

# DIGNITY IN SCHOOLS

DIGNITY IN SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN | [INFO@DIGNITYINSCHOOLS.ORG](mailto:INFO@DIGNITYINSCHOOLS.ORG) | [WWW.DIGNITYINSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.DIGNITYINSCHOOLS.ORG)



**Meaningful education reform must prioritize equitable and positive learning environments for our nation's children.**

As parents, students, educators, and advocates, we firmly believe that our nation's "graduation rate crisis" is in reality a "pushout" crisis.

It will never be resolved, and our "achievement gap" disparities never closed, until our schools are called on to improve student engagement and reduce reliance on exclusionary discipline.

THE DIGNITY IN SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN challenges the systemic problem of pushout in our nation's schools and advocates for the human right of every child to a quality education and to be treated with dignity.

## **POSITIVE BEHAVIOR FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS ACT**

School wide positive behavior supports (SWPBS) is an evidence-based approach to school discipline that's used in over 10,000 schools across the country. SWPBS is shown to reduce disciplinary referrals, improve school attendance rates, support gains in academic achievement, and improve teacher perceptions of safety and morale. This bill highlights SWPBS as an appropriate use of federal funds under several titles of the ESEA. The bill would also enable the US Department of Education to provide increased training to districts in best practices for school discipline.

## **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN SCHOOLS ACT (H.R. 415) (COHEN, D-TN)**

Restorative justice is an innovative approach to conflict resolution which shows promising results throughout the country and abroad. The Restorative Justice in Schools Act would allow school districts to use ESEA funding to train teachers and counselors in restorative justice and conflict resolution and help save countless hours lost to school discipline each school year.

## **DIGNITY IN SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN PRINCIPLES FOR ESEA REAUTHORIZATION**

Students of color, students from low-income communities, and students with disabilities continue to be treated inequitably in the U.S. education system. Because the ESEA was originally passed to address just such disparities, Congress's reauthorization of the ESEA must focus on ensuring equitable treatment of these groups. Anything less not only exacerbates the ongoing pushout crisis but also turns its back on the very purpose and spirit of this landmark legislation.