

What happens in a:  
**REACTIVE SCHOOL**

What should happen in a:  
**TRAUMA-SENSITIVE SCHOOL**

“Identified skill, knowledge, and belief gaps that led to reactive schools:

Behavior management gap

School policy & admin gap

Belief & attitude gap

Local & state policy gap

Juvenile justice issue:  
Policy Gap  
Advocacy Gap

- Student seen as **defiant**

- Teacher tries to **discipline student**

**ESCALATION**  
No intermediary school response for de-escalation

- Student perceived as **violent**

- Police called, and **student arrested**

**LONG-TERM EFFECTS**

Student now has record

Misses instructional time

Stressful + traumatic for student and family

**STUDENT ACTS OUT**

**TEACHER RESPONSE**

**ADMIN & STATE RESPONSE**

**OUTCOME**

- Attempt to **redirect behavior**

**ESCALATION**  
Progress up continuum

or

**SUCCESS**  
Student calms down

- Student needs to **go cool off**

**DE-ESCALATION**  
Student brought to a safe space to cool off

- If medical attention required, **bring in nurse, counselor, or call caregiver**

**RESTORATIVE DISCUSSION:**

What happened?  
(ID Potential Triggers)

Who was affected and how?

How can we mediate the situation?

student and teacher decide together how to move forward

# RACIAL EQUITY IMPLICATIONS

1

A black student is more likely to be perceived as defiant, and held to a higher standard of behavior at a younger age

Studies show that black students are “adultified” at younger ages (perceived as being less innocent, more responsible for their actions)

Sources: <https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2014/03/black-boys-older>  
<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/news/researchconfirms-that-black-girls-feel-the-sting-of-adultificationbias-identified-in-earlier-georgetown-law-study/>

2

Black students will then be punished more harshly for these perceived behavioral problems

Studies show that black students face harsher punishment than other students regardless of school type, rate of poverty, or type of punishment

Source: <https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/4/5/17199810/school-discipline-race-racism-gao>

3

If there are police officers in the school, the likelihood of arrest and commitment increases, and arrest rates are higher for black children

Black students are more likely than white students to be arrested for the same types of offenses

Source: <https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/racialdisparities-in-youth-commitments-and-arrests/>

4

Black children are more likely to be committed than white children, setting them up for a legal record creating a school-to-prison pipeline

Research shows that black children are more likely to be committed for delinquency offenses (essentially charged in the juvenile justice system) than white children

Source: <https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/racialdisparities-in-youth-commitments-and-arrests/>

## USEFUL RESOURCES FOR CREATING TRAUMA-SENSITIVE SCHOOLS:

- **What could it look like?:**

<https://youtu.be/yvXrmi5kbi0>

- **Are we a trauma-sensitive school? (checklist):**

<http://www.lesley.edu/sites/default/files/2017-06/trauma-sensitive-school-checklist.pdf>

- **How does trauma affect the brain, body, and behavior of children? What is the impact on learning?**

<https://hrl.nyc/node/trauma-importance-educators>

- **Trauma-sensitivity 101 online training:**

<https://hrl.nyc/node/online-trainings>