

Summary of Arlington School Committee/Arlington Human Rights Commission Joint  
Subcommittee  
Discussed and approved March 3, 2016

The Joint Subcommittee of the Arlington School Committee and Arlington Human Rights Commission agree that the work to look at whether there is disproportionality in the rates of suspension experienced by students of color in the Arlington Public Schools has been concluded. While the Subcommittee discussed many other issues over the course of our work together, we agreed that the goal of the Subcommittee needed to be our only focus. After meeting five times our conclusion is that, while there is a higher rate of suspension for students of color than white students, it is similar to the rates seen in comparable communities. Our examination of the number of students from group homes located in Arlington that were suspended contributed to the higher proportion of suspended students of color. The Arlington Public Schools has in place a program that supports and educates students from group homes in their transition to Arlington High School. Since the implementation of the program, the number of out of school suspensions has decreased. As we know, these students come to us with serious social and emotional needs.

We would like to thank the School Administration for the sharing of data and anecdotal information, and participation in this process. While we believe there is more work to be done to make sure all students' needs are addressed and to make the Arlington Public Schools a more welcoming environment for all students, much has already occurred and we expect that this work will continue.