

# Is the Deck Stacked Against Students With Disabilities?

In the 2011-2012 school year, secondary students with disabilities were nearly

**2x**  
as likely

to receive an out-of-school suspension than students without disabilities.

Of all students receiving out-of-school suspensions,

**68%**

had disabilities

**32%**

did not

## Students with disabilities represented:

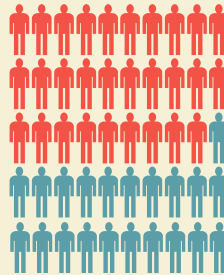
**12%**

of the total student population



**58%**

of those placed in seclusion



**75%**

of those physically restrained at school



## The situation intensifies when race is added to the mix:

**1** in **4** & **1** in **5**  
boys of color with disabilities & girls of color with disabilities

receive an out-of-school suspension

**85%**

of incarcerated youth in 2011 had disabilities that would make them eligible for special education services.

“ Administrators don’t suspend kids because they love kicking kids out of school.

It happens because they don’t know what else to do. ”

## What can be done?

The inclusion of disabled students in regular classrooms with “typical” students benefits the disabled students, but **teachers need to be equipped to meet the needs of both groups**—often they are not.

Discipline is an issue of teacher training and how individual districts choose to address discipline among their disabled students.

Take action in your community to advocate for awareness and change!

