

Community Forum on Youth Justice: Procedural Justice in Juvenile Court breakout session
Capital University
April 15, 2015

Rebecca Steele
Franklin County Public Defender's Office
373 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614.525.8871
rssteele@franklincountyohio.gov

PROCEDURAL JUSTICE IN JUVENILE COURT

Let's start our discussion of procedural justice in juvenile court with a very brief overview of the history of juvenile courts:

The first separate juvenile court was established in Illinois in 1899.

Juvenile Courts were based on the concept of *parens patriae*, or that the state is the ultimate parent, with authority higher than that of the natural parent, which can be exerted for the good of the child and society.

The goal of juvenile courts was rehabilitation in civil, rather than criminal, court. Thus, due process, as guaranteed by the due process clauses of the United States constitution in criminal cases, was not considered necessary for juveniles nor were they afforded its protections.

There was no review of the juvenile courts by the United States Supreme from 1899 until the *Kent* decision in 1966.

In 1966, in *Kent v. U. S.*, the U. S. Supreme Court recognized that *parens patriae* doctrine did not eliminate all rights to due process in juvenile court.

A landmark juvenile case, *In re Gault*, decided in 1967, examined the juvenile court process and attempted to balance the aims of juvenile courts with the rights of accused children and established basic process due juveniles accused of delinquency:

Notice
Counsel
Confrontation
Right to remain silent

Later cases extended search and seizure and probable cause protections.

Why is *in re Gault* so important? Below we will look at what happened in the *Gault* case and see how current Franklin County Juvenile Court procedures apply the court's decision in *Gault*.

From *uscourts.gov*:

Facts and Case Summary: *In re Gault* 387 U.S. 1 (1967)

FACTS:

Gerald ("Jerry") Gault was a 15 year-old accused of making an obscene telephone call to a neighbor, Mrs. Cook, on June 8, 1964. After Mrs. Cook filed a complaint, Gault and a friend, Ronald Lewis, were arrested and taken to the Children's Detention Home. Gault was on probation when he was arrested, after being in the company of another boy who had stolen a wallet from a woman's purse.

At the time of the arrest related to the phone call, Gault's parents were at work. The arresting officer left no notice for them and did not make an effort to inform them of their son's arrest. When Gault's mother did not find Gault at home, she sent his older brother looking for him. They eventually learned of Gault's arrest from the family of Ronald Lewis. When Mrs. Gault arrived at the Detention Home, she was told that a hearing was scheduled in juvenile court the following day.

The arresting officer filed a petition with the court on the same day of Gault's initial court hearing. The petition was not served on Gault or his parents. In fact, they did not see the petition until more than two months later, on August 17, 1964, the day of Gerald's habeas corpus hearing. The June 9 hearing was informal. Not only was Mrs. Cook not present, but no transcript or recording was made, and no one was sworn in prior to testifying. Gault was questioned by the judge and there are conflicting accounts as to what, if anything, Gault admitted. After the hearing, Gault was taken back to the Detention Home. He was detained for another two or three days before being released. When Gault was released, his parents were notified that another hearing was scheduled for June 15, 1964.

Mrs. Cook was again not present for the June 15th hearing, despite Mrs. Gault's request that she be there "so she could see which boy that done the talking, the dirty talking over the phone." Again, no record was made and there were conflicting accounts regarding any admissions by Gault. At this hearing, the probation officers filed a report listing the charge as lewd phone calls. An adult charged with the same crime would have received a maximum sentence of a \$50 fine and two months in jail. The report was not disclosed to Gault or his parents. At the conclusion of the hearing, the judge committed Gault to juvenile detention for six years, until he turned 21.

Gault's parents filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus, which was dismissed by both the Superior Court of Arizona and the Arizona Supreme Court. The Gaults next sought relief in the Supreme Court of the United States. The Court agreed to hear the case to determine the procedural due process rights of a juvenile criminal defendant.

PROCEDURE:

Lower Courts: The proceedings against Gault were conducted by a judge of the Superior Court of Arizona who was designated by his colleagues to serve as a juvenile court judge.

