

# MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS LEARNING SERIES

## Equity Strand

*Discipline Disparities: A Multidimensional Problem Requiring a Multidimensional Response,*

Presented by Blaire Cholewa, Ph.D.

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### Webinar Summary:

*Discipline disparities abound and this becomes increasingly problematic given the negative outcomes associated with exclusionary discipline. This webinar summarizes the common factors contributing to the discipline gap and the corresponding approaches to mitigating . In particular, this webinar introduces both common and less common research-based approaches to addressing these disparities and emphasizes the importance of a culturally responsive, multidimensional response.*

### Resources:

- [#EdEquityVa Webinar Series](#) (check out “Reframing School Discipline” Part 1, Part 2 & Part 3 to be published after the current presentation is recorded)
- [VDOE Model Guidance for Positive, Preventive Code of Student. Conduct Policy and Alternatives to Suspension](#)
- [VDOE Quarterly Research Bulletin](#)
- [Virginia Department of Behavioral Health--Impact of Racism on Mental Health Webinar](#) , by Joseph Williams, Ph.D.
- DATA: Guide to help you examine school discipline data from the [National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments](#)
- [My Teaching Partner Secondary](#)
- [Creating Opportunities Through Relationships](#)

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#### References:

All of the references cited in the presentation are included below. Participants may find references indicated with a \*\* most useful.

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### Discussion Guide:

1. Take some time to honestly reflect on your own views of discipline? What biases might you hold? What in the presentation, if anything, made you consider your beliefs and perceptions on this topic?
2. What does your school's data indicate regarding discipline disparities across race/ethnicity, gender, free-reduced price lunch, and special education status? What data is your school failing to examine (e.g. infraction type, grade level, by teacher)?
3. What do you need to do to equip yourself to examine school discipline data?
4. What has your school already tried to implement to address such disparities? What is working and not working? Why?

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5. Where have these interventions focused: policy factors, procedure factors, place factors, and/or people factors?
6. Based on the different approaches outlined in the webinar and what you know about your school data, where do you think your school needs to focus its efforts next? [consider a multidimensional solution—multiple interventions at multiple levels]
7. What should your role be?
8. Of the approaches mentioned, which do you think would be the most difficult to implement in your school? What needs to be done to facilitate its implementation?