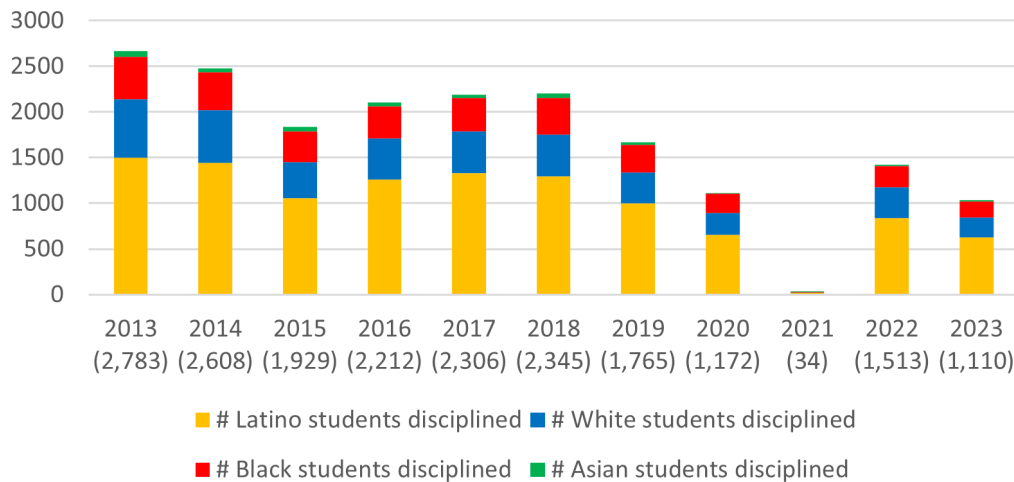


This CityLab infographic presents visualizations of the most recent school discipline data relating to Worcester Public Schools. The data is publicly accessible at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) website on the “School and District Profiles” portal. (<https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>) For all charts, it is important to remember that in AY 2020 about 30% of the school year was accomplished remotely because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, which had an impact on discipline data because children were not in their school buildings. Similarly, in AY 2021, instruction at WPS (like much of the state) was remote for the year.

of Students Disciplined by Race

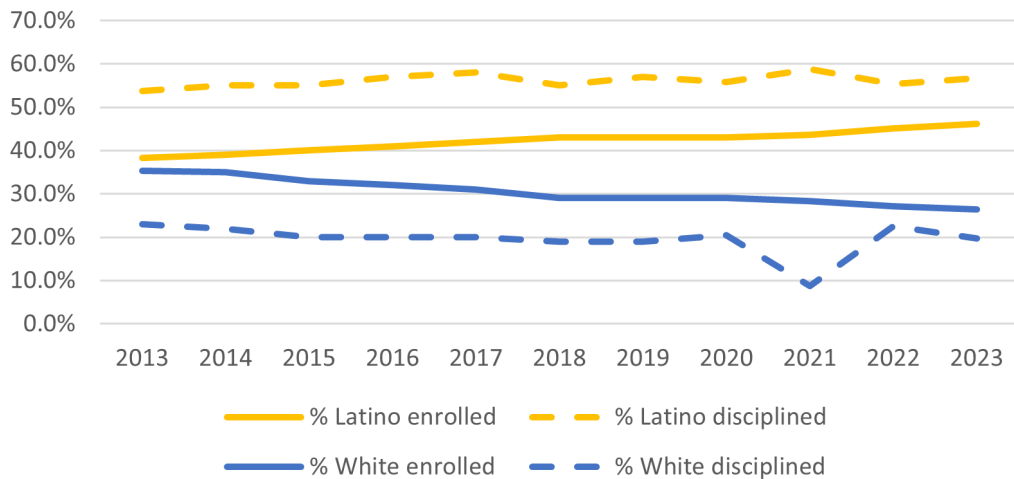
WPS, AY 2013 - AY 2023



The chart at the top-left shows the WPS discipline numbers from AY 2013 to AY 2023. Vertical bars show how the district’s largest ethno-racial subgroups were disciplined. Overall, the number of students who have been disciplined has declined, which is evident in the height of the columns as well as in the decreasing number below each column, the total number of students disciplined across all ethno-racial categories.

