

**QUALITATIVE STUDY ON PERCEPTIONS OF HIGH SCHOOL
TEACHERS ON STUDENT SUSPENSIONS IN SELECTED SECONDARY
SCHOOLS IN KANGEMA DISTRICT OF MURANG'A COUNTY.**

By

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ABSTRACT.

School suspension is used as a form of discipline for students who are not behaving according to school standards. Suspension can be an effective behavior management strategy when it is reserved for serious or persistent breaches of the school's code of conduct.

Suspension removes the student from the school environment, reduces the opportunity for reinforcement of their behavior and provides a period of respite between the incident and the resolution process.

Suspension provides an opportunity for the student, parents, and school staff to reflect on the incident and behavior enabling a considered, positive resolution and re-entry plan. Suspension can, however, break down the relationships between the student, parents and school staff unless the resolution process is effectively managed.

Despite the belief that suspension will help a student correct his or her behavior and deter further negative behavior, many students are repeatedly suspended.

Empirical research tends to indicate that suspension is ineffective, punitive and an indicator of further social problems such as substance abuse and crime.

This research examines high school teachers' perceptions regarding suspension. The author chose the research primarily because he was once a victim and became interested to examine the rationale behind School suspensions.

This research was divided into studies that look at the profiles of suspended students, the effectiveness and effects of suspension, and the alternatives to suspension.

One-on-one interviews were conducted with a variety of teachers. After analysis of the data obtained participants were requested to verify or refute. It is hoped that by examining the reasons why school staff suspend students, viable alternatives and suggestions to improve practice will be able to be created that will have full school support.

The results of the interviews were organized into the following overarching themes:

- (1) School suspension is ineffective;
- (2) Suspension is arbitrary and biased.