



**DENVER  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS**

Discover a World of Opportunity™

**Denver City Council  
Safety, Housing, Education &  
Homelessness Committee**

**October 16, 2019**

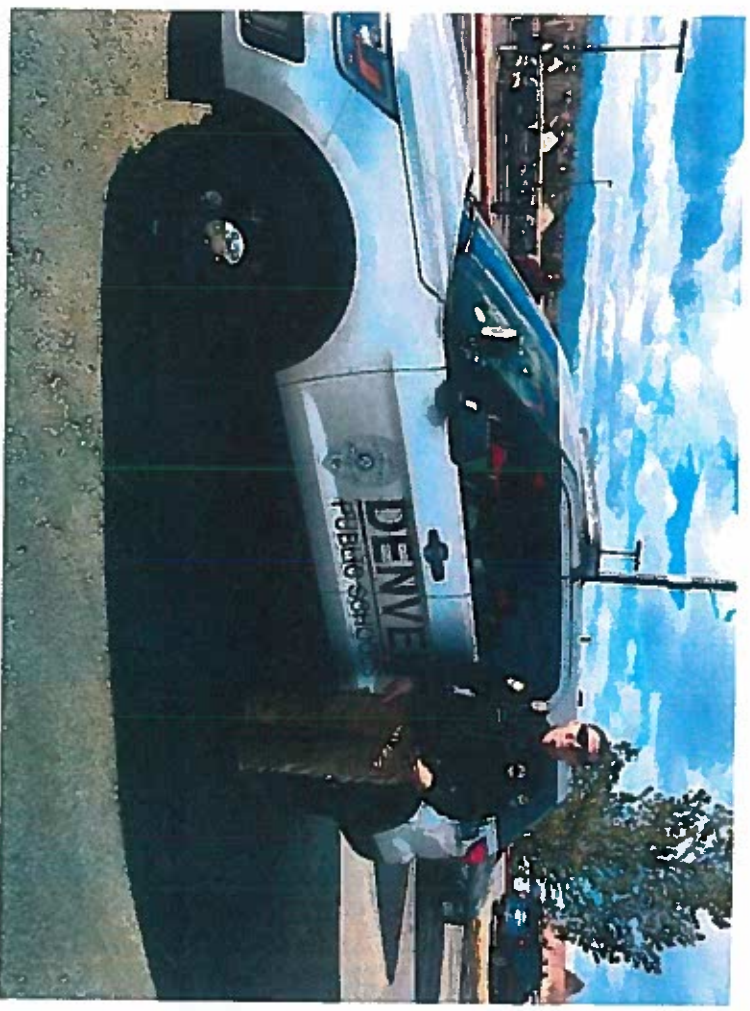
**Presented by: Michael Eaton, Chief  
Department of Safety**



## Department of Safety Team and Resources

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- Armed Patrol
- Dispatch
- Campus Safety Officers
- Investigations
- Emergency Management
- Training
- Fingerprint and background check office
- School crossing guards
- Traffic Safety Task Force
- Denver Police School Resource Officers
- Denver Police Field Units



## Police Partnerships



- Trust and relationship building
- Effective communication
- Police become part of school culture
- Ability to separate criminal vs. discipline
- Police participate in proactive events and utilize social media to communicate with parents and the community

