



School to Prison Pipeline

BREAKING THE CYCLE THROUGH EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES

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Breaking the Cycle Through Effective Strategies

Dr. Jerrah Henson

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About the BAT project

The Special Education Behavior Assessment Training (BAT) project provides comprehensive, professional learning for special education personnel on culturally responsive Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) practices, Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs), and Positive Interventions and Behavior Supports for students across all grade levels through monthly webinars, an annual regional conference, technical assistance library including archived webinars and other materials and online training modules.

The BAT Project will provide tiered professional development and technical assistance to school districts and special education cooperatives requesting assistance on FBAs, BIPs, and Positive Interventions and Behavioral Supports. Priority will be given to districts identified with a disproportionate rate of suspension and expulsion for students with disabilities. State-level guidelines are currently being developed, per 105 ILCS5/14-8.05, to address culturally responsive, evidence-based behavior interventions for students across all grade levels.

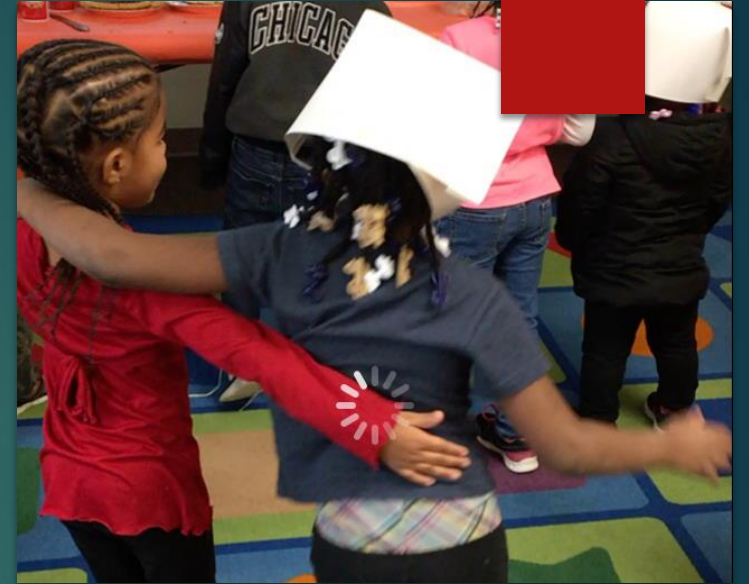
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Briefly about Jerrah...

Professional Glance...



Audience Survey

- ▶ What level of students do you serve?
 - ▶ Early Childhood
 - ▶ Elementary
 - ▶ Secondary
 - ▶ Undergrad/Grad Students
 - ▶ Other



Agenda

- ▶ Components of the Pipeline
- ▶ Zero Tolerance Policies
- ▶ Discipline Data
- ▶ Implicit Bias
- ▶ Colorblindness in Education

How would
you describe
that status of
student
discipline in
your school?



Fully Restorative



½ Restorative other ½ Punishment
Based, but willing to discuss



Starting the discussion and learning
path



Rooted in punitive mindsets

School to Prison Pipeline (STPP)

- ▶ What is it?
 - ▶ The school-to prison pipeline refers to the systemic processes and practices that push students, particularly those from marginalized communities, out of the educational system and into the criminal justice system. It describes how certain educational and disciplinary policies can lead students toward incarceration rather than educational success.



Overview of the Cycle of the STPP

Zero-Tolerance Policies/Harsh Discipline

- Strict policies that impose severe punishments (suspension or expulsion) for minor infractions. Instead of addressing the root causes of behavior, these students are removed from the classroom, losing valuable instructional time.

STPP Overview

- ▶ Lack of Support Services

- ▶ Limited access to counselors, social workers, or special education resources fail to address students' underlying issues, such as trauma or behavioral challenges.

- ▶ Academic Disengagement

- ▶ Repeated disciplinary removals alienate the students from the school environment and lead to academic disengagement, or ultimately dropping out.

