



apple bytes

a monthly news update from the
Georgia Appleseed Center for Law & Justice

November, 2014

More Knowledge is More Power: Now Search our School Suspension Database by Grade, Gender and More

"Knowledge is power" describes Georgia Appleseed's theory of change and its research to understand how putting "easy-to-access, easy-to-understand" data in the hands of parents helps them work more strategically with their local schools on needed reforms. Georgia Appleseed's ***Keeping Kids in Class Toolkit*** now expands the ways parents and school administrators can view Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) data.

The resources in the ***Toolkit*** support parent and community action groups in their local efforts to stem the flow in the school-to-prison pipeline. At the heart of the Toolkit is our database of out-of-school suspension rates for ten years for every public school in Georgia. Georgia Appleseed's landmark study of effective student discipline revealed that many schools have excessively high out-of-school suspensions for minor infractions, often pushing children from the classroom and into the courtroom. Knowing the scope of the problem is invaluable in establishing a metric by which advocates can ascertain where their school's suspension rate is presently. Then they can measure the progress of strategies that may lower suspensions, while improving behavior and academics.



The Toolkit can now be searched in 5 ways:

1. Total # of out-of-school suspensions (in the state, per school district and by school)
2. Grade
3. Gender
4. Race/Ethnicity
5. Free or Reduced School Lunch

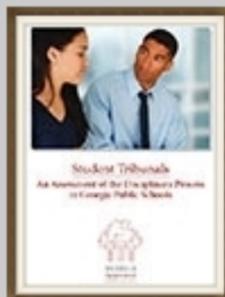
FIND **your** public school's OSS rate [here](#).

Systemic Change in Public Schools

In Muscogee County public schools, our Georgia Appleseed pilot PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions & Support) project

reveals a notable difference after only four months. Office discipline referrals have dropped dramatically in some schools that have adopted with fidelity the PBIS framework of strategies. This is the systemic level change of Georgia Appleseed's vision.

School Tribunals Children facing a suspension from school of more than ten days are entitled to a hearing but often don't have an attorney present to assure their right to due process is met. Georgia Appleseed **Young Professionals Council** volunteers are training non-education attorneys to fill this gap and help keep kids in class.



Read the report

[Student Tribunals: An Assessment of the Disciplinary Process in Georgia Public Schools](#)

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2014 Good Apple Keynote Speaker Chief Judge Steven Teske, Clayton County Juvenile Court, wowed the audience with his animated presentation

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