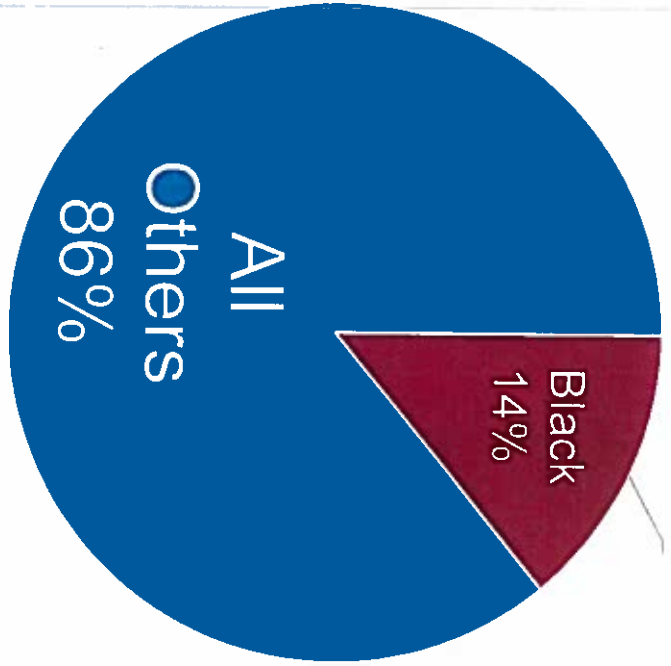


## Restorative Justice Approaches

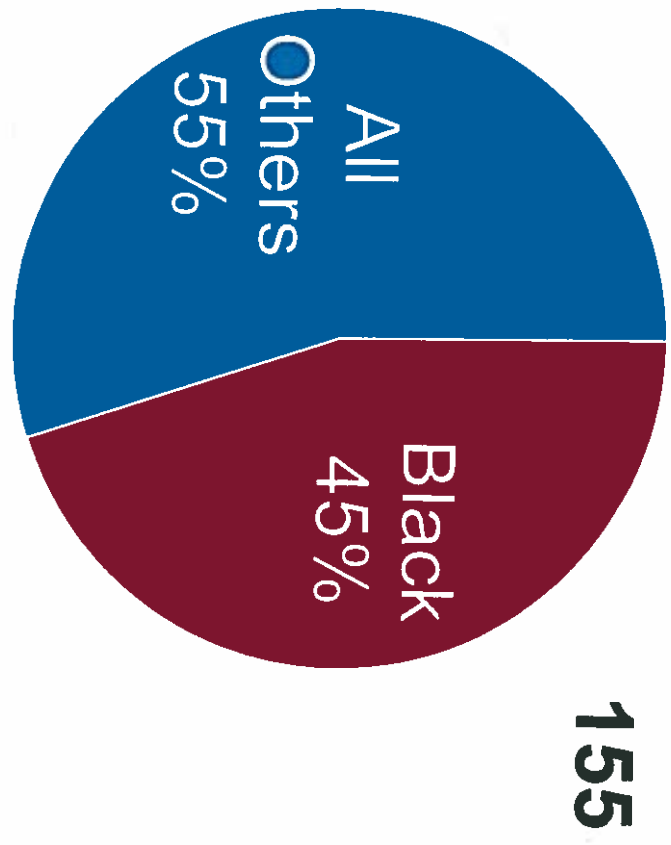
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- Implementation of the School Discipline Matrix
- Ensuring due process through an equity lens
- Restorative Approaches
  - DPS provides onsite training and support so teachers and community members can learn how to use and implement restorative approaches across the ECE-12 spectrum.
- De-escalation strategies
  - DPS recognized from its data that, especially for children of color, suspensions are for defiance or disrespect that get on teachers' nerves rather than more objective offenses like drug distribution or vandalism. DPS provides formal training for teachers on: "How do you deescalate situations so that you don't even have to go down the path of thinking about needing a suspension or an expulsion for your kids?"
- School culture
  - DPS suggests that a restorative school culture is the most important research-based strategy to use that has a social and emotional scope and sequence for the entire year. Teachers must be helped to understand how to teach appropriate emotional expression and emotional regulation for the specific students they are teaching.
- Eliminated the use of suspension and expulsion for students ages three through nine except for extreme safety
  - In the first full year of implementation out-of-school suspensions for ECE-3rd graders dropped over 60%.

## DPS STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



## DPS STUDENT HANDCUFFING DEMOGRAPHICS – 2YR Trend







Denver Public Schools is committed to using restraint or physical holds as a last resort to address imminent danger of serious harm to students, staff, or others.  
- Board Policy JKA



## **Policy Changes – Restraint and Handcuff Use**

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- Handcuffs are prohibited for use on students 5<sup>th</sup> grade and under
- Clarification on emergency exception for use of handcuffs on middle and high school students
- Clarification on roles and responsibilities for notification to Denver Police when handcuffs are used
- Formalized process for notification to principal and parents when hold, restraint, or handcuffs are used
- Additional training for all Department of Safety Staff in the following topics:
  - Foundational Bias
  - Non Violent Crisis Intervention
  - Trauma Informed Practices
  - Behavior Barriers
  - Restraint Policy
- Development of a Safety Data Dashboard
- Over \$1M investment into social and emotional learning supports for students in Affective Needs Centers
- Clarification of expectations with schools on appropriate use of DPS Safety and Denver Police resources