

Who wants to **fix school discipline?**

Doctors!

"I believe that the practice of suspending students has gotten out of hand, and that there is a better way. In 2009-10, California recorded more than 750,000 suspensions, an alarming number that stands for more than a million days of learning lost."

**-Dr. Teresa Tuan, Pediatrics Resident,
University of California San Francisco**

Educators!

"We researched, developed and implemented a 'positive behavioral interventions and supports' system, also known as PBIS. The benefits have been huge, and they continue to reverberate. Our average daily attendance is now 95.6 percent. Days of student suspensions for the fall semester were 300 – half what they were."

-Principal Kerry Callahan, Pioneer High School

Students!

"Changes to school discipline laws are important to me because our schools were failing to create alternative ways to address discipline. Some students just saw suspension or expulsion as a vacation from class and sadly that led to more problems."

-Brianna Luna, a junior from Woodlake Union High School

Police!

"Preventing crime in San Francisco begins with keeping children in the classroom and encouraging them to graduate. Providing safe learning environment is just as important as keeping our streets safe... Students who are pushed out of the classroom all too often fall behind, drop out and end up on a path leading into the criminal justice system." - **Chief Greg Suhr, San Francisco Police Department**

Parents!

"The school's mentality seemed to be that the 'bad' kids couldn't be helped. That the principal's job is to protect the teachers and the "good" students from the "bad" kids. But all kids can be saved. I've seen it."

Michelle Harvey, Parent, Sacramento City School District

And you!

FixSchoolDiscipline.org

Five new laws go into effect on January 1, that you can use in your communities to fix school discipline.

AB 1729 - Requires that other means of correction be used prior to “in-school suspension” in addition to out-of-school suspension. Provides a comprehensive list of what is included as “other means of correction,” including parent conference meetings, positive behavior interventions and supports, and Restorative Justice.

AB 1909 – Ensures that social workers and attorneys who represent a foster youth know of pending discretionary school removals for students with special needs, meetings for which an extended suspension and expulsion is contemplated, and expulsions for all students, and are invited to the key meetings/hearings regarding such removals, and can offer services and supports and tools to assist the students. Includes legislative intent

language to help ensure that education rights holders are invited to all school discipline meetings.

AB 2537 – Gives additional discretion to administrators not to expel in certain circumstances and makes it clear that possession of an imitation firearms or medication for personal use are NOT zero tolerance, mandatory offenses.

AB 2616 – Aligns truancy laws with best practices by giving school districts more discretion in determining whether a pupil is truant and whether a truant youth should be referred to the Juvenile Court. Reduces court fine for truancy and prioritizes the creation of a school attendance plan with the student and parent over a referral to police.

SB 1088 – Facilitates the speedy reenrollment of youth who have had contact with juvenile justice system. Prohibits schools from denying reenrollment and effectuating an “off the record” expulsion.

Learn more at our website.

FixSchoolDiscipline.org

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