Lower Court Ruling: The juvenile court judge committed Gault to juvenile detention until he attained the age of 21. At that time, no appeal was permitted in juvenile cases by Arizona law; therefore, a habeas petition was filed in the Supreme Court of Arizona and referred to the Superior Court for a hearing. The Superior Court dismissed the petition, and the Arizona Supreme Court affirmed.

ISSUE:

The Supreme Court agreed to hear the case to determine the procedural rights of a juvenile defendant in delinquency proceedings where there is a possibility of incarceration.

RULING:

Reversed and remanded. In its opinion, the Court unanimously overruled *Betts v. Brady*.

Argued: January 15, 1963

Decided: March 18, 1963

Unanimous Decision: Justice Black (who dissented in *Betts*) wrote the opinion of the court. Justices Douglas, Clark, and Harlan each wrote concurring opinions.

REASONING:

In its opinion, the Court underscored the importance of due process, stating that it “is the primary and indispensable foundation of individual freedom” and that “the procedural rules which have been fashioned from the generality of due process are our best instruments for the distillation and evaluation of essential facts from the conflicting...data that life and our adversary methods present.” *In re Gault*, 387 U.S. 1, 20 (1967). The Court noted that, had Gault been 18 at the time of his arrest, he would have been afforded the procedural safeguards available to adults. The Court closely examined the juvenile court system, ultimately determining that, while there are legitimate reasons for treating juveniles and adults differently, juveniles facing an adjudication of delinquency and incarceration are entitled to certain procedural safeguards under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

If you were Gerald Gault or his parent, what problems would you have with how his case was handled? How can we view our brief history of Juvenile Courts, both pre-and post-Gault, through the prism of Restorative Justice? Next we will discuss more fully how courts operate post-Gault, using as an example the one I practice in, Franklin County Juvenile Court.

An overview of Franklin County Juvenile Court:

Franklin County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction in the following types of cases:

Juvenile delinquency, including transfer to adult court. Delinquency cases are those in which the child is accused of an act that would be a crime for an adult.

Unruly offenses, such as school truancy and incorrigibility, which only children can commit.

Abuse, neglect, and dependency cases

Juvenile traffic offenses

Juvenile protection orders

Judicial bypass of parental notification of abortion

Certain adult offenses, such as interference with custody (this jurisdiction is concurrent with adult court, which means the charge could be brought in either court).

Our focus today is on juvenile delinquency cases, such as the *Gault* case. The steps of a delinquency case are listed below in simplified form. Aspects of the juvenile system such as the differences between the adult and juvenile systems, what diversion programs are available, how trials are conducted, and what dispositions the court can choose between, will be discussed more fully later.

How a typical delinquency case in Franklin County, Ohio, proceeds upon arrest:

Arrest occurs.

In most Franklin County police jurisdictions, the arresting officer contacts the Juvenile Detention Center by phone, upon which JDC staff use a Risk Assessment Instrument to obtain a numerical score, which determines whether the child is to be detained. The score is based on factors such as the level of offense, use of a weapon, the age of the child, and the child's prior record with the court.

If the child scores above an established number, JDC staff instruct the officer to bring the child to the juvenile detention center where he or she will be detained until preliminary hearing. If the score is below the established number, the child is taken to the juvenile

reception center, a separate facility, where parents are contacted to pick the child up. In these cases, a summons to court will be issued.

The officer files charges.

If the child is detained in the detention center, a preliminary hearing is scheduled for the next business day.

If the family has not retained counsel, representation is provided by a lawyer with the Franklin County Public Defender's office or a court appointed lawyer for the preliminary hearing. The child and parent receive a copy of the complaint.

The court determines sufficient information to proceed on the offense. If there is not sufficient information, the charge is dismissed. Lack of sufficient information might be found for a defect in the complaint, such as lack of notarization, or an essential element of the offense not alleged. There is also a requirement that the supporting documentation, often a police report, does not meet a standard of probable cause.

