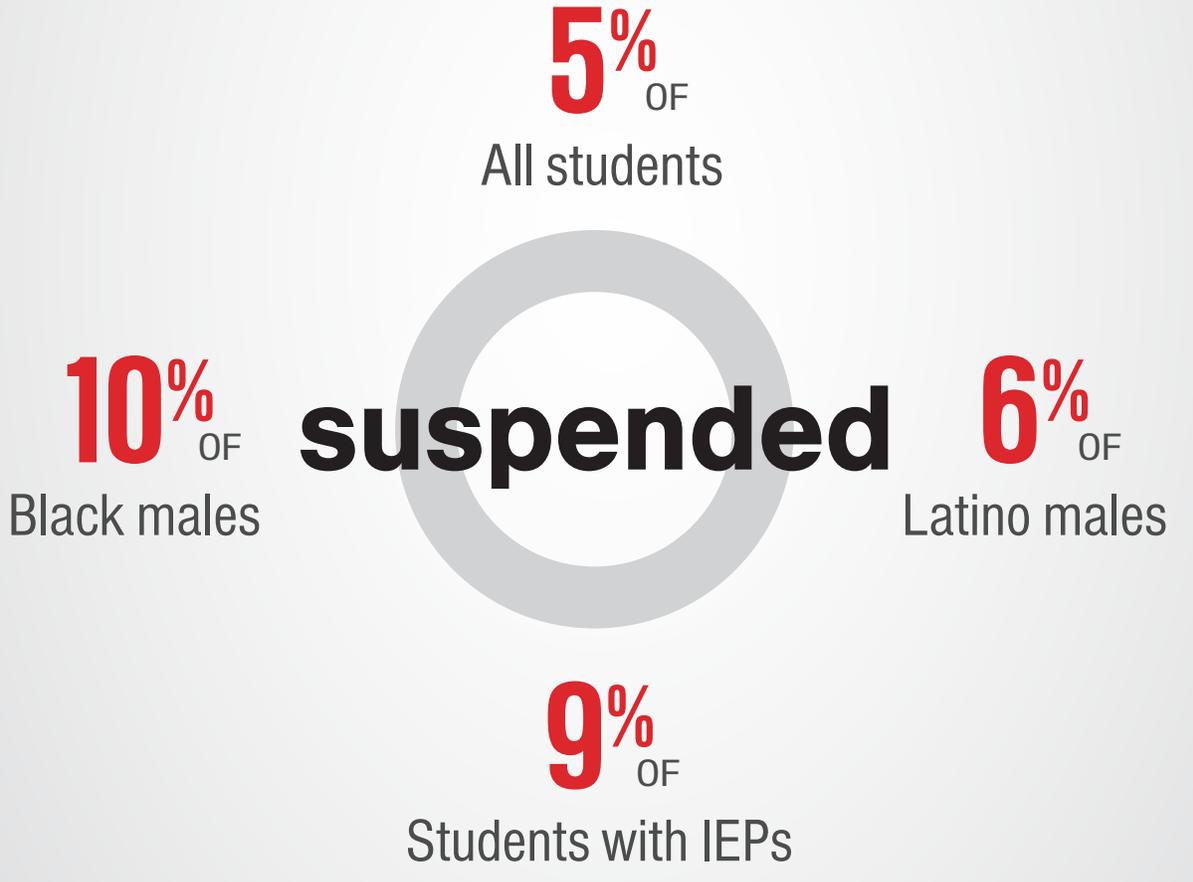




DISMANTLING THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE

What is the problem?

School disciplinary policies disproportionately affect students of color and students with disabilities. This gap has been increasing for nearly 30 years. In 2012, students of color in Massachusetts were suspended at disproportionately higher rates compared to white students, with some sub-groups outpacing national averages.

