

SCHOOL POLICING IN HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

A Look at African American and Hispanic Youth in Harris County



TEXAS CRIMINAL
JUSTICE COALITION

INTRODUCTION: PROBATION REFERRALS AND DISPROPORTIONALITY

In 2016, the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department (HCJPD) received 11,457 referrals from various referring agencies. Only 13 of the total 36 referring agencies were public K-12 entities with independent police departments, yet these 13 agencies accounted for almost 87% of all referrals to HCJPD in 2016.

In a 2015 paper, Texas Appleseed and Texans Care for Children reported that, statewide, African American youth were referred to juvenile probation for school-related offenses at a rate 2.86 times higher than their Caucasian peers, and Hispanic youth were referred at a rate 1.87 higher. In Harris County specifically, African American youth are on average 4.25 times more likely to be referred to HCJPD than their Caucasian peers, and Hispanic youth are on average 2.8 times more likely to be referred.

HARRIS COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (ISD) DATA REVIEW

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Aldine ISD* | 5. Houston ISD* | 8. Pasadena ISD* |
| 2. Alief ISD | 6. Katy ISD | 9. Spring ISD* |
| 3. Cypress Fairbanks ISD* | 7. Klein ISD* | 10. Spring Branch ISD |
| 4. Goose Creek ISD* | | |

All focused ISDs have a total student enrollment >23,000 and have independent police departments. The asterisk () notes which districts have arresting privileges per the Texas Department of Public Safety website.*

AFRICAN AMERICAN YOUTH IN HARRIS COUNTY

African American youth represent approximately 19% of the total student enrollment in the ten (10) ISDs reviewed here, but they received 51% of all referrals to HCJPD in 2016. *See Chart 1 on the following page.*

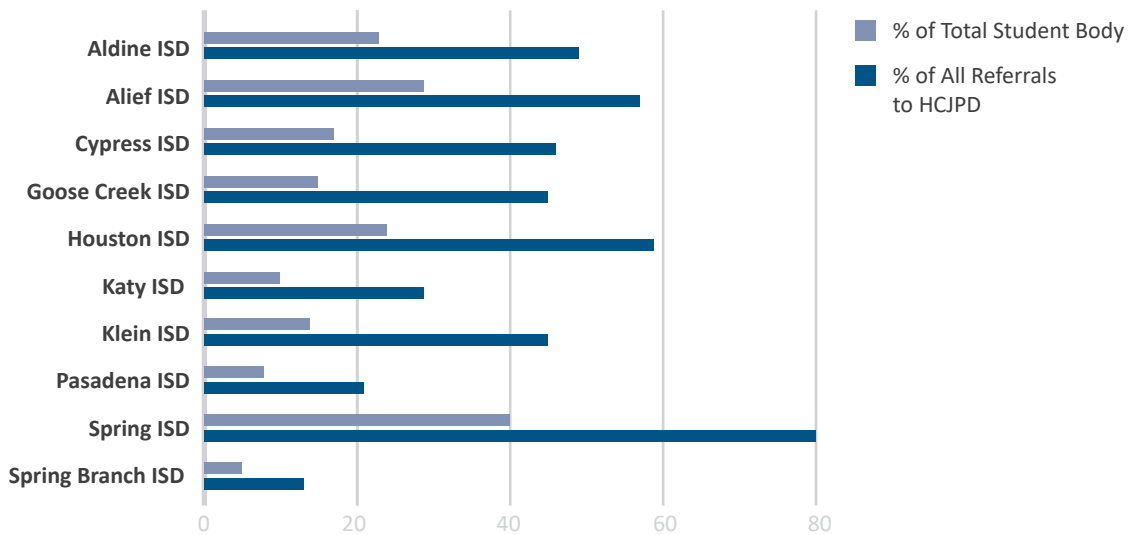
When comparing the referral rates of all youth in Harris County referred to HCJPD from all arresting jurisdictions, African American youth are referred at a rate of 8.2 per 1,000 youth. In 2016, Spring ISD referred 65% more African American youth than the County rate, as 80% of all referrals last year from that ISD were African American students.

Furthermore, African American youth receive 35% of all In-School Suspension (ISS) referrals, 47% of all Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) referrals, and 41% of all referrals to the Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs (DAEPs) in these districts.



Referrals to Harris County Juvenile Probation Department (2016)
African American Students