An admission or denial to the charge is entered by counsel, or the offense may be amended by the prosecutor after negotiation, then admitted. The court reviews the need for detention. The child may be detained, released to a parent, or released to Franklin County Children's Services for placement.

The case is set for adjudication, if denied, or disposition, if admitted. Occasionally disposition is done at the preliminary hearing, but rarely for felony offenses which scored high enough for detention.

If the case has not resolved through plea or dismissal, it is set for trial.

Trial occurs, which results in a finding of delinquency if the case is proven or a dismissal if the prosecutor does not prove the charge beyond a reasonable doubt. Trial court decisions are subject to appeal.

If the child is found delinquent, a pre-dispositional social investigation or other assessment may be ordered by the court for consideration in disposition.

Disposition is made.

Many cases, usually involving relatively minor offenses, do not involve arrest and proceed as follows:

A complaint is filed, either by a private party or by police.

A summons containing a copy of the complaint and notice of the preliminary hearing is issued to the child and parent.

The case is screened for diversion into informal proceedings.

If not diverted, further proceedings occur as above, starting with the preliminary hearing and proceeding through trial and disposition.

As we see from the above procedures, Franklin County Juvenile Court avoids the constitutional problems the U. S. Supreme found in the *Gault* case by providing at least minimal process due. The court does this by providing written notice of the complaint to the child and parent, the opportunity to be present and to be heard, the right to counsel, the opportunity for trial, including the right to confront witnesses and to remain silent, and the right to appellate review. As we see in Gerald Gault's story, he and his parents were denied all of these rights.

Diversion

According to the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Division of Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branch website, there are currently three diversion programs in which offenders can be afforded the chance to avoid a record from a delinquency complaint. These are as follows:

Teen court

Juvenile victim/offender mediation

Juvenile restorative justice program

Information about these programs is attached. These programs are generally restricted to first time misdemeanor cases or unruly cases. Thus, diversion, and specifically the Juvenile Restorative Justice program are very limited in the number of cases that qualify for such treatment.

In addition to the above court programs, the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office has a felony diversion program. This program, which emphasizes restitution, is solely at the discretion of the Prosecutor's Office. Prosecutors are also sometimes consulted about the above diversion programs, and may object to a juvenile entering diversion.

Differences in adult and juvenile courts:

Juvenile courts are designed to be less formal and more flexible than adult courts.

In some cases, children are treated with less punitive dispositions, however, especially with more minor offenses, a child may be treated more harshly than an adult with a similar offense.

Juveniles have fewer rights-

No right to grand jury indictment on felonies.

No right to jury trial.
 No right to bond
 No statutory speedy trial right
 Shackled routinely as opposed to adults.
 Alford pleas not available.
 Attorney may not be waived in many instances.

Trial issues:

Trials in Juvenile Court are conducted similarly to trials in adult court with some exceptions:

There is no jury. A judge or magistrate hears the case and decides both legal issues and is the finder of fact.

A parent or custodian must attend the trial along with the child, unless waived.

The court may not proceed without an attorney for the child in the following instances: bind-over cases, serious youthful offender cases, where there is a conflict between the child and parent or guardian, or any felony case.

Available juvenile delinquency dispositions:

Misdemeanors

- 90 days in the Juvenile Detention Center
- Probation
- Community service
- Fines
- Driver's license suspension or prohibition on application for a license
- Orders to stay away from persons, places or things
- Orders of custody or protective supervision to Franklin County Children's Services
- Restitution
- Orders to cooperate with programming such as anger management or substance abuse counseling.

Felonies

All orders available for misdemeanors

Commitment to the Ohio Department of Youth Services, for a period not to exceed the child's twenty-first birthday. Commitment is mandatory for some offences, especially some offences involving the use of a weapon.

Certain sexual offences may require registration as a Juvenile Sexual Offender. This can extend beyond the child's twenty-first birthday, including life-time registration.

Serious Youthful Offenders: blended juvenile and adult sentences. Entitles the child to a jury trial.

Bind overs: transfer from juvenile to adult court. Once bound over, the child is treated as an adult for purposes of trial and sentencing.

