

**WAYNE COUNTY REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY  
RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S  
CALL TO RETHINK DISCIPLINE**

**WHEREAS**, teachers and students deserve and need school environments that are safe, supportive, and conducive to teaching and learning;

**WHEREAS**, students need to be in school to learn and national research points out that out-of-school removal leads to greater risk of school failure and risk of repeating a grade; and

**WHEREAS**, national research points out that suspension increases the risk of dropout and the average high school dropout costs society \$292,000 over their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, national research points out that out-of-school discipline increases the chance of students becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, which costs more than \$90,000 each year per youth placed in residential placement; and

**WHEREAS**, national research points out that higher rates of out-of-school suspensions actually predict higher future rates of misbehavior and damage perceptions of school safety; and

**WHEREAS**, national research points out that students with Adverse Childhood Experiences (such as abuse, neglect, homelessness, violence, divorce) are much more likely to face suspension and expulsion and are more likely to experience particularly damaging results from such an approach; and

**WHEREAS**, national research points out that African-American students are suspended at more than three times the rate of white students there is no evidence that differences in the frequency or intensity of African-American students' school behavior is sufficient to account for differences in the rates of school discipline; and

**WHEREAS**, national research points out that alternatives to out-of-school exclusion that focus on building relationships and skills have been shown to be more effective in improving school climate, safety and student achievement without such great costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Michigan Board of Education, the Michigan School Justice Partnership, the Council of State Governments and many other esteemed bodies have called on school districts to rethink discipline;

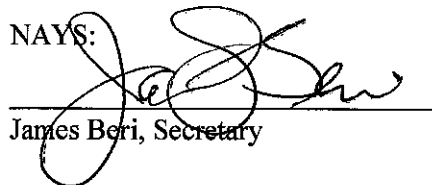
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Wayne RESA will pledge its support to local school districts, and;

- Commit to supporting the collection of good suspension and expulsion data and helping local school districts determine patterns and opportunities for intervention and system changes;
- Commit to provide training and support to improve school climate through positive behavior techniques (by way of example: Positive Behavior Intervention Supports, restorative practices, and parent involvement);
- Commit to sharing alternatives and best practices such as restorative practices, social and emotional learning wraparound teams, and in-school suspension; and
- Commit to helping school districts review, and if necessary, revise codes of conduct, including making available state and national models intended to reduce out of school removals.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution duly passed and adopted by the Board of Education for Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency at a meeting thereof held on the 17th day of February, 2016, by the following vote of the Trustees thereof:

AYES, AND IN FAVOR THEREOF:

NAYS:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Beri", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

James Beri, Secretary

<http://www.indiana.edu/~atlantic/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Skiba-et-al.-Race-is-not-neutral..pdf>