Title of Dissertation: A Study of How Loss of Privilege (LOP) Impacts Referral, Suspension, and Failure Rates of Minority Students at a South Suburban Chicago High School (SSCHS)

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Major Findings: The results did not demonstrate a statistically significant difference in referral rates for minority students after the implementation of LOP. However, the results did demonstrate a statistically significant difference in lower suspension rates for minority students after the implementation of LOP. Additionally, the results did not demonstrate a statistically significant difference in failure rates for black students but did demonstrate a statistically significant difference and higher rate for Hispanic students. Furthermore, evidence showed the number of referrals, suspensions, and failures did decrease for black students in the year LOP was implemented. Lastly, evidence showed the number of referrals and suspensions did decrease for Hispanic students in the year LOP was implemented but failures actually increased that year.

How the Findings Support Previous Research or Fill a Gap in Research: Research consistently shows ethnic minority students are disproportionately overrepresented in school discipline especially that which is exclusionary in nature. Little is known about the efficacy or effectiveness of possible discipline gap reducing interventions. Loss of Privilege (LOP) is an alternative methods approach to school discipline and suspension. When students exhibit desired behaviors, privileges are afforded to them; when they do not exhibit desired behaviors, those privileges may be revoked.

Recommendations for the Educational Community: Researched interventions that reduce disproportionality of discipline for minority students are limited. In addition, gaps in achievement continue to exist for minority students in the American public school system. The administration at SSCHS chose to address these challenges by crafting and implementing LOP. Though not all results were statistically significant, supported by the findings in the dissertation’s Chapter 4, LOP implementation at SSCHS was moderately successful, providing hope for the future.