



## SA: Examining Racist Patterns of School Discipline & Suspension on Black Students & Students with Disabilities

Available

### Project Title

Examining Racist Patterns of School Discipline & Suspension on Black Students & Students with Disabilities

### Scope of Work

Investigate, evaluate and analyze the patterns and practices that lead to the disproportionate suspension of Black students and students with disabilities.

### Timing

September 2023 or later

### Jurisdiction

Maryland (Prince George's County)

### Contact Information

Please contact Paul Lee (plee@StepToe.com) to claim this project as part of the 2023 Summer Associate Project Exchange.

### Description

The matter was referred by Disability Rights Maryland (DRM).


Over the last several years, Disability Rights Maryland (DRM), the state's protection and advocacy agency, has been involved with a group of national and local organizations (NAACP Legal Defense Fund, National Center for Youth Law, Public Justice Center, MD Office of the Public

Defender) all urging Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), the second largest school district in the state of Maryland, to address its exclusionary discipline practices that disproportionately impact Black students and students with disabilities. In the 2021-2022 school year, for example, Black students made up 54% of the PGCPS student population but accounted for 76% of students who were suspended. The harms resulting from exclusionary discipline are well documented; students are unfairly propelled into the school-to-prison pipeline, irreparably altering their educational trajectories. In a March 24 decision granting DRM's motion for summary judgment, the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland ordered PGCPS to provide DRM with contact information for the parents or guardians of special education students who received more than 3 days of exclusionary discipline since January 1, 2019. Pursuant to the Court's order, PGCPS has provided DRM with contact information for 2,673 students, some of whom have been suspended over 100 days.

DRM is seeking a summer associate through the Law Firm AntiRacism Alliance to work with DRM attorneys and staff to contact the parents and legal guardians of the students, to request and review education and discipline records as appropriate, to investigate, evaluate and analyze the patterns and practices that lead to the disproportionate suspension of Black students and students with disabilities, and ultimately identify potential legal claims.

**Subtasks (0)**

**Reminders(1)**

 1 day(s) before