

The students and parents of Tenants and Workers United and the Alexandria NAACP present recommendations for

NEXT STEPS FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN OUR SCHOOLS

Less Suspensions, More Graduations!

Together, we have come a long way. Since 2011, Tenants and Workers United and the Alexandria NAACP have advocated for Restorative Justice in Alexandria City Public Schools. ACPS committed to implementing



Restorative Justice beginning in school year 2013-14, and we applaud ACPS for its accomplishments in implementing Restorative Justice at T.C. Williams High School. To date, ACPS has:

- Trained students and teachers to hold community-building circles
- Trained school administrators to hold harm circles
- Continued to allocate funds for the Restorative Justice Program
- Allocated funds for a Restorative Justice Coordinator

But suspensions continue to be used too often at ACPS, especially on students of color, and particularly on middle school students, who have no access to restorative justice programs.

In school year 2015-16:

- There were **988** suspensions at ACPS – a **72 percent increase** from school year 2014-15.
- Latinx students were **twice as likely**, and Black students **six times more likely** to receive a suspension than White students.
- ACPS Middle Schools had **higher suspension rates** than at T.C. Williams High School. For every 100 students, Frances Hammond imposed **18** suspensions and George Washington imposed **15** suspensions. Meanwhile, T.C. Williams imposed **11** suspensions for every 100 students.
- Suspensions of **middle school students** accounted for **nearly half, or 48 percent** of total ACPS suspensions.

In 2015-16,
for every **White** student suspended. . .



two Latinx students. . .



and **six Black** students were suspended.



We thus make the following recommendations for ACPS SY2017-18:

1. **Fully implement** restorative practices for high school students, and make restorative justice **mandatory** for responding to student behavior at T.C. Williams High Schools.
2. **Expand** restorative justice to make it a whole-school program at all ACPS Middle Schools, and set concrete goals to reduce suspension rates for middle school students.
3. Improve **data transparency** by updating ACPS *iDashboard* twice each year with current data on suspensions and referrals to law enforcement, broken down by school, grade, race, and gender.
4. Create and implement a twice-per-year **evaluation plan** that solicits feedback from students and teachers and assesses the impact of restorative practices and restorative justice.
5. Continue working in **partnership** with the community by holding quarterly meetings between TWU, the Alexandria NAACP, and the ACPS Restorative Justice Coordinator to share progress on the implementation of restorative justice at ACPS schools.



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