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DECEMBER, 2016

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# Office of the Education Ombuds

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Delving into Data, Changes in Student Discipline Laws, Webinars on Discipline and Disability Identity, OEO's Report to the Legislature on Family Engagement, and more...read what's happening at OEO!

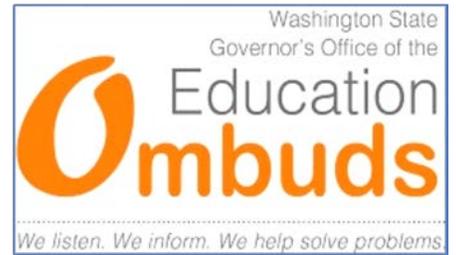
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## PUTTING DATA TO WORK

We live in a world filled with data! Educators, families and community members across our state are working to make good use of data to serve students. Each district and our state Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) currently have detailed data available that can show how students are scoring on tests; how many are suspended, for what reasons, and for how long; how many have been absent; how many are taking and passing advanced learning courses, and more. Even as this data is helping educators, families and communities identify and address needs and strengths in school systems, people are working to develop even greater detail with "disaggregated data." In addition to knowing how many students are taking and passing advanced placement classes, for example, districts can look at data disaggregated to a finer level of detail within race/ethnicity categories of "Asian" or "African American", to spot needs and strengths of smaller groups of students who might get lost in bigger groups. The National Forum on Education Statistics recently published a [Forum Guide to Collecting and Using Disaggregated Data on Racial/Ethnic Subgroups](#), highlighting efforts from the Highline Public School District to use data to customize support for its students. It also describes OSPI's efforts to expand subgroups for data collection statewide.

**Interested in data?** Check out the Forum Guide for detailed, practical information on how to collect and use data effectively; check out data already available at: [OSPI's Performance Indicators - Data and Analytics](#) (links to data on assessments, student growth, graduation rates, discipline, attendance, and more); and follow the work of the [Race and Ethnicity Student Data Task Force](#) (reviewing federal race/ethnicity reporting guidelines and developing guidance for Washington state).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OEO PARENT WORKSHOPS WITH [OPEN DOORS](#) & [SEATTLE PS](#)

01/11/17 IEP Overview & Development

01/18/17 IEP & Understanding School Evaluations

### FOSTER CARE WEBINAR

01/31/17

OEO/OSPI joint webinar from 10-11 am discussing [School Stability for Students in Foster Care](#)

Registration information will be posted on OEO's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WAEducationOmbuds/>

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## OEO FAMILY ENGAGEMENT REPORT AVAILABLE ONLINE

The state legislature asked OEO, together with the EOGOAC and other stakeholders, to recommend a definition and framework for the role of "family engagement liaison" in schools. Our final report was published on December 1st. Many thanks to the families who responded to OEO's survey, and provided input on what effective school and family engagement means to them.

OEO's [full report](#) and an [executive summary](#) are available on the OEO website <http://oeo.wa.gov/publications-reports/reports/>

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## BIG CHANGES IN SCHOOL DISCIPLINE AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ADD YOUR VOICE

Earlier this year, the Washington state legislature made major changes to our state's school discipline laws. There are now:

- New **time limits** on the length of suspensions and expulsions (no more than one academic term);
- New **limits on the reasons** students can be suspended or expelled for more than 10 school days (no more long term suspensions or expulsions for "discretionary discipline". The law identifies 4 categories of offenses that are not discretionary, and may lead to long-term suspension or expulsion, including "behavior that adversely impacts the health or safety of other students or educational staff");
- New requirements for school districts to give students a **chance to keep learning** during any suspension or expulsion by providing educational services. The services can be provided in alternative settings that are "comparable, equitable and appropriate"; and
- New requirements for holding **reengagement meetings with families and students** who are suspended or expelled for more than 10 school days, and to work together to design a "culturally responsive and culturally sensitive" plan for the student's return to school.

**These changes have been in effect since June 2016. But there are still details to work out through rule-making.** The State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is planning to rewrite our state's discipline rules in early 2017 to give more specific guidance on these new requirements. As OSPI works on rewriting the discipline rules, **there will be opportunity for the public to weigh in and give comments on what the rules should say.**

Do you have thoughts on how school discipline should be handled? On what it would mean for a re-engagement plan to be "culturally responsive and culturally sensitive"? On ways that schools could help students keep learning even while they are suspended or expelled? Or what is "behavior that adversely impacts the health or safety" of others? Check out [OSPI's School Discipline page](#) where you can sign up to receive email alerts, and stay tuned for the announcement of [Proposed Rules and Public Comment Opportunity](#).

## MISSED OEO'S WEBINARS ON DISCIPLINE CHANGES AND DISABILITY IDENTITY? FIND THEM NOW ON OUR WEBSITE!

OEO Director Carrie Basas, and Ombuds Rose Spidell discussed changes in discipline with Dr. John Glenewinkel, Superintendent of Republic and Curlew School Districts; Wyeth Jessee, Chief of Student Supports, Seattle Schools; Erin Romanuk, Manager, Truancy Office, Seattle Schools; Karen Pillar, Staff Attorney, Team Child; and Joshua Lynch, Supervisor of Student Discipline, OSPI.

The School Discipline Changes webinar can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fc90Lkev5v8>

Director, Carrie Basas, also hosted a Disability Identity Webinar: "Nothing About Us Without Us: Adults with Disabilities Advancing Best Practices for K-12 Inclusion"

Panelists included:

Carlyn Mueller, PHD Student at the University of Washington

Ivanova Smith, UW LEND Advocate-Faculty, BA History

Yordanos Gebreamlak, MSW, Social Worker

The Disability Identity webinar can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/OkPVGBb7CAw>

Visit OEO's Facebook page for upcoming webinars and events.