

# DataHaven

## Classroom Materials

**Title of Material:** The Divide in School Punishments

**Topics Discussed:** Suspension in schools, education, race, gender

**Skills Utilized:** Reading skills, annotations, data analysis, reflection questions

**Format:** Individual or with a partner

**In Person or Online:** Either

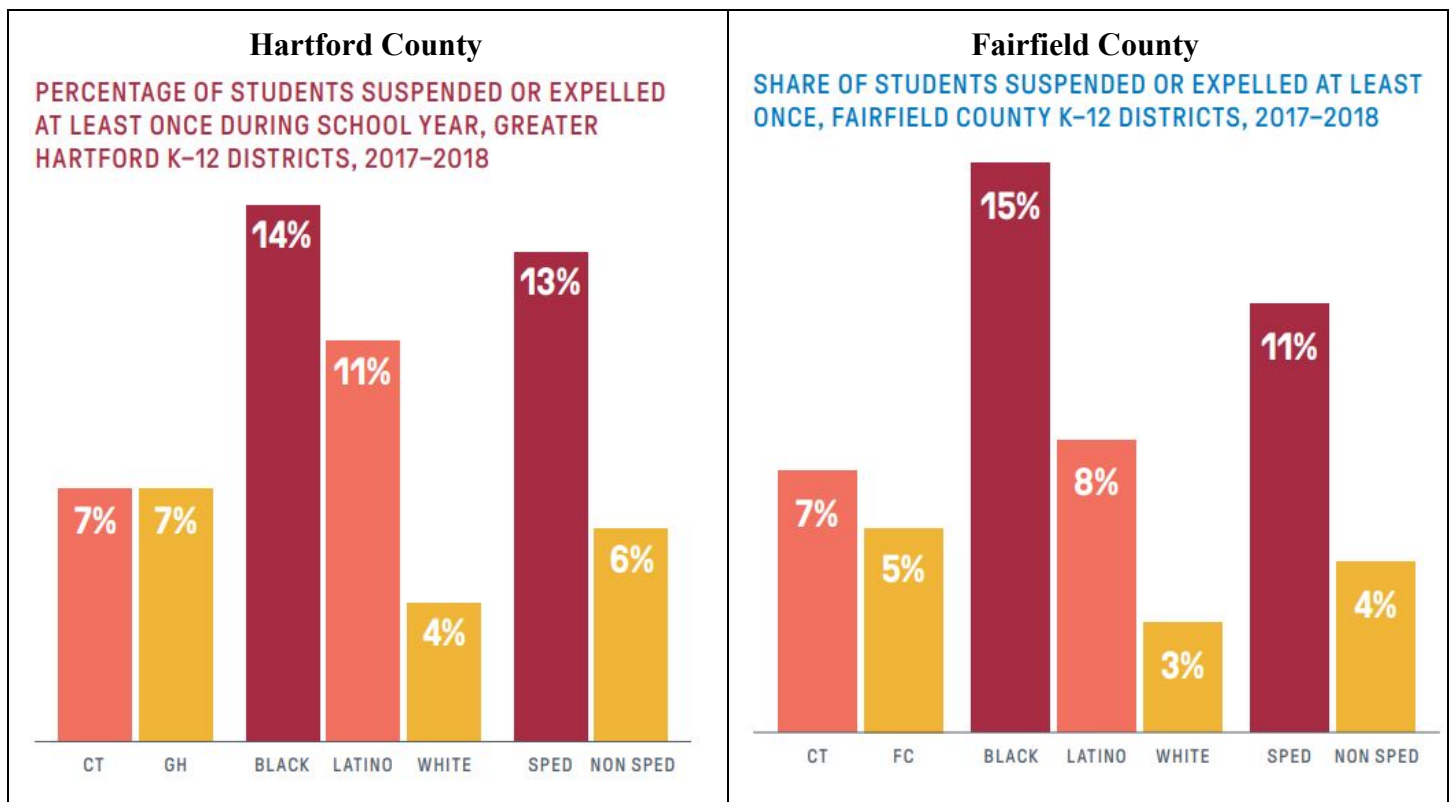
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2020

# The Divide in School Punishments

*How Black and Latinx students and Special Education students are more likely to be suspended or expelled from school.*

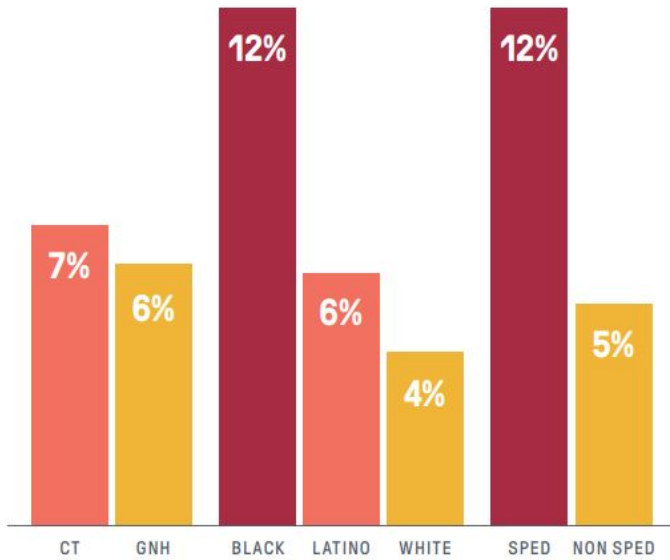
**Directions:** Read and annotate the following background information about suspension trends in schools and analyze the graphs to answer the thoughts questions.

**Background:** School is not always a place of equity. Not every student experiences the same opportunity, treatment, or success in schools. For example, academic disadvantages can be a result of in-school or out-of-school suspensions. Students who are suspended or expelled from school are more likely to have negative perceptions of school and to have lower GPAs. Perhaps most gravely, they are also more likely to be involved with the juvenile justice system. Black and Latinx students—boys especially—are expelled or suspended far more frequently than white students, even as early as preschool. Even when the confounding effects of socioeconomic status are controlled for, Black students are still disciplined more frequently than their white counterparts (DataHaven, 2019). Further, Special Education (SPED) students are also more likely to be suspended or expelled from schools. This can have a lifelong impact on a student. If they do not succeed in school, they are less likely to move onto higher education and their employment and economic opportunities will be limited. While some schools are making efforts to reevaluate discipline, taking a more restorative approach, the issue of inequitable suspensions still persists.



## New Haven County

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED AT LEAST ONCE DURING SCHOOL YEAR, GREATER NEW HAVEN K-12 DISTRICTS, 2017-2018



## Thought Questions:

1. What are the percentages of Black, Latinx, and white students suspended or expelled in each county?

### Hartford County

- Black:
- Latinx:
- White:

### Fairfield County

- Black:
- Latinx:
- White:

### New Haven County

- Black:
- Latinx:
- White:

2. What conclusions can you draw when looking at the amount of Special Education (SPED) students suspended or expelled compared to non-SPED students? Why is this important to conclude?
3. Why do you think these inequities in punishment in schools exist? What is the impact?
4. What can be done to help erase these differences in treatment?
5. What could your school do about inequities in punishment? Come up with a plan for administrators, teachers, other staff and students to follow.