The Franklin County Juvenile Court and Restorative Processes

As we see from the section on diversion, there is a Juvenile Restorative Justice Program which follows restorative justice theory, however this is a limited program. As a defense attorney, I cannot speak to the number or percentage of cases that are diverted before I get the case because, by definition when I get the case, it is out of diversion and into the formal system. Both the Restorative Justice Program and mediation programs would appear to apply the concepts of conference and circles, but are limited in scope.

After a case is rejected, or many times, never considered, for diversion, it enters the formal court system, as described above. There are still some opportunities for the application of restorative principles, but in my experience the system is conducted in an authoritarian manner not conducive to restorative processes. The court uses written victim impact statements for disposition and victims are informed of hearings by the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office so they may attend hearings and speak to the court if they wish. But the underlying principles are those of authority from the bench and statements by victims. The emphasis is often on economic damage and there is little engagement between victims and offenders once a case enters the formal system. I have watched, countless times, my client, shackled and in prison garb, ordered to stand and offer an apology to the victim of his or her crime. This is the sum total of interaction between the victim and offender, in many cases.

Hot topics:

Shackling: leg restraints and hand restraints with belly chains used routinely in Franklin County on all children brought to court from the detention center.

Juvenile detention center conditions of confinement: this includes cold temperatures, reports of inadequate food and resultant fights among children for food, and use of solitary confinement for periods of up to five days for punishment.

Lack of diversionary opportunities for Columbus youth as opposed to suburban youth.

Use of expensive competency attainment services, especially for minor offenses.
The school to prison pipeline. See the attached statistics for suspensions from Columbus City Schools.

Lack of evidence based practices regarding safety of the community, recidivism, and damage to children.



MEET THE JUDGES
 OUR MISSION STATEMENT
 LOCAL RULES
 ASSIGNMENT
 DOMESTIC RELATIONS
 JUVENILE BRANCH
 JUVENILE DET. CENTER
 COURT ADMINISTRATION
 HUMAN RESOURCES
 GENERAL INFORMATION
 COURT FORMS
 DRIVING DIRECTIONS/
 LOCATION MAPS
 LINKS
 EMPLOYEE EMAIL LOGIN
 DOMESTIC / JUVENILE
 APPOINTED COUNSEL

Franklin County Juvenile Court Juvenile Restorative Justice Program

The Restorative Justice Circles follow the restorative justice theory, which is based on the premise of accountability to the victim and the community. These circles provide juveniles with the opportunity to repair the harm done to their victims and to make a positive contribution to their own community. First-time juvenile misdemeanor offenders are referred to the program from the Family Assessment Intake/Diversion Unit. Youth referred by the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office to the Intake/Diversion Unit are first scheduled to appear, with their parent or guardian before and Intake/Diversion Officer. Once assessed, the diverted youth may be referred from traditional court to the Restorative Justice Program for participation in a Community Restorative Circle (CRC).

The Community Restorative Circles are comprised of a small group of community stakeholders who aim to target the problems of the youth involved by developing a holistic understanding of the juvenile as well as the circumstances that led to the offense. Whenever possible the victim and their family will be involved in the circles as well in order to give the victim a voice. The community volunteers, systems and others involved in the circle work to develop a comprehensive and collaborative plan of action that will address the specific problem areas of the youth attending the program. The Restorative Justice Diversion Coordinator then monitors the youth's progress. Successful completion of this diversion process can result in the youth not having a formal court record.

For more information on Restorative Justice Circles contact:

Rachelle Randolph,
Juvenile Restorative Justice Diversion Coordinator at:
614-525-3130 or RJ_Circles@fccourts.org



- MEET THE JUDGES
- OUR MISSION STATEMENT
- LOCAL RULES
- ASSIGNMENT
- DOMESTIC RELATIONS
- JUVENILE BRANCH
- JUVENILE DET. CENTER
- COURT ADMINISTRATION
- HUMAN RESOURCES
- GENERAL INFORMATION
- COURT FORMS
- DRIVING DIRECTIONS/
LOCATION MAPS
- LINKS
- EMPLOYEE EMAIL LOGIN
- DOMESTIC / JUVENILE
APPOINTED COUNSEL

Juvenile Victim / Offender Mediation Program

What Is Mediation?

