

## **New Data Frontiers in School Discipline Research: Charting a Path for Enhanced Data Collection to Better Understand the Entire School Discipline Pipeline and Equity Therein**

Mounting evidence on the negative impacts of exclusionary discipline practices like suspension and their inequitable application have resulted in numerous recent school discipline reforms. These changes, however, have not been without critics, with some recent work suggesting that reductions in suspension have led to poorer school climate. Research has the potential to inform these debates and guide practice; however, school discipline research has begun to reach the boundaries of available data. Specifically, research is often limited by federal datasets that include few student level measures of disciplinary outcomes, state and district administrative datasets that may include measures of out-of-school suspension but little about disciplinary practices more proximal to the classroom, a lack of data on the actual misconduct that leads to a disciplinary consequence, and a lack of data at scale about the use of emerging practices like positive discipline or restorative justice.

The purpose of this conference is to bring together individuals working on discipline research to chart a path for improved data collection. Through a series of interactive sessions, participants will discuss the pressing questions for understanding and improving school discipline as well as the data that would need to exist to answer these questions. Opportunities for researchers with access to novel discipline data to forge collaborative partnerships with other researchers will be available as well as opportunities for researchers to discuss available data and data needs with federal, state, and district personnel. At its conclusion, the conference will yield recommendations for enhanced data collection that can address the next frontier of research questions, reduce the use of ineffective practices, and enhance equity in the application of discipline across subgroups.