**School District Demographics**

Total Student Population: 160,095

- White: 46.4%
- Black: 23%
- Hispanic: 17.7%
- Asian: 8.8%
- Pacific Islander: 0.1%
- Multi-Racial: 3.7%
- American Indian: 0.3%

**In Wake County Public School System (WCPSS)...**

- **2.3X** Black students were **2.3x less likely** than their White peers to be sufficiently prepared to score “College and Career Ready” on End of Grade (EOG) and End of Course (EOC) exams.

- **6.5X** Black students were **6.5x more likely** to be given a suspension than their White peers.

- **6X** Black students were **6x more likely** than their White peers to be referred to court or a diversion program from a School Resource Officer (SRO).

**Opportunity Gaps in WCPSS**

- Black students and Hispanic students were over **2x less likely** than their White peers to demonstrate College & Career readiness.

- Students with disabilities*(SWD) were over **3x less likely** than the overall student body to demonstrate College & Career readiness.

- English Learner students were **2.4x less likely** and economically disadvantaged students **2x less likely** than the overall student body to demonstrate College & Career readiness.

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Demographics, achievement and discipline data from this fact sheet was obtained from “Reports and Statistics” reports made public on the NC Department of Public Instruction’s website ([http://www.ncpublicschools.org/data/reports/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/data/reports/)). Data related to SRO referrals was obtained from Wake County public records requests on file with authors.

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**School Discipline**

**Suspensions for Students with Disabilities**

- **Black students** were 6.5x more likely to be given a suspension than their White peers. Even though Black students made up just 23% of the WCPSS student body, they were given 58% of total suspensions.

- Students with disabilities were 3.5x more likely to be given a suspension than students without disabilities. Of the total number of students with disabilities who were given a suspension, 59% were Black.

**% of Suspensions by Race**

- **Black** 58%
- **Hispanic** 18%
- **White** 18%
- **Other** 6%

**School Policing**

**AT A GLANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Number of SRO Referrals to court or a diversion program</th>
<th>513</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of total SRO referrals given to students of color</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of youth sent to Adult Criminal Court</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**% SRO Referrals by Race**

- **White**
  - % SRO Referrals: 21.6
  - % Student Body: 46.4

- **Hispanic**
  - % SRO Referrals: 13.8
  - % Student Body: 17.7

- **Black**
  - % SRO Referrals: 23
  - % Student Body: 63.5

**In WCPSS:**

There are 73 School Resource Officers (SROs) that patrol 69 middle and high schools.

- Black students were 6x more likely than their White peers to be given an SRO referral, despite being only 23% of the student body population.

- Percentage of SRO referrals to adult court increased in 2017-18, while percentage of referrals to diversion programs decreased.

- Of the students charged with affray by SROs, 91% were Black. Of the students charged with disorderly conduct, 77% were Black.

**Spotlight: Alternative Schools & Disciplinary Reassignment**

In the WCPSS, students may be disciplinarily reassigned to SCORE Academy or Connections Academy following school-based conduct that would otherwise trigger a long-term suspension recommendation. Longview School is another alternative school where students can be transferred by an IEP team due to behavioral issues. A student who is disciplinarily reassigned is not counted as long-term suspended. Although Longview, SCORE Academy & Connections Academy are often presented as therapeutic alternatives, student outcomes raise significant concerns:

- 93.4% of Score & Connections students did not demonstrate grade level proficiency on English and Math EOGs & EOCs.

- Connections students were given suspensions at a rate that was 29x the district average & referred to law enforcement at a rate 64x the district average.

- 97.5% of Longview students did not demonstrate grade level proficiency on English & Math EOGs.

- Longview students were given suspensions at the rate 30x the district average & referred students to law enforcement at a rate 228x the district average.