



# DIGNITY IN SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

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## Investment in Education vs. Incarceration

Over the past three decades, after adjusting for inflation, state spending on prisons increased by 141% between 1986 and 2013, while spending on K-12 education increased only 69%.<sup>1</sup>

In particular, states spend \$5.7 billion a year on imprisoning young people, even though the majority are held for non-violent offenses.<sup>2</sup>

**Nearly 3.5 million students are suspended from school each year.**<sup>3</sup> Harsh discipline practices – like suspensions, expulsions and arrests – push students out of school and into the pipeline to prison.

### A Look at States with the Highest Suspension Rates

There are 20 states with a suspension rate above the national average, suspending between 6.1% and 12.4% of students. The table below shows what those states spend on education vs. incarceration.

**On average, states spend up to \$148,767 to incarcerate a youth, and only \$10,667 to educate a student.**<sup>4</sup>

New York spends the most to incarcerate a youth—up to \$352,663 for the most expensive confinement option—compared to \$19,396 on education per student.

20 States with the Highest Suspension Rates	Statewide Suspension Rate <sup>5</sup>	State Spending on Education per Student <sup>6</sup>	State Spending on Incarceration Per Youth <sup>7</sup> (most expensive confinement option)
<i>National Average</i>	6.14%	\$10,667	\$148,767
1. Florida	12.41%	\$8,520	\$55,407
2. Mississippi	10.54%	\$8,097	\$153,300
3. South Carolina	10.36%	\$9,077	\$155,490
4. Delaware	10.36%	\$13,580	-
5. Alabama	9.96%	\$8,577	\$58,035
6. Louisiana	8.95%	\$10,726	\$46,662
7. Rhode Island	8.85%	\$15,172	\$186,380
8. North Carolina	8.70%	\$8,160	\$159,750
9. West Virginia	8.54%	\$11,579	\$141,467
10. Tennessee	8.35%	\$8,354	\$109,971
11. Georgia	8.04%	\$9,272	\$91,126
12. Michigan	8.01%	\$10,477	\$173,455
13. Arkansas	7.59%	\$9,536	\$115,734
14. New Mexico	7.31%	\$9,013	\$178,073
15. Indiana	7.25%	\$9,588	\$77,427
16. Missouri	7.17%	\$9,514	\$89,170
17. Virginia	6.72%	\$10,656	\$260,019
18. Ohio	6.49%	\$11,323	\$202,502
19. Oklahoma	6.35%	\$7,763	-
20. Illinois	6.18%	\$12,011	\$111,000



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- <sup>1</sup> Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Changing Priorities: State Criminal Justice Reforms and Investments in Education*, October 2014, <http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/10-28-14sfp.pdf>
- <sup>2</sup> Juvenile Justice webpage, Justice Policy Institute, <http://www.justicepolicy.org/research/category/38>.
- <sup>3</sup> Center for Civil Rights Remedies at the Civil Rights Project, *Are We Closing the School Discipline Gap?*, February 2015, <http://civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/resources/projects/center-for-civil-rights-remedies/school-to-prison-folder/federal-reports/are-we-closing-the-school-discipline-gap>. Data is generated from federal Civil Rights Data Collection.
- <sup>4</sup> Justice Policy Institute, *Sticker Shock: Calculating the Full Price Tag for Youth Incarceration*, Page 11, December 2014, <http://www.justicepolicy.org/research/8477>; and National Center for Education Statistics, *Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Year 2011–12 (Fiscal Year 2012)*, Table 3, January 2015, <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED553489.pdf>.
- <sup>5</sup> Center for Civil Rights Remedies, *Are We Closing the School Discipline Gap?*, Data compiled from Spreadsheet: Elementary 2011-12 and Spreadsheet: Secondary 2011-2012.
- <sup>6</sup> National Center for Education Statistics, *Revenues and Expenditures*, Table 3.
- <sup>7</sup> Justice Policy Institute, *Sticker Shock*, Page 11 (Data was not available in the report from Delaware or Oklahoma).