- ▶ Juvenile Justice System Involvement

- ▶ Once in the Juvenile System they face a range of consequences, from probation to incarceration. Involvement with the juvenile system often leads to further setbacks limiting future opportunities.

- ▶ Adult incarceration

- ▶ Students with a history of school discipline and juvenile justice involvement are more likely to face criminal charges later in life. The stigma and barriers associated with a criminal record make it difficult to find employment.

Spiraling Effect of Exclusionary Discipline Practices



Driving Components of the STPP

Suspension

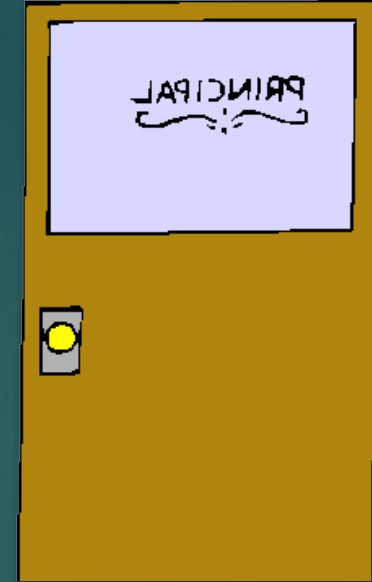
Expulsion

School Failure

Drop out

Juvenile incarceration

Adult Prison



Reflection

- ▶ How would you describe what's going on in your school?





Pushed out of Education When?

- ▶ A research study from the DoE for Civil Rights shows that the STPP begins in preschool, or as early as Kindergarten.

Early Childhood Lifelong Impacts of Exclusionary Discipline

- ▶ Students expelled or suspended from preschool are 10 times more likely to drop out of high school.
- ▶ Experience academic failure
- ▶ Grade retention
- ▶ Hold negative school attitudes
- ▶ Face Incarceration
- ▶ THERE IS NO RESEARCH OR DATA THAT SUPPORTS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXCLUSIONARY DISCIPLINE!
(Farner, 1996)



Reflection:

- ▶ What discipline issues are you dealing with that are solvable?
- ▶ What issues are you facing that are challenging and you feel like there is no solution in sight?

Early Childhood Discipline Data

- ▶ Black students represent 18% of the preschool enrollment, but accounted for 42% of the children suspended once, and 48% of the children suspended more than once. (OCR, 2016)
- ▶ The average day sees 250 instances of a preschool suspension or expulsion (Malik, 2017).
- ▶ In 2021, Black preschool children accounted for 17% of preschool enrollment, they represented 31% of children who received one or more out-of-school suspensions and 25% of those expelled. (OCR, 2023)
- ▶ White preschool children accounted for 43% of preschool enrollment, they represented 51% of children who received one or more out-of-school suspensions and 54% of those expelled.
- ▶ Preschool children of two or more races accounted for 5% of preschool enrollment, but they represented 7% percent of those who received one or more out-of-school suspensions and 7% of those expelled.

Figure 2. Percent of preschool children who were disciplined, by sex and race/ethnicity

