

Call for Papers: REDUCING SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: LINKING RESEARCH, LAW, POLICY AND PRACTICE

Please Share Widely with Interested Colleagues

Loyola University Chicago School of Education and School of Law are inviting papers on the topic of discipline disparities (e.g., suspension/expulsion) among students with disabilities. The papers will be presented at a two and one-half day interdisciplinary working conference to be held from June 19 to June 21, 2019 at Loyola University Chicago's Water Tower Campus (Chicago, IL). This conference is made possible through funding from the Spencer Foundation.

The focus of the conference is on building a research and policy agenda centering on changes to *laws, policies* and *school practices* to prevent and respond to behaviors of students with disabilities through non-exclusionary means, with the overall aim of promoting greater inclusion of students with disabilities in schools. The conference format and structure is modeled after a prior successful conference sponsored by the Center for Civil Rights Remedies at the Civil Rights Project and the Research-to Practice Collaborative (Losen, 2015) on reducing disparities in exclusionary discipline (e.g., suspension and expulsion).

Brief Statement of the Salient Issues

National data consistently shows that students with disabilities are disciplined at rates significantly higher than their proportion of the student population, despite the procedural safeguards in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that are designed to protect these students. According to the most recent data released by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, students with disabilities accounted for 26% of out-of-school suspensions, although they are only 12% of the student enrollment (U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 2018).

The conference will draw from critical race theory scholarship as an overarching framework for how disability status may intersect with other identities, such as race and gender (Gillborn, 2015). National statistics underscore the increased vulnerability of being a racial minority with a disability. Racial and ethnic minority boys with disabilities are the most likely to experience one or more suspensions, but disparities are also evident among multiracial girls with disabilities compared to White girls with disabilities (U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 2014), calling into question the interplay among race, gender, and disability status.

Conference Goals and Structure

The overall goals of the conference will be to explore current knowledge on the causes of disproportionate discipline of students with disabilities; discuss evidence-supported practices to reduce disproportionality; and identify areas for legal and policy reforms. The conference will be organized into three strands: (1) Research and Data: Intersectional

Causes and Consequences of Disproportionality, (2) Law and Policy; and (3) Promising Practices. The conference aims to foster a productive sharing of ideas and research, as well as enhance interdisciplinary collaborations focused on addressing the intersection of multiple historically marginalized identities in school discipline—disability status, race and gender.

This working conference will bring together a small interdisciplinary group of experts in the fields of disability and school discipline. We seek participants from multiple disciplines, including law, public policy, psychology, sociology, education and critical race theory and with research expertise from a broad range of methodologies (e.g., quantitative, qualitative and mixed methodologies).

Conference Proceedings and Resulting Products

Each participant will prepare a paper for presentation at the conference on one of the three strands: (1) Research and Data: Intersectional Causes and Consequences of Disproportionality, (2) Law and Policy and (3) Promising Practices. Organizers will accept a maximum of 15 single-authored or co-authored original research papers, with the aim of obtaining five papers for each of the three strands. Additionally, organizers will also offer the opportunity for a select group of other scholars, researchers and practitioners with expertise in the field to attend the conference without funding support in order to contribute to the conference discussions and paper presentations. The total conference size will be capped at 30.

Authors will be assigned in advance two reviewers, one from the same strand and one from a different strand, with the aim of supporting cross-fertilization of perspectives. Each author will also be required to review two papers submitted by other authors. Conference papers are due by **April 24, 2019**, eight weeks before the conference, in order to allow sufficient time for review.

Following the conference, a selected subset of up to 10 authors will be asked to finalize their conference paper for submission for publication in an edited journal volume or a proposed edited book on discipline disparities among students with disabilities. Selected authors will be given three months to finalize for publication the draft paper presented at the conference.

Submission Guidelines

To apply to present a paper at the conference, please submit the following and do not put any identifying information on either the abstract or paper summary.

1) **A separate completed cover sheet** (below), which contains the following information: the name/affiliation and complete contact information for the primary author and any co-author(s), the title of the proposed paper, a selection of which of the three conference strands the paper is being submitted to and information pertaining to the IRB status of the proposed paper.

2) **Abstract.** A paper abstract, which is a brief description of the proposed paper and the key research, law, policy and/or practice implications of the work to prevent and address disability disciplinary disparities. The abstract should not exceed 75 words.

3). **Paper Summary.** A summary of the proposed paper should be submitted containing the following components: (1) a brief overview of the paper focus; (2) a description of how the proposed paper advances scholarship/knowledge and practice in addressing discipline disproportionality by disability and potentially other identities which may intersect (e.g., race/ethnicity, gender, LGBTQ+); (3) a description of the methodology utilized (e.g., quantitative/qualitative/mixed methods when applicable (e.g., empirical study); (4) the theoretical framework/model guiding the work and (5) potential applications of the paper in directing future research, law, public policy and practice on the topic.

Please submit the abstract and paper summary in one PDF file and the cover sheet under separate cover to discipline.disparity@gmail.com and CC pfennin@luc.edu by **September 30, 2018.**

Funding

Due to funding from the Spencer Foundation, a stipend of \$400 per paper will be awarded following submission and presentation of the 15 selected conference papers. This monetary award will be given to the primary author or subdivided among multiple authors of the same paper, based on a request from the authors. Reasonable travel expenses for the primary author will be reimbursed upon submission of receipts. Following the conference, up to 10 authors who are invited to submit a conference paper for publication will receive a \$400 stipend following submission of the finalized paper and completion of the review and editing process. This stipend can also be shared among other co-authors.

COVER SHEET:

**REDUCING SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS OF STUDENTS WITH
DISABILITIES: LINKING RESEARCH, LAW, POLICY AND PRACTICE**

Title of Paper: _____

Please check which strand you are submitting the paper to (only one):

Research/Data: Intersectional Causes and Consequences of Disproportionality _____

Law and Policy _____

Promising Practices _____

Primary Author Name _____

Business Title _____

Institution _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Co- Author Name _____

Business Title _____

Institution _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Co- Author Name _____

Business Title _____

Institution _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Co- Author Name _____

Business Title _____

Institution _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

**Human Subject Research Protection. Please indicate whether the author(s) will have
IRB clearance to present the paper or whether it is not applicable (e.g., no Human
Subjects)** _____ Yes _____ No _____ N/A