partners 29. More believing success is possible for every kid 30. Clearer explanation to students and parents about what is expected, what will happen when, etc. 31. Higher expectations for all students 32. Re-entry assistance to support change in behavior after suspension or accumulated incidents 33. More consensus around “what is unacceptable behavior”? Higher expectations for all students 34. Re-entry assistance to support change in behavior after suspension or accumulated incidents 35. More consensus around “what is unacceptable behavior”? 36. More coaching for kids in trouble 37. More conciliation meetings when appropriate with families 38. More solution based orientation 39. More supportive accountability for everyone – staff, students, and parents
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40. More fun in learning experiences
41. More developmentally appropriate practices
42. More looking at misbehavior as a teachable moment
43. More positive programs around student leadership
44. More resources, tools, and strategies for teachers to prevent discipline problems
45. More options for students who are experiencing stress and emotional upset
46. Higher expectations for all students Higher expectations for all students