Mediation is a process in which a neutral third person (the mediator) facilitates resolutions between individuals involved in a conflict. The mediator does not determine guilt or innocence nor does he/she determine who "wins" or "loses".

Have Formal Charges Been Filed?

In most instances, the case comes to the Mediation Services Department while it is still at an informal stage. That is, a complaint has been brought to Juvenile Court but no formal charges have been filed.

Why Mediate?

The purpose of mediation is to give the participants the opportunity to solve the conflict themselves with the assistance of the mediator.

The mediator does not make any decisions for the participants but is there to help the participants come to an agreement that works for of them.

How Does Mediation Work?

The Mediation process begins when Mediation Services receives a case referral from either a court official, a prosecutor, a judge, or a magistrate. The coordinator schedules the case and mails notices to the parties explaining that mediation has been scheduled. Telephone contact is then made with the parties to explain the process, answer any questions, and address any pre-mediation concerns.

On the day of the mediation, all participants come to the Mediation Services Department on the 3rd Floor at 373 S. High Street to meet with the mediator. The mediator begins by explaining the mediation process and laying grounds rules for the discussions. Each person is given an opportunity to be heard and to respond to the others at the mediation table.

Each person relates his/her perspective of what happened and answers questions about the incident. As needed during a session, participants may meet individually with the mediator. The mediator assists the participants in generating and exploring options to resolve issues in a mutually agreeable way. If the participants can come to terms on a resolution, the agreement is written by the mediator and signed by the participants. Each participant receives a copy of the signed agreement.

What about Confidentiality?

Everything that is said during a mediation session is confidential. Neither the mediator nor the mediator's notes can be subpoenaed to Court. However, by law, mediators are required to report any new allegations of abuse, neglect, or threat of bodily harm to a child.

How Long Will Mediation Take?

The mediation session will last anywhere from 1-3 hours, depending on the issues that are being mediated. The participants may meet for only one session or may be asked to return for additional sessions.

The Mediated Agreement

Any agreement that is reached must be voluntary on the part of all of the participants. In other words, no agreement will be signed unless all of the participants are satisfied with all statements contained in the agreement.

What if No Agreement Is Reached?

If no agreement is reached, the case will be returned to the Family Assessment Department or to the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office.

Remember: If the issues are given to the Court to decide, the parties are no longer in control of what happens with the case.

Comments from Victim Offender Mediation Participants:

"I think this helped a lot"

-Juvenile Offender

"This experience has instilled a sense of responsibility and compromise in my son."

- Parent

"I felt the mediation was helpful and insightful. I felt I was heard and understood."

- Victim

For more information, contact:

Barbara Dixon
Coordinator,
Juvenile Mediation Program
Office of Mediation Services
373 S. High St., 3rd floor
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 525-4698
Fax: (614) 525-3748
E-mail: Barbara_Dixon @fccourts.org

**Juvenile Victim - Offender Mediation Program
Administration Web Page**



[MEET THE JUDGES](#)
[OUR MISSION STATEMENT](#)
[LOCAL RULES](#)
[ASSIGNMENT](#)
[DOMESTIC RELATIONS](#)
[JUVENILE BRANCH](#)
[JUVENILE DET. CENTER](#)
[COURT ADMINISTRATION](#)
[HUMAN RESOURCES](#)
[GENERAL INFORMATION](#)
[COURT FORMS](#)
[DRIVING DIRECTIONS/
LOCATION MAPS](#)
[LINKS](#)
[EMPLOYEE EMAIL LOGIN](#)
[DOMESTIC / JUVENILE
APPOINTED COUNSEL](#)

TEEN COURT

A first-time offender diversion program

Leon Randle

Teen Court Coordinator
 373 South High St., 4th Floor
 Columbus, OH 43215
 614-525-3542

E-mail: Leon_Randle@fccourts.org

Teen Court has been used as a diversion program for first time unruly and misdemeanor offenders. It continues to be a viable diversion program for first-time non-violent offenders.

