

**Don't become  
a statistic!  
Know your  
rights and  
exercise them.**

**Graduation is in  
YOUR hands!**

**For more information  
or a copy of your  
school's handbook,  
please visit**

[www.law.utah.edu/org/civil-rights-clinic](http://www.law.utah.edu/org/civil-rights-clinic)



## Be Heard.

### **If you are given a hearing, ATTEND!**

A hearing will be held with or without you. By being there, you can ensure that you will be heard.

### **At the hearing you have a right to:**

- ◆ Enough time to prepare
- ◆ Names of witnesses and an opportunity to get your own
- ◆ Fair hearing officer

### **At the hearing:**

- ◆ The decision cannot be based entirely on rumors or word of mouth
- ◆ The decision must be made only on evidence presented at the hearing
- ◆ You win on a preponderance of evidence, meaning if most of the evidence is in your favor

If you believe you were treated unfairly, consult your school handbook for information on how to appeal, or contact the ACLU of Utah.

*Utah Code Ann. § 53A-11-905*

## Be Aware.

### **Things that WILL get you suspended or expelled:**

- ◆ Weapons (real or fake), flammable material
- ◆ Drugs
- ◆ Threats/Fighting

### **Things that MAY get you suspended or expelled:**

- ◆ Damaging school property
- ◆ Bullying
- ◆ Alcohol or Pornography
- ◆ Bad language
- ◆ Any behavior that puts student safety at risk

*Utah Code Annotated §53A-11-904*

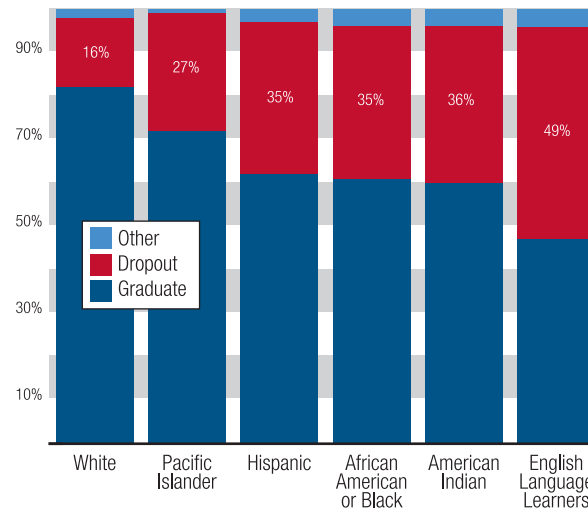
# Facing suspension or expulsion?

# Know your Rights

## Did you know?

- ◆ If you fail to complete high school, you are 3.5 times more likely to be arrested as an adult
- ◆ Prior suspension is the leading reason students drop out of high school
- ◆ More than 80% of the prison population is made up of high school dropouts

### High School Graduation Rates in Utah



Sarah Biehl, *School Expulsion: A Life Sentence?*, American Bar Association: Section of Litigation Children's Rights Litigation (Mar. 15, 2011)

Utah State Office of Education, *2102 Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rate Report, 2012*

## Your Rights.

### Short Term Suspension 10 Days or Less:

- ◆ You have a right to an explanation
- ◆ You have a right to tell your story before you are suspended
- ◆ The school must notify your parents immediately
- ◆ The school must document the story

### Long Term Suspension/Expulsion:

- ◆ You have the same rights as a short term suspension.
- ◆ You have a right to a hearing.

Utah Code Annotated §53A-11-905(c).