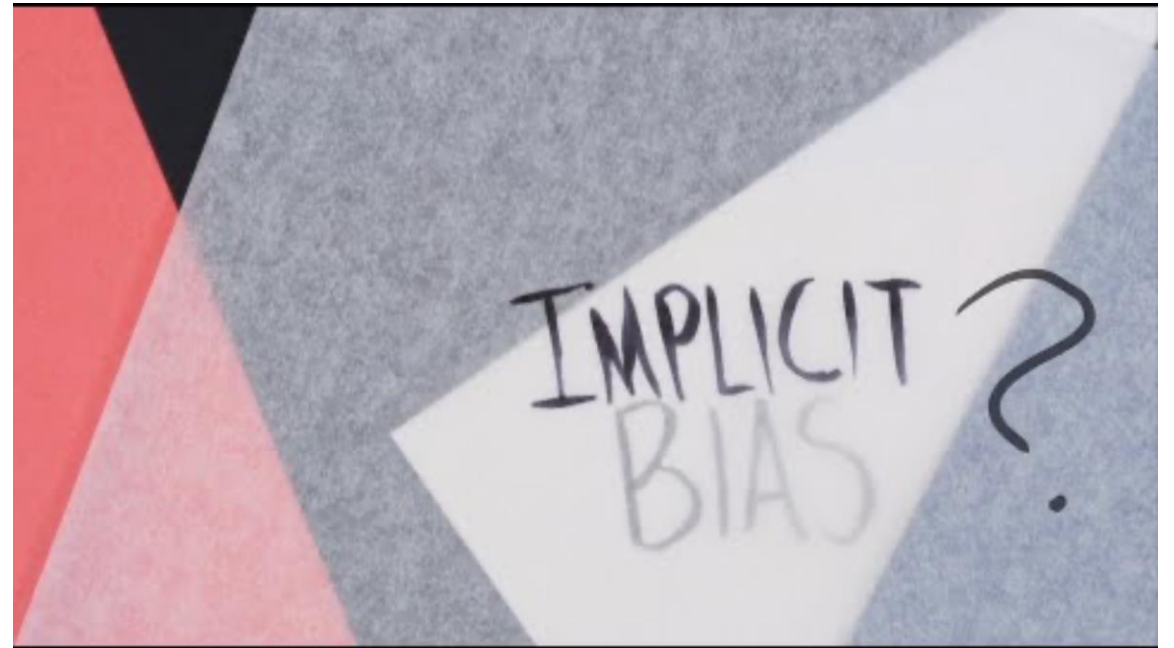
		Hispanic or Latino of any race	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Black or African American	White	Two or more races
Boys	Enrollment	16%	1%	2%	<1%	9%	24%	3%
	<i>Discipline Outcomes</i>							
	One or more Out- of-School Suspensions	8%	1%	<1%	<1%	23%	43%	6%
	Expulsions	11%	<1%	1%	<1%	20%	47%	6%

Percent of Preschool Children Disciplined by sex and race/ethnicity



Understanding Implicit Bias in Education

What is Implicit Bias?



The Importance of Addressing Implicit Bias in Education

Implicit biases are prevalent and can influence educators' perceptions and actions.

Self-examination of biases can be uncomfortable but is essential for personal and professional growth.

Educators may resist the idea of harboring biases, but acknowledging them is crucial.

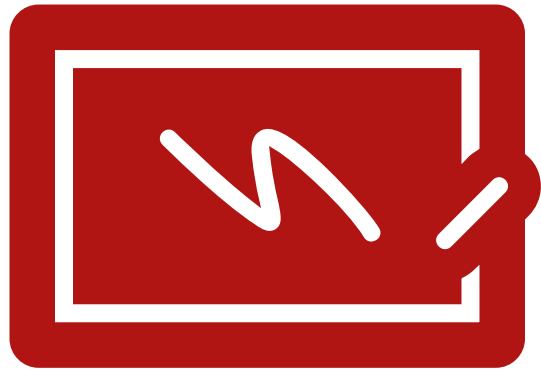
Discovering implicit biases does not equate to being a racist; it's about awareness and responsibility.

Addressing implicit bias is a necessary step for those committed to combating bigotry and prejudice.



Implicit Bias in Education Video

Colorblindness in Education



“In my classroom,
I don’t see color. I
don’t see race.
What’s the
problem?”