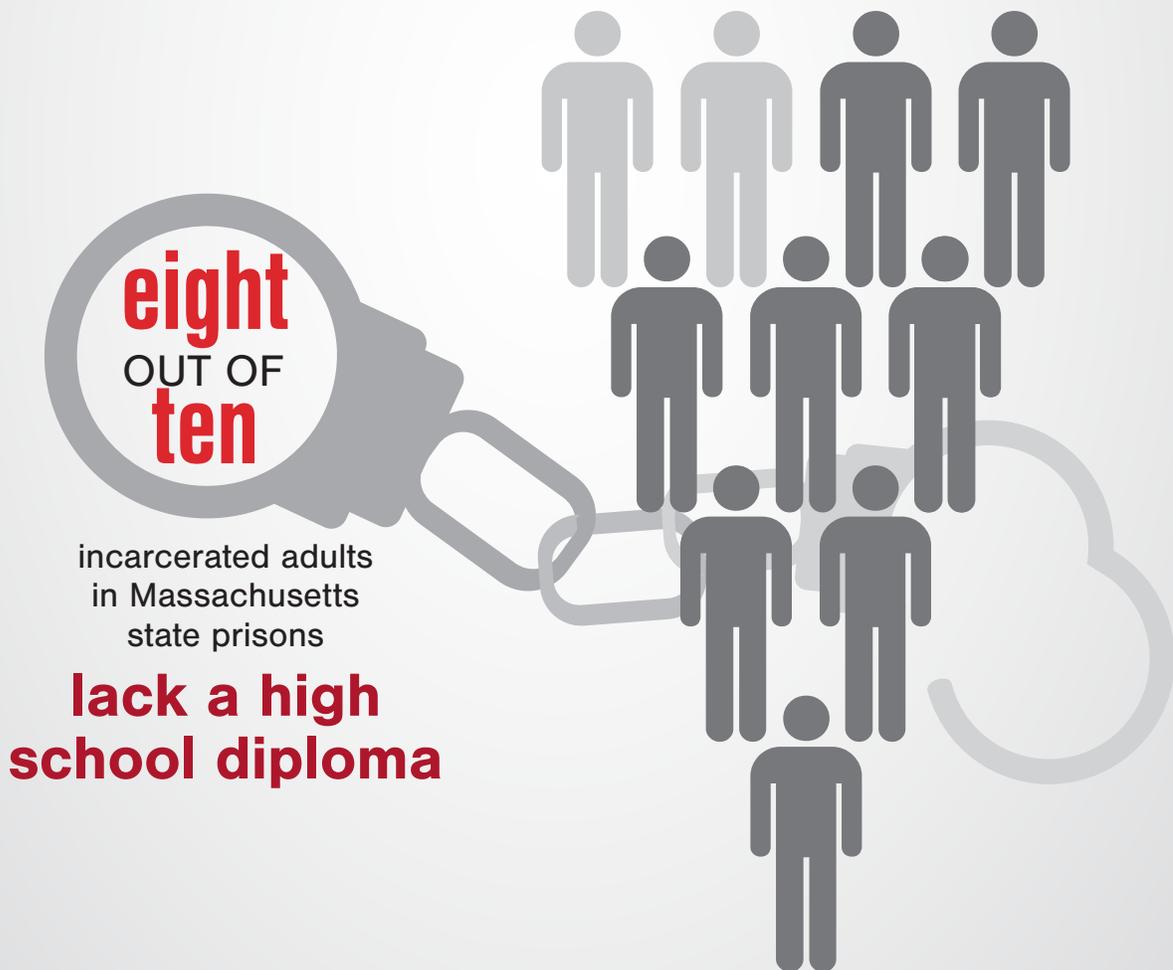


Source: Boston Public Schools, 2014-2015 school year.

DISMANTLING THE
SCHOOL TO PRISON
PIPELINE

Why is this issue so important?

Suspended or expelled students are more likely to be held back or drop out and are significantly more likely to be involved in the juvenile justice system or be incarcerated. High school dropouts are also more likely to become incarcerated, which can have a multi-generational effect; children with a parent in prison are more likely to experience trauma, emotional difficulties, and low school engagement.



Source: Massachusetts Department of Correction, January, 2016.

