

Dignity in Schools Campaign

Working Together to Ensure that Children Are Treated with
Dignity and Fairness in Schools

Details on Past Tele-conference Calls

- **How Can We Promote Federal Legislation for Positive Approaches to School Discipline: Discussing the Positive Behavior for Effective Schools Act, November 13, 2007**

John Gardner, Illinois Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) Network

Russell Skiba, Indiana University School of Education

Maisie Chin, Community Asset Development Re-defining Education (CADRE)

Catherine Kim, Racial Justice Program, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

Discussion about legislation to make No Child Left Behind funds available for Positive Behavior Support programs and other efforts to create a positive school climate. Speakers discussed how advocates can promote this and other national policies to reduce exclusionary discipline and pushout.

- **Are Alternative Education Programs Being Used to Warehouse Kids Who Have Been Pushed Out, May 29, 2007**

Gisela Alvarez, Senior Project Director, Advocates for Children of New York

Dan Losen, Senior Education Law and Policy Associate, The Civil Rights Project

Shawn Morehead, Senior Attorney, Advocates for Children of New York

Dr. Augustina Reyes, Professor, University of Houston

Dr. Lois A. Weinberg, Professor, California State University

Jack Wuest, Director, Alternative Schools Network Chicago

Overview of alternative programs and discussion on the strategies for assessing and improving alternative programs. A practical guide on alternative schools was sent to all participants on the call.

- **How Police Presence and School Drug, Gang and Truancy Policies Lead to Pushout, February 13, 2007**

Brian Lambert, Racial Justice Project Fellow, ACLU of Northern California

Dr. Augustina Reyes, Professor, University of Houston

Dr. Rodney Skager, Professor Emeritus, Graduate School of Education, UCLA

Liz Sullivan, Education Program Director, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative

Discussion about how philosophies of zero tolerance influence school policies beyond student discipline and how the police presence in schools and school drug, gang and truancy policies lead to pushout.

- **Lessons Learned In the Movement Against Zero Tolerance, September 26, 2006**

Bernardine Dohrn, Children & Family Justice Center, Northwestern School of Law

Dan Losen, Harvard Civil Rights Project

Hon. Dora F. Olivo, Texas House of Representatives

Sally Lee, Teachers Unite & New York Collective of Radical Educators

Discussion about whether there is a connection between zero tolerance practices and the pushout & dropout crisis. Speakers presented a history of zero tolerance, the connection between discipline and the dropout crisis, how it has been manifested in New York, and attempts at reforming zero tolerance in Texas.

- **A Paradigm Shift: Reactive Discipline to Proactive Discipline – “A Proposal to Transform Discipline in the Los Angeles Unified School District,” May 9, 2006**

Rochelle Montgomery, Associate General Counsel, LAUSD

Hector Madrigal, Director of Pupil Services, LAUSD

Discussion of a school district’s attempt to create a proactive discipline policy based on positive behavior supports. Some participants subsequently wrote letters of support to the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education.

- **Alternatives to Zero Tolerance Policies: Discussions Towards a Model School Discipline Code, December 1, 2005**

Nancy Riestenberg, Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning

Liz Sullivan, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative

Discussion of two alternative perspectives on school discipline: restorative justice and human rights.

- **IDEA '04 and School Discipline: Is the use of zero tolerance and school removal appropriate in the discipline of students with special education needs? July 7, 2005**

Jose L. Martin, Esq., Richards Lindsay and Martin

Sherri S. Sobel, Referee, Los Angeles County Juvenile Court

Russell Skiba, Ph.D., Indiana University School of Education

Discussion on the appropriateness of the new law, the legal and practical implications for discipline, and the impact of public comment on the proposed regulations.