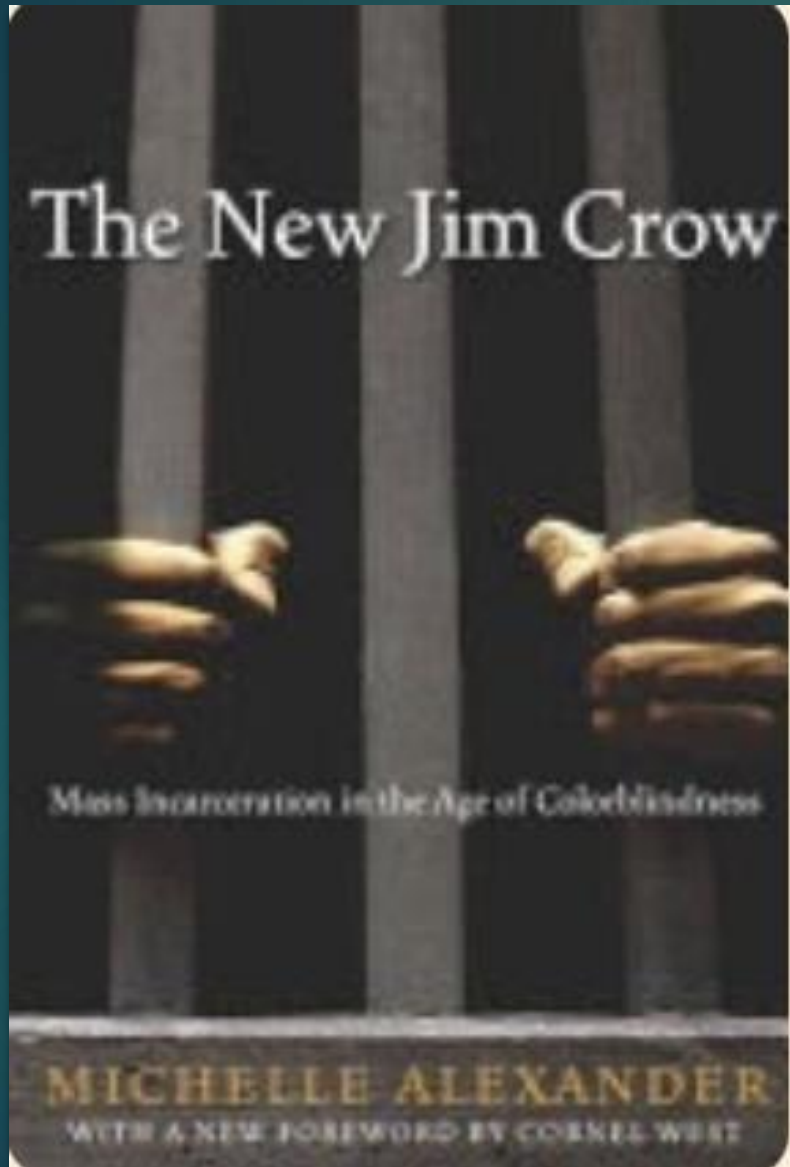
Colorblindness in Education: Impact on the Pipeline



Academic Achievement – Lack of support for minority students



Discipline Disparities – Ignoring racial differences can lead to unequal disciplinary measures



Michelle Alexander

- ▶ “If we had actually learned to show love, care, and compassion, and concern across racial lines during the Civil Rights Movement – rather than go color-blind – mass incarceration would not exist today.”



Reflection

- ▶ What is your role in disrupting the pipeline?
- ▶ What is one thing you can do tomorrow, month, year from now?

Breaking the STPP: Summary & Key Strategies

- ▶ Driving Components of the STPP
 - ▶ Exclusionary Discipline
 - ▶ Suspensions/Expulsions push students out of the classroom, increasing the risk of juvenile justice involvement
 - ▶ Zero Tolerance Policies
 - ▶ Strict, one-size-fits-all policies disproportionately affect marginalized students, often leading to unnecessary legal consequences.
 - ▶ Discipline Data & Implicit Bias
 - ▶ Disproportionate disciplinary actions against students of color highlight systemic biases within educational practices.
 - ▶ Education Color Blindness
 - ▶ Ignoring racial and cultural differences can perpetuate inequities, failing to address the needs of diverse student populations.

Questions & Thoughts





Exit
Survey