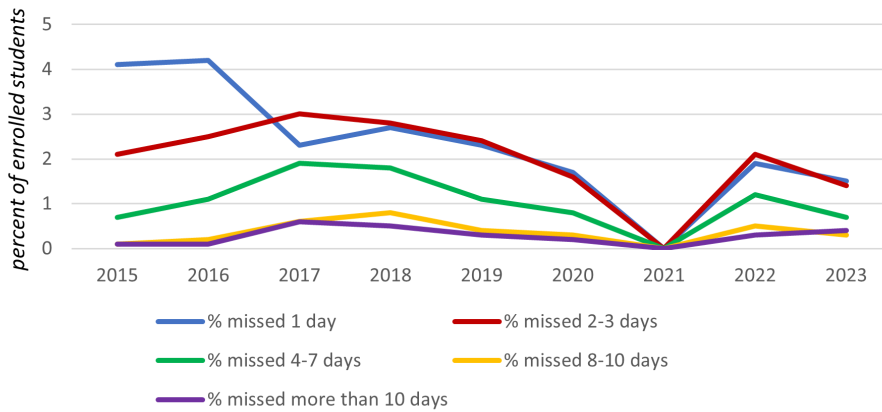
% Enrollment and % Discipline by Race

WPS, White and Latino Students Only, AY 2013 - AY 2023

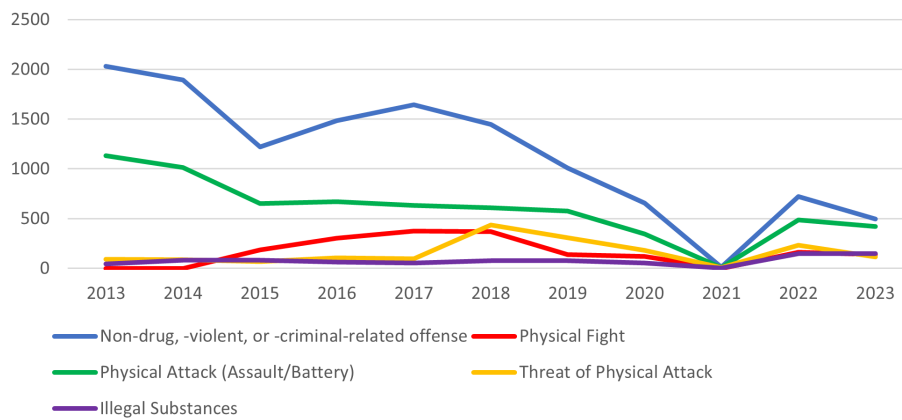


Looking closer at WPS’ largest ethno-racial groups, Latino students and White students, the bottom-left chart shows that longstanding racial disparities remain. Latino students comprise a greater percent of disciplined students than their district population percentage while White students constitute a smaller share of disciplined students than their percentage of the district enrollment. However, the disparities in each group appear to have lessened over time. Where the Latino disparity was 15.5% in AY 2013, it is 10.6% in AY 2023. The White disparity has lessened from 12.3% to 6.7%.

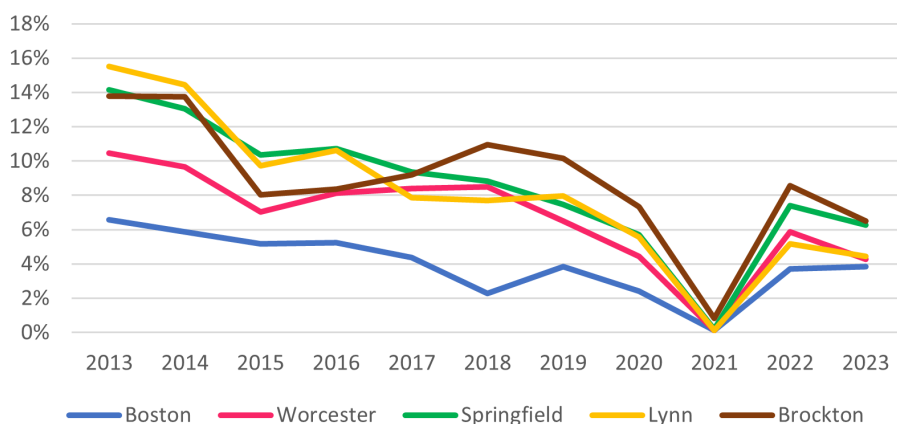
% of Students Missing School Days from Suspension WPS, All Students AY 2015 - AY 2023



Most Common Disciplinary Offenses WPS, AY 2013 - AY 2014



Discipline Rates in MA Largest School Districts AY 2013 - AY 2023



Another metric to analyze school discipline is lost classroom time. The chart at the top-left shows there was less school time lost to suspensions in AY 2023 than at any time before the pandemic. In AY 2015, 4.1% of students missed 1 day of classes while in AY 2023, only 1.5% did. On the other hand, more serious suspensions of 8-10 days, and 10+ days are slightly higher in AY 2023 (0.3 and 0.4%), than in AY 2013 (both were 0.1%). But those were fewer in number.

Massachusetts schools have 18 categories by which to code the offenses that lead to disciplinary action. They cover a variety of rarely transgressions including rarely used categories such as arson, vandalism, sexual harassment, robbery, and homicide, and much more common ones seen in the middle-left chart. At WPS, the most common offense has been “non-drug, non-violent, or non-criminal-related offenses” but use of this unspecific category has dropped since the pandemic. The second most common, “physical attack,” alternately described as “assault” or “battery,” has also dropped in the same time frame, from 1,132 in AY 2013 to 430 in AY 2023.

Recent decreases in its discipline numbers gives WPS a low discipline rate (4.3%) that rivals Boston Public Schools’ rate (3.9%). The bottom-left chart shows that the other large school districts in Massachusetts — Lynn Public Schools (4.4%), Springfield Public Schools (6.3%) and Brockton Public Schools (6.5%) — are higher. WPS’ current discipline rate is the lowest it has been in any non-pandemic year since AY 2013.