

# Students, Advocates, Parents, Know Your Rights!

## Searched At School?

\*School officials and school resource officers (SROs) must have reasonable suspicion to search you, meaning there must be specific facts that give them a good reason to think you have something that is illegal, or banned from school property.

\*Your lockers can be searched at any time & for any reason, but your personal belongings inside the locker cannot be searched unless there is a reason to think that something illegal or forbidden is present



## Physical force used?

\*If school officials or officers use physical force against a student, the parent or guardian must be notified by the end of the following workday.

\*If force is used against you, stay calm. Do not fight or resist. After the encounter is over, write down everything you can remember, including the officer's name, witnesses' names, and any details. Take pictures of injuries.

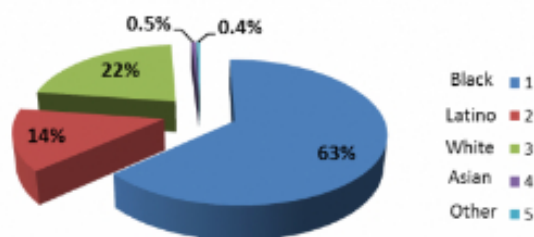
## WCPSS 2017-18 Demographics: Black (23%) White (46%) Latino (18%)

\*Black students received 91% of the affray (fighting) charges

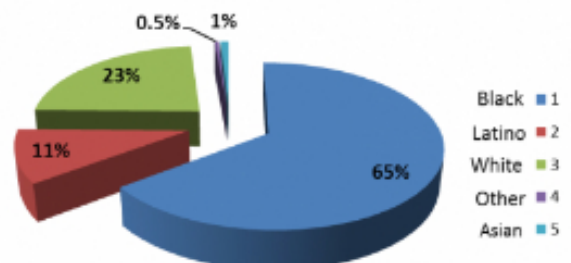
\*Black students received 77% of the disorderly conduct charges

\*Black students received 67% of the trespass charges

Students Charged with Criminal Offenses



Adult Court Referrals by Race



## Questioned At School?

\*School officials and school resource officers cannot use threats to pressure you to give statements related to criminal matters.

\* You don't have to talk to an officer. If you are stopped, ask if you are free to leave. If so, leave.

\*If you are arrested, or told that you cannot leave, tell the officer that you want to remain silent. Ask for a parent or guardian. Do not answer any questions until they arrive.

\*Students under 14 cannot be interrogated unless a parent or guardian is present.

## Filming the Police

\*You can record or take pictures of anything in plain view in a public space, INCLUDING THE POLICE, as long as you do not interfere with their work

\*Officers cannot take, or demand to see your pictures or video without a warrant

## What can you do?

- 1) If you're a parent or an advocate who wants to help change problems in the school system, contact the Education Justice Alliance at [educationjusticealliance@gmail.com](mailto:educationjusticealliance@gmail.com)
- 2) If your child has been suspended or discriminated against at school, contact Legal Aid of NC, 1-866-219-5262
- 3) Submit complaints regarding individual SROs to Russ Smith, Senior Director for Security, [rsmith1@wcpss.net](mailto:rsmith1@wcpss.net)