

IMPROVING SCHOOL CLIMATE IN PORTSMOUTH SCHOOLS



THE PROBLEMS

TEACHER MORALE

In exit surveys, almost a third of Portsmouth teachers expressed that morale in their department was low and that the school environment was adverse to learning. Research has shown time and time again: morale matters. "When teachers feel good about their work, student achievement rises."

STUDENT SUSPENSIONS

Portsmouth ranks as sixth in the state for short-term school suspensions. In 2018, 16% of Portsmouth students were suspended, including many in elementary school. Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to be in contact with the criminal justice system within a year of the forced leave.

SOMETHING IS NOT WORKING.

These problems are interrelated; when teachers aren't supported, students cannot thrive. When students are suspended, they cannot learn.

We need to work together to improve our schools and communities.



THE SOLUTIONS

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION CAN

- Provide support for teacher professional development, implicit bias training, and smaller class sizes.
- Build a coalition of teachers, mental health workers, and families to reduce student suspensions.
- Work with Virginia Organizing to increase transparency and transform school climate!

FAMILIES CAN

- Encourage children's attendance and respect for teachers.
- Communicate with teachers about their child's needs.
- Join Virginia Organizing and help us transform the school climate!

BE A PART OF THE MOVEMENT

The Portsmouth Chapter of Virginia Organizing is launching a campaign to improve school climate in Portsmouth Schools. For more information, contact Meghan at 847-922-1213 or meghan@virginia-organizing.org.