Helping teens accept responsibility for their actions and holding them accountable for their offense is the first step in changing illegal behavior. Teen Court provides education and early intervention for the first-time offender with the intervention giving teens the knowledge to make better choices and decisions, avoiding further Court contact.

Teen Court utilizes peer pressure in a unique manner. Teens, having admitted their involvement to various charges, receive their sentencing from other teens. Teen defendants in turn, serve as jurors, attorneys or bailiffs in the cases of other teens. This provides teens with the opportunity to impact other peers in a productive and positive way by imposing appropriate and fair dispositions (sentences).

TEEN COURT PHILOSOPHY

The Teen Court philosophy is simple. Teen Court is a community-based, Court-operated intervention program designed to provide an alternative response from the juvenile justice system for the first-time offender.

Defendants later become participants in the Teen Court process dispensing appropriate dispositions for other youthful offenders.

Teen Court holds juvenile offenders accountable and provides educational enlightenment for the youth into the juvenile justice

system. It is with this information and knowledge that the youthful offender becomes better equipped to make better life choices, change negative behaviors and leads to the enhancement of public safety.

WHO CAN ATTEND TEEN COURT?

Youth referred by a Juvenile Court Magistrate or by the Family Assessment Department:

- with a charge filed against them.
 - who is a first-time offender.
 - who is between the ages of 11 and 17 at the time of the offense.
 - who admits involvement with the offense.
 - who has parental or guardian consent.
 - who can commit to participate in a 5-week program serving as a Juror, Attorney or Bailiff (one night a week for 2 1/2 hours) as a condition of the sentencing process.
-

WHERE AND WHEN IS TEEN COURT HELD?

Teen Court is held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the Juvenile Court hearing rooms at 399 S. Front Street, Columbus, Ohio, between the hours of 5:30 - 8 pm.

WHO MAKES UP TEEN COURT?

Teen Court is made up of youth who would have been defendants in the traditional Juvenile Justice System.

The actual hearings are conducted by teenagers with an adult coordinator overseeing the process, as well as adults who preside over the hearings.

WHAT ARE TEEN COURT SENTENCING OPTIONS?

Sentences may involve any combination of the following:

- an apology to a victim or parents.
- community service.
- an essay on a topic determined by the jury.
- a research paper regarding the law that was broken.

In addition to the jury sentence, the defendant is required to serve on the jury or in some other capacity in Teen Court for a 5-week period. Teen Court continues to explore new and appropriate dispositional alternatives.

**Teen Court
Administration Web Page**

COLUMBUS CITY, OH (2009-2010)

