

SUPPORTING MISSISSIPPI STUDENTS: THE CHOICE

Our schools are understaffed with key support resources

- 61% of Mississippi students attend schools with police.
- 60% of Mississippi students are in schools without enough counselors.

Mental Health Professionals in Mississippi: Recommended vs Actual Students-to-Staff Ratios

	RECOMMENDED RADIO	MS REALITY
Counselors	250: 1	432: 1
Psychologists	700: 1	N/A
Nurses	750: 1	942: 1
Social Workers	250: 1	4,956: 1



Our schools are falling short of providing even the most minimal recommended levels of student support.

BLACK STUDENTS

in Mississippi are as likely to be arrested as white students.

4X

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

in Mississippi are nearly as likely to be arrested as white students.

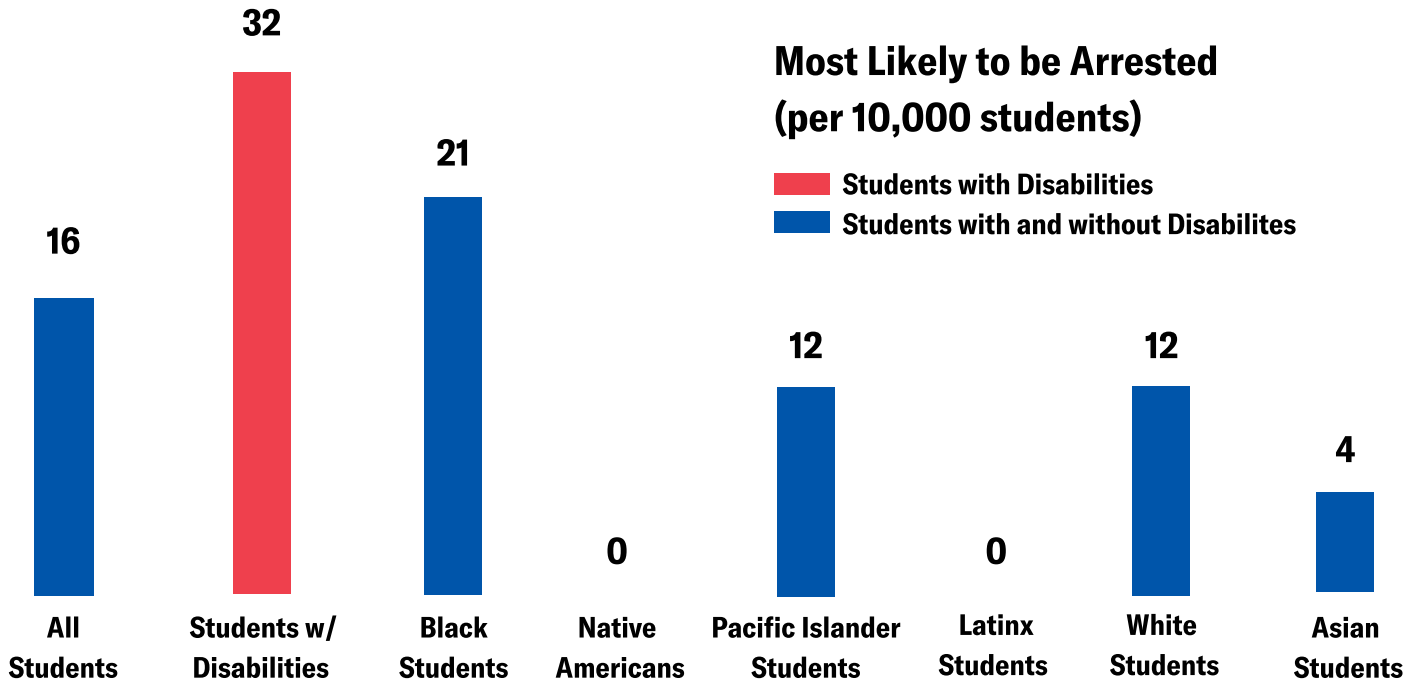
2.5X



WHO IS MOST AFFECTED IN MISSISSIPPI?

Student Arrest Rates

All data provided by U.S. Department of Education, 2015-2016 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC)



Student Support Recommendations for Schools

- Increase funding for student support services, including mental health staffing and programming.
- Provide equal protection for students, ensuring school discipline and law enforcement involvement is administrated fairly.
- Ensure that law enforcement officers are provided with comprehensive and appropriate training.
- Adopt school codes of conduct that reject zero tolerance policies for more appropriate, child centered response to challenge behavior.
- End school arrests and law enforcement referrals that criminalize youth for common adolescent behavior, including misdemeanors like disorderly conduct.

See ACLU Report:

Cops and No Counselors: How the Lack of School Mental Health Staff is Harming Students

www.aclu.org/copsandnocounselors



For more information, email office@aclu-ms.org