



STATEMENT

For Immediate Release: Jan. 15, 2016

We Did It! HISD Bans Suspensions of Young Kids

Last night, **the Houston ISD School Board passed an important initiative** that eliminated discretionary suspensions and expulsions for elementary school children in pre-K - 2nd grades and limited these exclusions for students in grades 3-5. That means that young children will not be pushed out of the classroom for minor Code of Conduct violations, like horseplay. Further, HISD will provide training to educators in positive, evidence-based methods to address student behavior.

Over the past few months students, educators, parents, and community organizations have tirelessly advocated in support of this important initiative. They were joined by state legislators — Sen. Rodney Ellis, Sen. Sylvia Garcia, Rep. Alma Allen, Rep. Carol Alvarado, Rep. Armando Walle, Rep. Jessica Farrar, Rep. Senfronia Thompson, Rep. Hubert Vo, and Rep. Gene Wu. School Board Trustees like President Rhonda Skillern-Jones and Jolanda Jones spoke passionately about the need to change HISD's harmful and discriminatory classroom removal policies. We were pleased to be a part of this group of powerful supporters and to provide research and data analysis about elementary school exclusions with our report, [Suspended Childhood](#).

“With last night's vote, Houston ISD showed its commitment to being a leader in school discipline reform,” said Morgan Craven, director of the School-to-Prison Pipeline Project at Texas Appleseed. “We are hopeful that other districts in Texas will choose to eliminate harmful classroom exclusions in favor of evidence-based alternatives that provide meaningful support for our children.”