

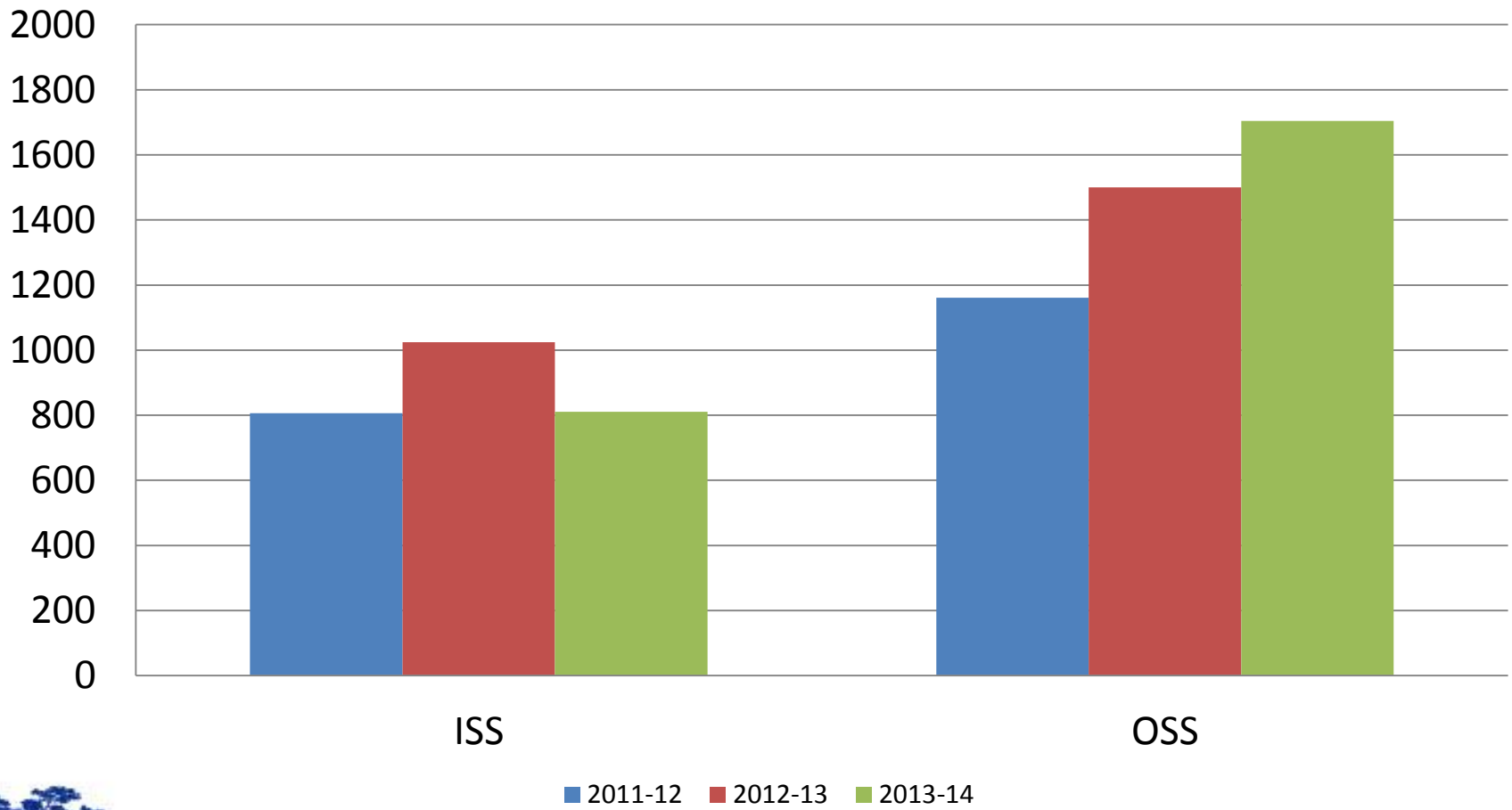


CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

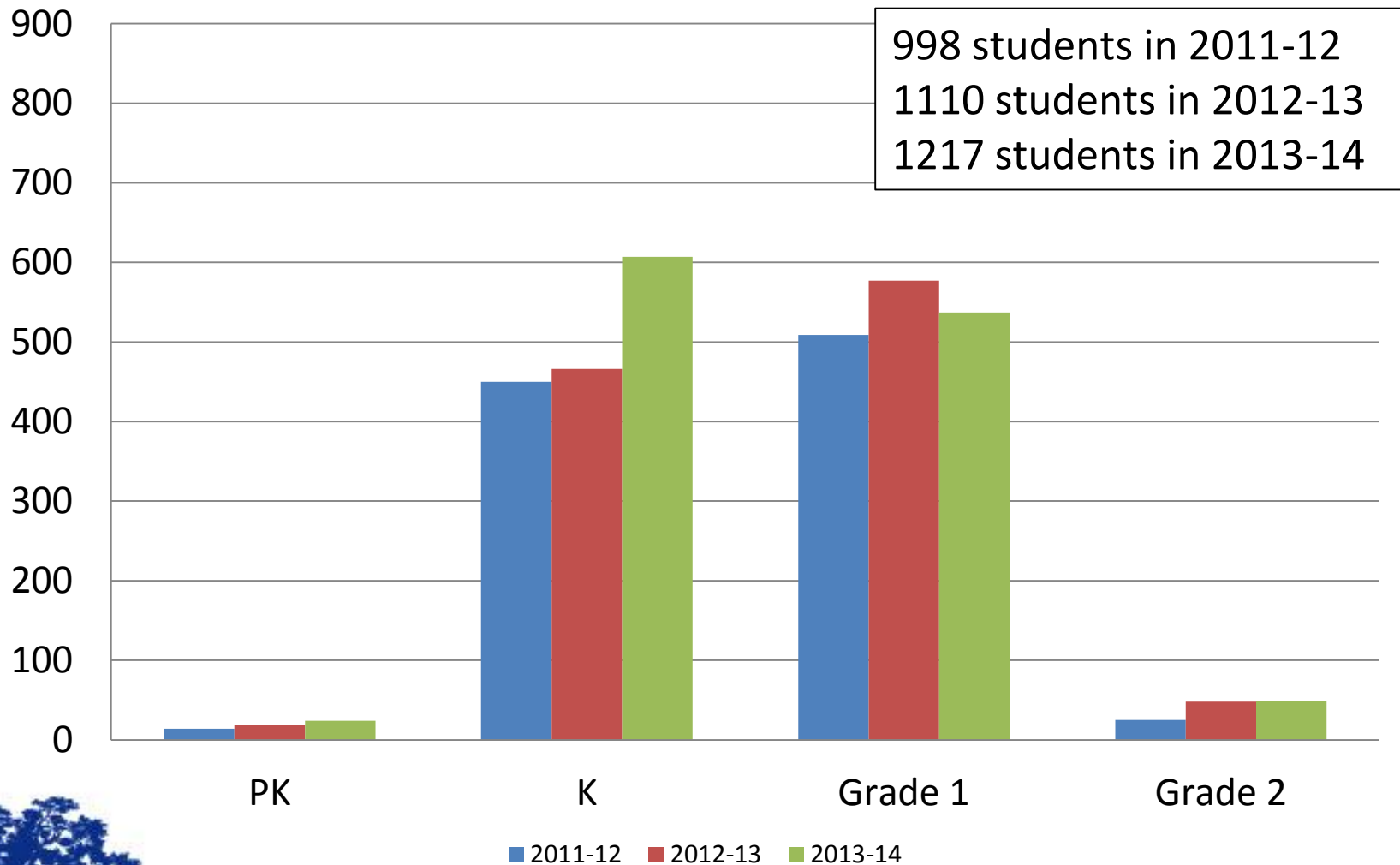
**Addressing Suspensions
in Connecticut Schools
and
Public Act 15-96**

John Frassinelli
September 29, 2015

Number of Sanctions - Children Under Age 7



Number of Children (unduplicated) Under Age 7 Sanctioned by Grade



Observations

- Contrary to the overall trend among all students, the number of Out of School Suspensions (OSS) is greater than In School Suspensions (ISS) among these young children.
- Of the 1217 young children who were suspended, 926 (76.1%) were Black or Hispanic; 746 (61.3%) were Black or Hispanic boys.
- The number of students receiving at least one ISS or OSS has increased in each of the past two years.



What We Are Learning...

- Successful practices in schools achieving substantial reductions in ISS and OSS from 2011-12 to 2013-14 in children under 7:
 - Professional learning for staff on diffusion, de-escalation, behavioral management, reducing challenging behavior, improving communication and repairing relationships
 - Teaching students pro-social skills and self-regulation strategies
 - Addressing disproportionality (Black/Hispanic) and understanding challenges of special education students
 - Shift away from zero-tolerance policies
 - Increased Social Work and Special Education staff
- Community forums, focus groups with parents and students were convened to discuss disproportionality in discipline practices



CSDE Actions to Turn the Curve: Professional Learning

- Trainings on Culturally Responsive Pedagogy and Discipline – Bridgeport, Hartford, Waterbury, Manchester, New London, Norwich
- Workshops on Positive School Climate Development (Basic, Advanced, Team Training) – 48 districts
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) trainings through SERC – 39 schools in 3 year cycle



CSDE Actions to Turn the Curve: Internal Collaborations

- Alliance Districts: Coordinated Actions
 - Convene and engage Alliance Districts in positive and effective discipline conversations
 - Incorporate strategic actions in Alliance District Plans to reduce suspensions and expulsions
 - Align efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism by addressing OSS
- Charter Schools:
 - Assessment of effective behavior management, ISS, OSS and expulsions included in School Performance measures in the Charter School Renewal Process and scoring rubric

Actions to Turn the Curve: Guidance and Partnership Collaboration

- 2nd Revision of the *Guidelines for In-School and Out-of-School Suspension: Positive and Effective Discipline – Promoting Equity in Student Engagement and Success*
- Engage partners, identify best practices in and provide training on family engagement, mental health referrals, de-escalating confrontation and restorative justice.

