

Ann Arbor Public Schools K-12 Student Support Advisory Committee Update

Facilitators:

Melita Alston, Executive Director Early Childhood and Elementary Education

Jenna Bacolor, Executive Director Community Division, Student Health & Well-Being

Roberta Heyward, Ed.D. Executive Director, K-8, Secondary Schools



Purpose

The advisory committee works collaboratively to:

- Use data to identify inequities and guide responsive actions.
- Examine current district discipline policies and identify areas contributing to disproportionate or excessive suspension.
- Recommend policy improvements to better support students.
- Recommend supportive interventions that will increase student access to education and address behavioral challenges without removing students from learning opportunities.

Purpose

To work towards reducing suspensions and address disproportionality (particularly among Black students, male students, students with disabilities, and those who are economically disadvantaged) and keep our students engaged in school.

- *Outcome:* Recommendations to the Superintendent and Board of Education on revisions for a new enhanced Rights & Responsibilities Handbook

AAPS K-12 Student Support Committee

- AAPS K-12 Student Support Committee
 - The committee consists of:
 - 4 students (middle/high school)
 - 9 staff members (teachers, paraprofessionals, support staff, and principals)
 - 3 parents/caregivers
 - 3 community members
 - 3 facilitators

AAPS K-12 Student Support Committee Members

William Baldwin

Teacher, Mitchell Elementary

Valeska Bass

Principal, Pattengill Elementary

Savannah B.

High School Student

Torian Billings

Principal, A2STEAM

Bonnie Billups

Peace Neighborhood Center

Jamall Bufford

Washtenaw My Brother's Keeper
& WISD

Gary Cooper

Community Assistant, Skyline HS

Claire Federhofer

Asst. Principal, Huron HS

Bryan Johnson

Parent

Thelma Kinlaw

Teacher, King Elementary, and Parent

Concetta Lewis

Asst. Superintendent, Special Education

Tiffany Mara

Parent

Emily N.

High School Student

Jazz Parks

Superintendent

Desmond Smith

Principal, Pioneer HS

Peri Stone-Palmquist

Student Advocacy Center

Siddhi V.

Middle School Student

Benjamin W.

High School Student

Angela Warr

Social Worker

Committee Facilitators:

Melita Alston, Executive Director Early Childhood and Elementary Education

Jenna Bacolor, Executive Director Community Division, Student Health & Well-Being

Roberta Heyward, Ed.D. Executive Director, K-8, Secondary Schools

Advisory Team Meetings

- Monthly 2 hour evening in-person meetings since September
- Built community among advisory team members
- Analyzed and discussed suspension data through a data dialogue process
- Reviewed and critiqued current Rights and Responsibilities Handbook
- Reviewed exemplars from other school districts across the U.S.

Themes of the Work

- Opportunity to make significant changes to our district approach to student discipline and suspension.
- The current Rights and Responsibilities handbook takes a punitive approach to student discipline.
- The review of exemplars indicates other districts focus on proactive strategies to reduce suspensions and keep students in school, such as:
 - Multi-Tiered Support Systems (MTSS)
 - Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS)
 - Restorative Practices
 - Mental health supports and referrals
 - Alternatives to suspension
- Our new approach to Rights & Responsibilities could include proactive strategies around student behavior and discipline.

Training and Professional Development

- Concurrent to this committee, we are also:
 - Training in **Restorative Practices** for administrators
 - All administrators received Day 1 & 2
 - Some administrators and EDs received Day 3 & 4
 - Currently trying to secure grant funding to have Day 3 & 4 for all administrators
 - We launched a **Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) Exploratory Team**
 - We have visited another school district in Wayne County
 - Middle and High schools that focus on PBIS, proactive strategies, and relationship building
 - Visiting elementary schools next week

Next Steps

- Continue monthly meetings with committee
- Review exemplars with principals for feedback
- Make recommendations to the Superintendent and Board of Education on revisions for a new enhanced Rights & Responsibilities Handbook

Ann Arbor Public Schools K-12 Student Support Advisory Committee Update

Facilitators:

Melita Alston, Executive Director Early Childhood and Elementary Education

Jenna Bacolor, Executive Director Community Division, Student Health & Well-Being

Roberta Heyward, Ed.D. Executive Director, K-8, Secondary Schools

