DIGNITY IN SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN
A MODEL CODE ON EDUCATION AND DIGNITY

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Dignity in Schools Campaign (DSC)

- Challenges the systemic problem of pushout and advocates for the human right of every young person to a quality education and to be treated with dignity

- More than 50 organizations from 19 states
  - Youth and parent base-building
  - Legal and advocacy
  - Teachers and educators
  - Researchers
OUR WORK

- Support members in local and state campaigns to end pushout and implement positive school discipline
- Advocate for federal policy change in Congress and with the Departments of Education and Justice
- Share information on solutions to pushout through our website, teleconferences, and national meetings
WHAT IS THE MODEL CODE?

- Model policies for schools, districts and legislators to address school pushout and create safe and positive climates for learning

- Based on research, best practices and on the ground experiences of students, parents and educators

- Rooted in fundamental human rights principles that every child has a right to education and to be treated with dignity
HOW WAS THE MODEL CODE DEVELOPED?

- Drafted and reviewed by members of the Model Code Working Group

- Reviewed at two American Bar Association summits

- Reviewed and edited at community engagement sessions with students, parents and teachers in 8 different states (CA, FL, GA, IL, LA, MS, NY, PA)
MODEL CODE RELEASE

- Train the trainers workshop and launch event in Los Angeles - August 2012
**5 Chapters of the Model Code**

= 5 Human Rights Principles

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Education</td>
<td>Support every child in reaching their full potential</td>
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<td>2. Participation</td>
<td>Ensure that students, parents and all stakeholders participate in decision-making</td>
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<td>3. Dignity</td>
<td>Shift discipline away from punishing, to nurturing academic, social and emotional development</td>
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<td>4. Freedom from Discrimination</td>
<td>Eliminate discrimination, harassment and disparate outcomes in education</td>
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<td>5. Monitoring and Accountability</td>
<td>Ensure rights to information and data, and to monitor the school system</td>
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Structure of Each Chapter

- Background
- Sections
- Human Rights Goals
- Recommended Language
WHO CAN USE THE MODEL CODE?

- Students, parents and communities can compare the Model Code to current practices and use it in efforts to change policy.

- Educators and administrators can identify best practices to implement in their schools and call for implementation system-wide.

- District and state-level policy makers can identify language for regulations and legislation, and use guidelines to implement and monitor changes to policy.
OVERVIEW OF THE MODEL CODE

1. Education
   - Full Potential of Children and Youth
   - Core program elements of the right to education
   - Ensuring Equity in Education

2. Participation
   - Stakeholder Rights
   - Steps to ensure meaningful role in decision-making
   - Rights of Children and Youth
   - Rights of Parents and Guardians

3. Dignity
   - School Climate & Discipline
   - Preventive and positive approaches
   - Avoiding Criminalization
   - Right to Remain in School

4. Freedom from Discrimination
   - Eliminating Discrimination Practices, structures and outcomes
   - Disproportionate Discipline
   - Students with Disabilities

5. Monitoring & Accountability
   - Right to Information
   - Disaggregated and accessible to communities
   - Data Collection
   - Monitoring & Community Analysis
CHAPTER 3: DIGNITY

3.1 School Climate and Discipline

3.1.a Key Elements of School-Wide Preventive and Positive Discipline
   • School-wide policy with student, parent & community participation
   • School climate – physical environment, school community, SEL
   • Positive discipline – graduated consequences, positive interventions
   • Limiting exclusion – only the most serious offenses

3.1.b Two Models for Preventive and Positive Discipline
   • Model 1: School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports
   • Model 2: Restorative Practices

3.1.c Guidelines for Exclusion

3.1.d Due Process
CHAPTER 3: DIGNITY

3.2 Avoiding Criminalization in School Discipline

3.2.a Law Enforcement
- Reduce reliance on police and School Resource Officers
- Prohibit involvement in school discipline matters
- Limits on arrests and searches
- Complaint mechanisms
- Training

3.2.b Drug Policy

3.2.c Immigration Policy and Protection of Vulnerable Students

3.2.d Dismantling Status Offense Laws
CHAPTER 3: DIGNITY

3.3 Right to Remain in School

3.3.a Truancy Prevention and Correction

3.3.b Alternative Schools
  - Same requirements and standards as traditional schools
  - Voluntary placement for students seeking alternatives
  - No involuntary placement for academic reasons
  - Involuntary placement for discipline requires full hearing
  - Progress reviews and monitoring

3.3.c Right to Education for System-Involved Youth

3.3.d Right to Resume Education after Expulsion
Question and Answer
USING THE MODEL CODE

- Policy advocacy and local implementation
  - Identify which sections of the Code are most relevant to your community or school
  - Compare the Code to the existing law or policy
  - Use “recommended language” from the Code to help shape and/or support your policy changes
  - Share the Model Code (or sections) with decision-makers
  - Use guidelines in the Model Code to assist with implementation
RESOURCES FOR USING THE MODEL CODE

- Executive Summary and Full Model Code

- Community Toolkit
  - Tips for sharing the Code with policy-makers, students, parents, educators and communities
  - Sample activities for holding workshops on the Code
  - List of resources (reports, model laws and policies, etc.) to help in implementing the Code

- Other Community Tools
  - Facilitator’s guide for workshops
  - Overview and Fact Sheets on Chapters of the Code
NEXT STEPS

- Share the Model Code with others
  http://www.dignityinschools.org/our-work/model-school-code

- Hold a Model Code training in your community
  Email fernando@dignityinschools.org

- Participate in the DSC Week of Action 9/29-10/6
  http://www.dignityinschools.org/our-work/week-of-action
  - Sign the Solutions Not Suspensions call for a moratorium on out-of-school suspensions
  - Participate in an event in your community
  - Promote the Week of Action on social media
CONTACT INFORMATION

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