Chart 1

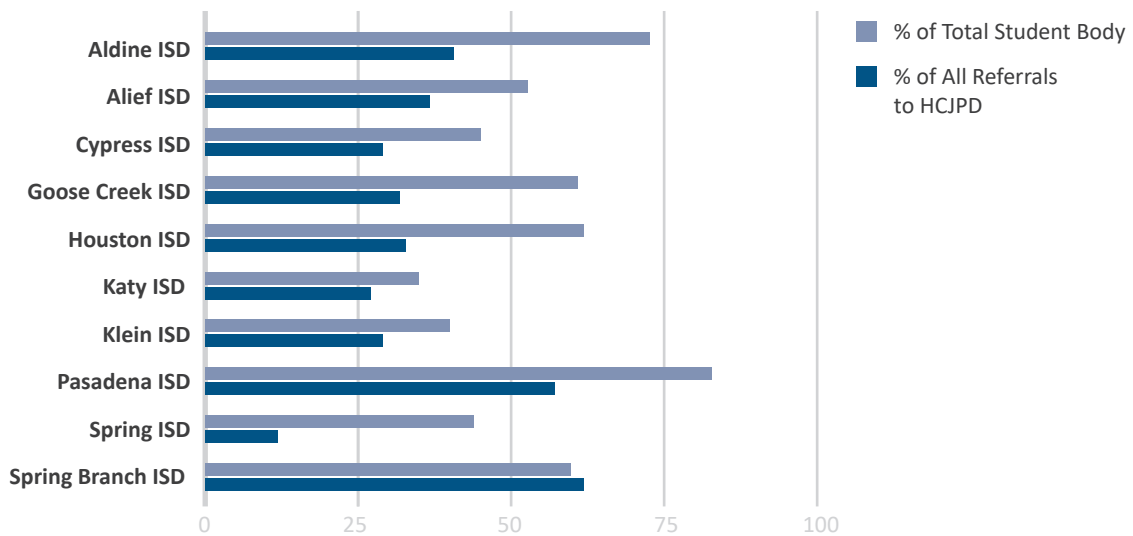


Hispanic Youth in Harris County

In Harris County, Hispanic youth account for about 56% of the total student enrollment in the ten ISDs reviewed here, and they received 34% of all referrals to HCJPD in 2016. See Chart 2.

Referrals to Harris County Juvenile Probation Department (2016)
Hispanic Students

Chart 2



Resources: Texas Education Agency; Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, Texas Appleseed Data compiled by Brittany Mandarin, Intern, Harris County Public Defender’s Office, under the supervision of Atty. Jay Jenkins, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, August 2017; Email: brittney.mandarin@pdo.hctx.net

While Hispanic youth are almost three times more likely to be referred to HCJPD than their Caucasian peers, when compared to their overall enrollment representation in all ten districts, Hispanic youth are referred to ISS, OSS, and DAEPs at a balanced rate.

Overrepresentation at the Campus Level

Of all ten ISDs reviewed here, Klein, Goose Creek, Katy, and Spring Branch displayed the greatest overrepresentation in referrals of African American students to HCJPD, with rates of 3.19, 2.89, 2.82, and 2.75 times the represented student populations, respectively.

Additionally, Klein ISD and Katy ISD had the highest and second highest overrepresentation of African American students referred to ISS, OSS, and DAEPs of all districts reviewed. *See Chart 3 for more information on school disciplinary referrals among the ISDs reviewed here.*

Average Rate of Referrals of African American and Hispanic Students Compared to Caucasian Students

Chart 3

Type of Discipline Placement	African American Students	Hispanic Students
In-School Suspension (ISS)	8.3 times more likely to be referred	12.4 times more likely to be referred
Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)	10.4 times more likely to be referred	9.9 times more likely to be referred
Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs (DAEPs)	7.8 times more likely to be referred	10.0 times more likely to be referred

THE COST OF POLICE IN OUR SCHOOLS

Based on the above-mentioned report by Texas Appleseed and Texans Care for Children, Texas districts with independent, or internal, police departments spend roughly \$75.00 per pupil on school police programs each year. In our research, we learned that each of the ten reviewed ISDs spent anywhere from \$80 to \$151 per pupil [*per their Securities and Monitoring budget line item*] in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, which includes monies for campus police, security guards, and security vehicles.

Of the ten focused districts, Alief ISD spent the most monies per pupil on school policing and disciplinary programming, at \$268.00 per pupil in the 2015-2016 fiscal year – more monies per pupil than on Health Services (two times more) and Social Work Services (17 times more) combined. Pasadena ISD, with a student body of 77% that is economically disadvantaged, spends 37 times more monies per pupil on school policing and disciplinary programming than it does on Social Work services. *See Chart 4 on the following page.*

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District Spending on School Policing and Disciplinary Programming Compared to Health Services, Social Work Services and Extracurricular Activities With Focus on Percentage of Students Who are Economically Disadvantaged

Chart 4

District	% Econ Disadv	\$ Spent Per Pupil POLICE/ DISCIPLINE	\$ Spent Per Pupil HEALTH	\$ Spent Per Pupil SOCIAL WORK	\$ Spent Per Pupil EXTRA ACTIVITIES
Aldine	86.19%	182.00	89.00	34.00	133.00
Alief	82.57%	268.00	120.00	15.00	218.00
Pasadena	77.69%	183.00	87.00	5.00	197.00
Houston	76.99%	178.00	97.00	17.00	84.00
Spring	68.46%	234.00	75.00	9.00	143.00
Goose Creek	64.31%	160.00	85.00	41.00	221.00
Spring Branch	55.95%	130.00	105.00	5.00	159.00
Klein	40.56%	173.00	99.00	9.00	285.00
Cypress Fairbanks	40.07%	126.00	90.00	9.00	144.00
Katy	28.77%	133.00	82.00	0.00	184.00

In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, Houston ISD – the largest of all ten focused districts with a reported 214,891 students – spent only about \$18 more per pupil on prevention and intervention based services, like social workers and afterschool services, than on campus police, security guards, and placements for juveniles removed from school for discipline-based offenses. See Chart 5.

Houston ISD Actual Financial Data 2015-2016 (All Funds)

Chart 5

Budget Line Item	Annual Budget Allocation	Money Spent per Pupil
Securities, Monitoring, and Alternative Placements	\$38,293,775.00	\$178.20/pp
Prevention and Intervention Based Programming (Social Work Services, Health Services, Extra Curricular Activities)	\$42,247,762.00	\$196.60/pp

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