

## CASE STUDY

Ms. Todd is the principal at Westview High School in King County. Some of the Westview demographic data is below:

- 72% of students are below the poverty line
- 45% students identified as White, 20% Asian, 15% African American, 10% Hispanic, 7% Multiple, 2% American Indian / Alaska Native, 1% Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander
- 15% identify as Gay / Lesbian / Bi-Sexual

After reviewing last year's Healthy Youth Survey, administrators have identified their high rates of marijuana use as an issue. 19% of Westview High School 10<sup>th</sup> grade students report current marijuana use. This is slightly higher than the state average of 16%. The survey showed highest use rates among students who identified as Gay / Lesbian / Bi-Sexual and students who reported a race other than White; these students also are cited for disciplinary infractions at the highest rates.

Currently, students caught with marijuana on school grounds are subject to an automatic 3-day suspension for their first offense, 5 days for second offense and 10 days for third offense. Principal Todd has gathered her administrative team to discuss if changes should be made to this procedure.

## TABLE ACTIVITY

As a table, discuss the following questions. We are not looking for you to develop a new perfect policy proposal – the goal here is to discuss the issue with an equity lens.

1. How does current discipline procedure impact people differently? You can take a look at the list below of people who may be impacted in different ways.
2. What are the potential positive impacts and unintended consequences of the current procedure?
3. Who should be involved in discussions about adjusting the procedure?
4. What data are you missing, or would you like to explore?
5. How might school officials identify other methods to address marijuana use and possession and mitigate unintended consequences?

*Think about impacts to:*

- 11<sup>th</sup> grade student who is currently not using drugs or alcohol, but who was out of school last spring to complete inpatient treatment for alcohol and marijuana dependency
- Single working parent whose child has been caught with marijuana on school grounds three times this school year
- Biology teacher with 5 classes per day of 30 students each; five Biology students have been suspended so far this school year, each for at least 3 days
- Prevention/Intervention Specialist, who is charged with providing brief interventions and education about drug use at Westview High School
- Parent of an incoming freshman who has never used drugs or alcohol
- School Resource Officer at the school
- Vice Principal in charge of discipline