

## Response to Questions Regarding Discipline

*1. DuPage Co Sheriff Mendrick has a community diverse task force made up of officers who have conducted many hours of listening sessions and are actively working on a meaningful training to address racial bias. I'm wondering if DG police has a similar initiative.*

*If so, could you talk about this?*

The Downers Grove Police Department is conducting a survey to determine the concerns and views of our citizens and how the police can best serve the needs of the community. **The survey will remain open through August 31, 2020.** Please click the link to access the survey.

[Citizen Survey](#)

*2. It is a common practice in D99 not to have a parent present but the officer and the Dean and call the parents afterwards. Why is this still happening in D99 after Corey's Law passed? What steps are taken so parents do not need to have a contentious interaction with school personnel when asking about the incident. It's disturbing that an officer and dean can push -not physically- a young high schedule student To doubt her/his own motives and actions.*

[Public Act 101-0478](#) requires schools to make a reasonable effort to ensure that the student's parent or guardian is present during questioning or, if the parent or guardian is not present, ensure that school personnel, including, but not limited to, a school social worker, a school psychologist, a school health professional, are present during the questioning. The Act does not limit the authority of a law enforcement officer to make an arrest on school grounds and does not apply to incidents in which the law enforcement officer is acting to prevent bodily harm or injury to themselves or another individual, prevent the destruction of evidence, or to address an emergency or other dangerous situation.

It is not common practice in D99 for a police officer to question a student without a parent present or without having obtained consent. Deans, School Resource Officers, Lead Security Officers, and the Associate Principals for Staff and Students have been formally trained on how to apply this law within our schools.

*3. There is a disconnection with the officers at the school and the families. If student behavior was found appropriate, officer at the high school is not willing to talk with parents about next steps. Officers suggest parents to pay a fine, which is wrong because student was cleared by the school.*

We are unaware of any disconnect between our School Resource Officers and families. School Resource Officers regularly discuss next steps with parents. If a family should have a different experience or situation in which they feel that the SRO has not satisfactorily communicated, we would ask that they notify the Associate Principal for Staff and Students at the respective school.

*4. D99 has been in the top 5 districts of the State for out-of school suspensions of minorities for a couple of years. This coming year, all those suspensions will be in-school. Are these suspensions handled with the officers at the high school? How are the school and the officers working towards diminishing their racial bias in an effective and measurable way?*

It is inaccurate that D99 has been in the top 5 districts of the state for disproportionate representation of students of color in exclusionary discipline. We have, however, been identified as being in the top 20 percent in the state. Yet, we have one of the lower number of out of school suspensions overall.

Suspensions are assigned by District 99 deans, not police officers. District 99 is providing equity and inclusion training for all staff members throughout the District with a current focus on restorative practices. We have revised our Student Handbook to reflect changes and eliminate zero tolerance policies. Additionally, we have developed an alternative to suspension program intended to provide interventions to support students while also reducing the number and length of suspensions.