The Civil Rights Data Collection gathers and publishes key information about access to educational opportunities and school climate from public schools (K-12 through 12th grade) in all 50 states, D.C., and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The CRDC defines corporal punishment as paddling, spanking, or other forms of physical punishment imposed on a child. The data reported in this fact sheet is for K-12 students.*

### THE FACTS

From 2013-14 to 2017-18, the number of students reported to receive corporal punishment decreased by 34.5%.

#### By sex of student, 2017-18

- Boys were 4.0 times more likely than girls to receive corporal punishment.

#### By race/ethnicity of student, 2017-18

- Black students received corporal punishment more than twice their rate of enrollment.
- American Indian or Alaska Native students received corporal punishment almost twice their rate of enrollment.

#### Statistics for special education

- Students with disabilities served under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) were overrepresented in receipt of corporal punishment.
- In 2017-18, 16.5% of students who received corporal punishment were served under IDEA.

### STATE LAW ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOLS

28 states, D.C., and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ban corporal punishment in schools. The majority of students who received corporal punishment were in the southern United States: Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Texas.

### Further Information

More information on corporal punishment and other civil rights data is available at https://ocrdata.ed.gov. The entire Focus on Student Discipline series can be found at: https://ocrdata.ed.gov/resources/datareports.

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For requests for documents in alternate formats such as Braille or large print, please contact the Department at 202-260-0852 or om_eeos@ed.gov.

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*For information about preschool students who received corporal punishment please visit the CRDC 2017-18 State and National Estimates’ preschool discipline tab.