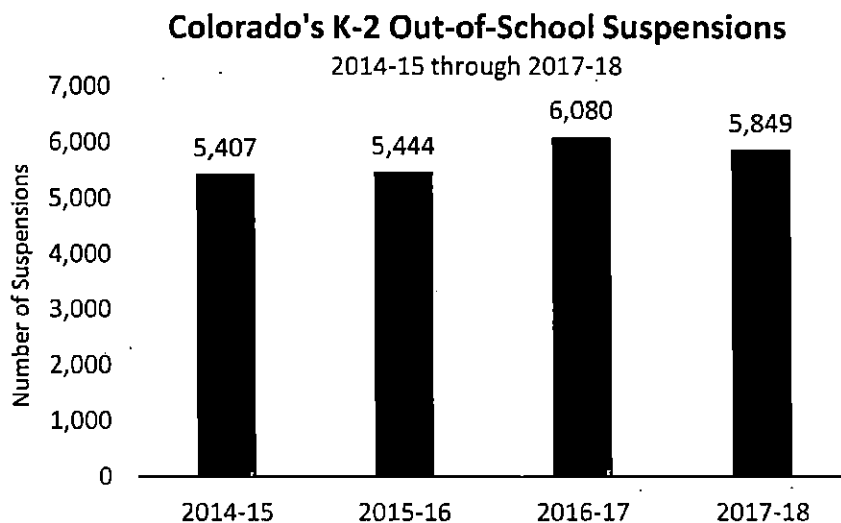


Support HB 19-1194: Addressing Early Childhood School Removal (Lontine & Larson/Priola & Fields)

A high quality, nurturing environment in the early school years unlocks the potential of all of our children to learn about themselves and the world. School success by the end of third grade is a powerful predictor of later academic and life outcomes, including graduation. Unfortunately, it is becoming increasingly clear both in Colorado and across the country that young children are being removed from preschool and early elementary schools at concerning rates. Boys, children of color, and students with disabilities are disproportionately affected and in many cases exclusionary actions may reflect a failure to support a child's underlying challenges or needs.

The Costs of School Removal Are Substantial

- Suspensions and expulsions result in the loss of valuable learning and enrichment time. When students return to school, not only are they often behind the rest of the class, they are actually more likely to be disruptive and have additional disciplinary issues.
- Precisely when the focus should be on meeting children's many developmental needs, removing a child from school results in missed opportunities and make it less likely those needs will be met.
- Suspensions and expulsions increase the likelihood that students will experience academic failure and grade retention, drop out of school, and ultimately enter the criminal justice system.



What would the bill do?

Reduce Preschool & Early Elementary Out-of-School Suspensions & Expulsions

For children in public preschool, kindergarten, first, and second grade, the bill would focus the use of school removal on issues of health and safety and limit the use of exclusionary discipline for other infractions.

Focus on Protecting Health & Safety

The bill allows the removal of young children in the event they use a controlled substance, possess a dangerous weapons, or engage in actions that endanger the health or safety of others.

Emphasize Alternatives

Alternatives to school removal include restorative practices, parent engagement, conferences, restitution, and referrals to services. The bill preserves existing policies on classroom removals, in-school and afterschool disciplinary actions, and eligibility for support services and emphasizes a quick return to school.

Address Disproportionality

Boys, children with disabilities, and children of color are disproportionately impacted by exclusionary discipline and addressing these gaps can improve educational outcomes.

Align with National Best Practices

This policy is aligned with national recommendations that seek to limit school removal for very young children while endorsing thoughtful exceptions that ensure school safety.

Contact Elliot Williams, elliott@siegelpa.com, (303) 903-8598
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Supporters of HB 19-1194

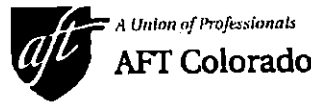
ADVOCACY DENVER

providing active voice and supporting civil rights
for people with disabilities



BCDI

Black Child Development Institute
DENVER

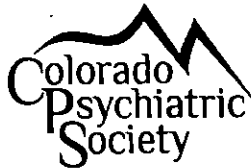


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Children's Hospital Colorado

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search Organization (CLARO)

Colorado Psychiatric Society

Colorado PTA

Council for a Strong America—Colorado

Early Childhood Summit

Education Reform Now

Hope Center

Institute for Racial Equity and Excellence (IREE)

The Kempe Foundation for the Prevention and
Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect

Mental Health Colorado

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Office of the Child's Representative

The Arc of Colorado

Together Colorado

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Parent Possible

Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center

Stand for Children Colorado