Suspension Rate K-12 for All Students: 23.3%

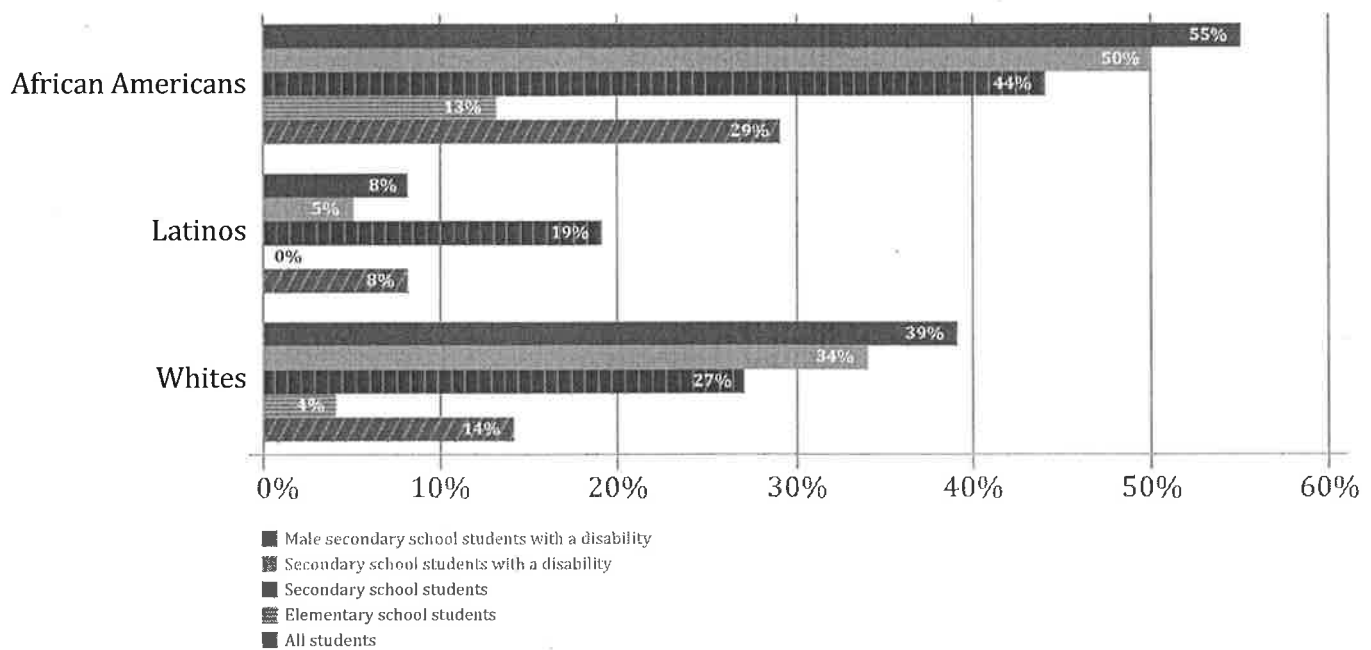
Suspension Rate for All Secondary School Students: 38.3%

Number of Students Suspended One or More Times: 12,180

Number of Secondary School Students Suspended One or More Times: 9,605

saggregation by school level, race, and disability status reveals profound disparities in the risk for out of school suspensions. The graph below and detailed tables that follow describe deep disparities along the lines of race, gender, disability status, and English learner status that are much greater at the secondary school level than at the elementary school level.

Figure 1. Risk for Suspension at the Elementary and Secondary Levels By Selected Subgroups



In Columbus City, the risk for suspension grew from elementary to secondary school as follows: 23 points for Whites; 19 points for Latinos; and 31 points for Black students. However, for Whites and Blacks it was males with disabilities enrolled at the secondary level that were most at risk for suspension.

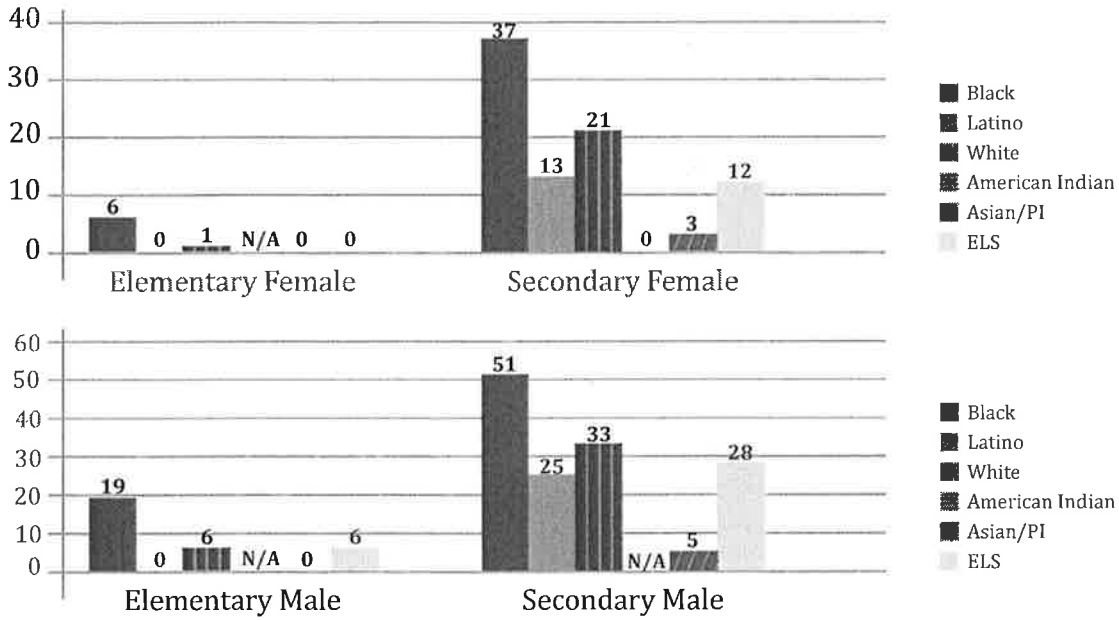
Table 1. Students With Disabilities Compared to Students Without Disabilities by Race and School Level