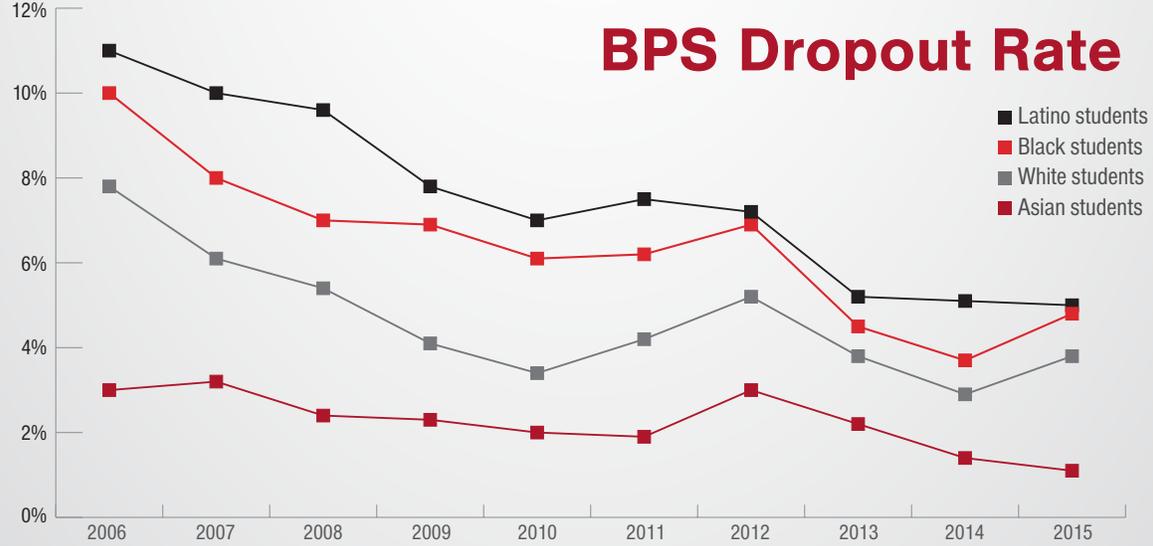
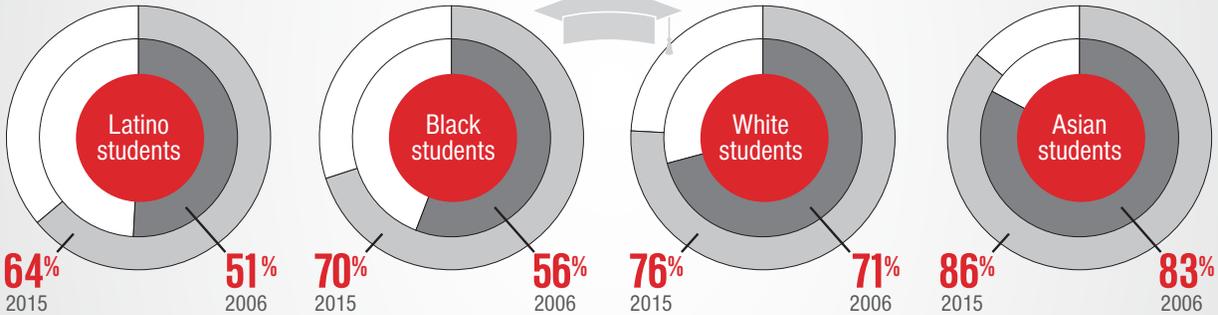


DISMANTLING THE
SCHOOL TO PRISON
 PIPELINE

Where has Boston been on this issue?

Over the past decade, cross-sector coalitions worked with Boston Public Schools (BPS) to introduce dropout outreach strategies and new programming options to earn a high school diploma. These had a positive impact on dropout and graduation rates. Recent changes in state discipline policy (Chapter 222) require due process and educational options for suspended/expelled students to help more students complete credits towards a high school diploma.

4-YEAR GRADUATION RATE



Source: Boston Public Schools, 2006-2015 school years.



How do we move forward?

Boston Public Schools Priorities

School culture: **Build safe, healthy, and welcoming schools**

- ▶ Continue to develop district-wide instructional coherence focused on cognitively demanding tasks that are embedded in culturally & linguistically sustaining practices.
- ▶ Increase the number of schools actively implementing social emotional learning, at both the staff training and student programming levels.

School discipline: **Reduce the number and rate of suspensions and expulsions**

- ▶ Increase the number of schools implementing positive alternatives to disciplinary interventions, such as restorative justice and positive behavioral interventions and support.
- ▶ Provide supportive interventions for ALL students.

Student engagement: **Expand opportunities for student learning**

- ▶ Increase student learning offerings that engage students, including vocational or school-to-career learning, project-based learning, and community-based learning.
- ▶ Address achievement and opportunity gaps by increasing the number of schools that provide quality services and interventions, to address students' needs before they drop out.

Alternative education: **Increase the number and variety of program options**

- ▶ Increase the number of alternative schools and programs, and grow the capacity of traditional schools to implement innovative alternative practices shown to be effective with opportunity youth.
- ▶ Continue, and enhance, outreach to students who benefit from these alternative options, including students who have disengaged from Boston Public Schools.



DISMANTLING THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE

A National Perspective: Where do you connect?

Suspension

- ▶ Since 1972, the probability of school suspension has doubled for Latino students, and nearly tripled for Black students.
- ▶ A decrease in supervised learning time doubles the likelihood of falling behind academically, being retained and dropping out.

Dropout

- ▶ Dropping out can double or quadruple the likelihood of being arrested.
- ▶ Nationally, 68% of Black men without a high school diploma go to prison by age 35.

Arrest & Incarceration

- ▶ Disengagement from school (e.g., poor attendance, falling behind academically) can triple the likelihood of contact with the juvenile justice system.
- ▶ Contact with the juvenile justice system increases the chances of adult incarceration by 22 percentage points.

Social & Economic Instability

- ▶ Once released from prison, formerly incarcerated adults face increased likelihood of low earnings, insecure housing, and untreated health problems.
- ▶ All of these factors can increase the likelihood of recidivism, and have a multi-generational effect on family members of former prisoners.

Source: Forward Change Consulting.