



# ACHIEVEMENT IN MOTION

at Ralston Middle (Belmont-Redwood Shores)

## Priority 6: School Climate

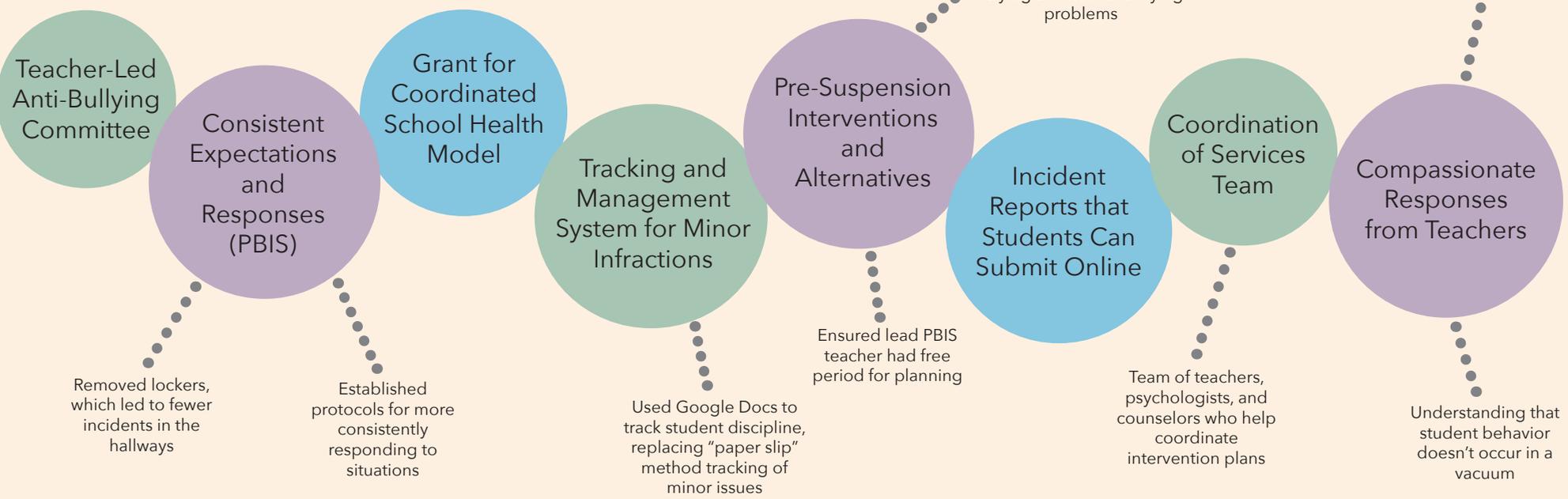
Recent research has explored how to close the achievement gap between historically underrepresented students and their peers. But there's a layer to the achievement gap that isn't as obvious: the **DISCIPLINE GAP**. In addition to those disadvantaged subgroups performing at lower academic levels on average, they may have also experienced disciplinary **SUSPENSIONS** at disproportionately higher rates.



At Ralston Middle School, administrators analyzed their data and realized they were experiencing the discipline gap first-hand. Their traditional discipline system meant that out-of-school suspensions were the norm for even minor infractions, and they didn't have an established way to track problems or help students who were struggling.

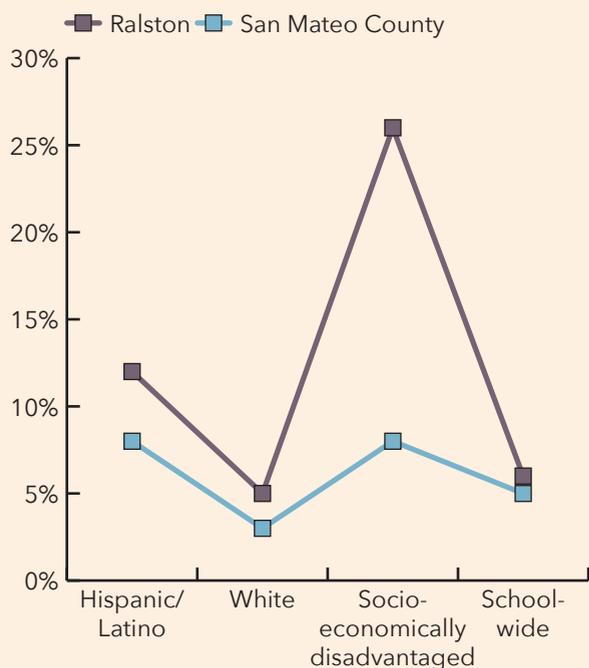
In 2012, school leaders attended a RESPECT! 24/7 call-to-action event that explored issues around the discipline gap, and they committed themselves to leading this change.

### TAKING ACTION

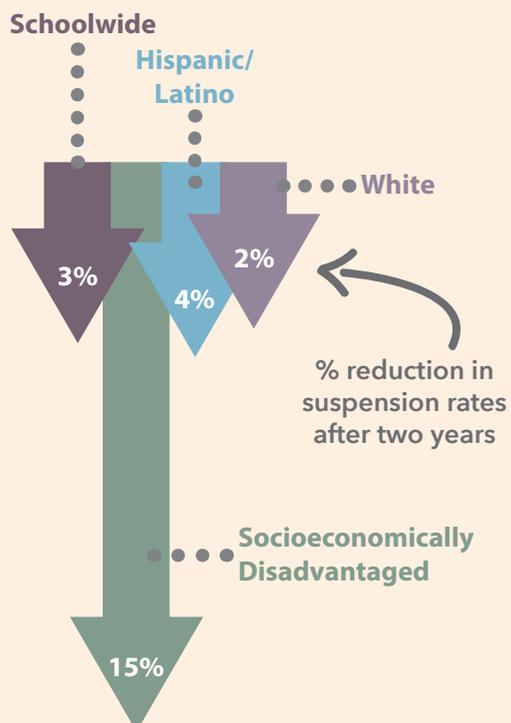


### THE RESULT?

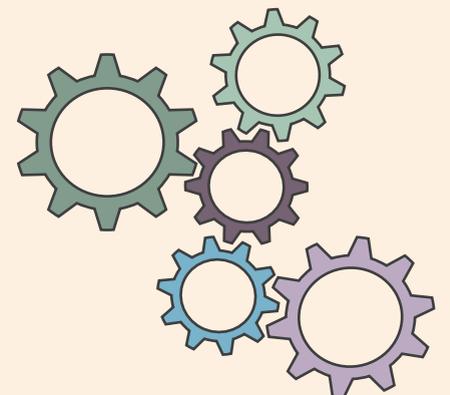
**1** In 2011-12, the suspension rate at Ralston was highly disproportionate when compared to county averages.



**2** As of 2013-14, suspension rates at Ralston have dropped significantly, with the biggest change seen in socioeconomically disadvantaged student populations.



**3** Staff and students at Ralston are now in the process of building a culture of collaboration and support.



“It’s one thing to have an alternate response, but we want to head off suspensions before they even start.”

- Jon Sanchez, Assistant Principal