Columbus City	Elementary School Students Without Disabilities	Elementary School Students With Disabilities	Secondary School Students Without Disabilities	Secondary School Students With Disabilities
White	3%	6%	26%	34%
Latino	0%	0%	21%	5%
Black	12%	19%	43%	50%

Note: All numbers rounded to the nearest whole number; only included if 100 students enrolled in subgroup were enrolled.

In Columbus City, the gap between Black and White students ranged between 9 points for elementary students without disabilities to 16 points for students with disabilities at the secondary level.

Figure 2. Percentage of Enrolled Subgroup Suspended at Least Once by Race and English Learner Status (ELS) with Gender by School Level



Note: All numbers rounded to the nearest whole number.

The graph shows a steep rise in the risk for suspension at the secondary level in Columbus City that is especially large for Black, White, and Latino male students. Most notable is that half of Black male secondary students are suspended at least once. Second, there is an increase in suspension rates for English learners, male and female, when elementary and secondary rates are compared, but it's far greater for English learner males. More than one in four male English learners were suspended at least once in Columbus City. Finally, Black females at the secondary level were suspended at a higher rate than any subgroup of secondary male students except Blacks.

Hot Spot and Lower-Suspending Secondary Schools in Columbus City:

Research has indicated that profound differences in the rates of suspension can be found at the school level within the same district. The second and third columns in the chart below show the number of secondary schools in Columbus City that suspended 25% or more and 50% or more of any subgroup by race/ethnicity, gender, disability status, or English learner status. The fourth column shows the number of schools that suspended 25% of their total enrollment without disaggregation and the last column shows the number of schools that did not suspend more than 10% of any subgroup.

Table 2. Number of Hot Spots and Lower-Suspending Secondary Schools for All Groups in Columbus City

Number of Secondary Schools	Suspended Any Group Over 25%	Suspended any group Over 50%	All Student Rate Over 25%	Suspended No Group Over 10%
45	40	21	35	2

- 35 secondary schools in Columbus City suspended over 25% of their student body in the aggregate.
- The majority of Columbus City's secondary schools (40) suspended at least one subgroup at that high rate.
- Of these, 21 secondary schools suspended at least one subgroup at a rate of 50% of their total enrollment.
- There were two low suspending schools where not one subgroup experienced a suspension rate above 10%.
- This analysis did not look at race with disability with gender at the secondary school level.

Where to find out more about Columbus City or other school districts: The information in these charts are available for every school district that reported its data to OCR in 2009-10. For your convenience we have provided a two-page analysis like that of Columbus City above for 20 large districts representing every region of the United States.

The full set of analyzed data on every district OCR collected data from in 2009-10 are available via the spreadsheets posted (along with instructions) on our website. The excel sheet allows users to sort and filter by all the indicators represented in these graphs and tables, and also to compare district data to districts within each state or across the nation. Much of this information will soon be available by using a web tool on our website that will allow for some degree of comparison. Additional data on school discipline, for 2011-12, that is otherwise identical to the raw data analyzed for this report can be obtained by filing a Freedom of Information Act request with your school district.