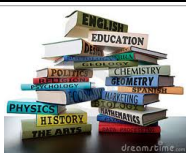


INTENT OF PRESENTATION

- What can we achieve by engaging in a conversation about our current school culture?
- What can you expect from this conversation?

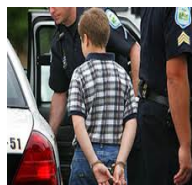
Brown v. Bd. of Education

"Today, education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments. . . . In these days, it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education. Such an opportunity, where the state has undertaken to provide it, is a right, which must be made available to all on equal terms."



- Chief Justice Earl Warren, *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)

What is the School-to-Prison Pipeline?

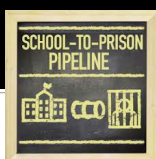


"The 'school-to-prison pipeline' refers to the policies and practices that push our nation's schoolchildren, especially our most at-risk children, out of classrooms and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Over-emphasis on policies and practices that lead to the incarceration of youth."

ACLU, What is the School-To-Prison Pipeline?, <https://www.aclu.org/racial-justice/what-school-prison-pipeline>

Elements of the STPP

- Zero Tolerance Policies
- Police in School
- Racial & Ethnic Disparities
- Criminalization of Normal Adolescent Behavior
- High Stakes Testing



Zero Tolerance Policies

ZERO TOLERANCE

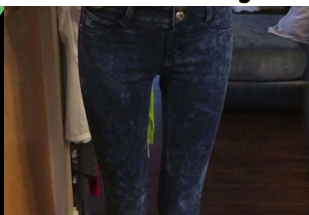
Zero-tolerance policies are a fundamental component of the School-to-Prison pipeline because they lead to suspensions and expulsions and sometimes arrests-for minor misbehavior that, in some cases, does not pose a school safety concern.

ACLU, What is the School-To-Prison Pipeline?, <https://www.aclu.org/racial-justice/what-school-prison-pipeline>

DOES THE PUNISHMENT FIT THE CRIME?



12-Year-Old Suspended for 3 Days Because Her Jeans Were Too Tight



PUSHOUT

"Black girls are getting the message that no one wants them there [in school] more than other girls."
-Dr. Monique Morris, Ed.D

- BG represent 16% of female students but almost half of all girls with a school related arrest
- **SUSPENSION:** BG 6 x's higher rate than WG while BB are 3 x's the rate of WB
- 1/2 of BG with an arrest record recounted having experienced interaction with LE as young as elementary school



LGBTQ students, especially gender non-conforming girls, are up to **3 times more likely** to experience harsh disciplinary treatment than their straight counterparts, based on a study published in the medical journal of *Pediatrics*.



Law Enforcement & Schools

Spring Valley High



Children with Trauma

Exposure to chronic, prolonged traumatic experiences has the potential to alter children's brains, which cause longer-term effects in areas such as:

- Attachment
- Physical Health
- Emotional Regulation
- Cognitive Ability
- Low Self-Esteem
- Behavioral Control and Aggression

<http://www.practicenotes.org/v1702/brain.htm>

Training To Work Effectively with Youth: Reflect on the Past and Retool For the Future

- When officers lack the training or tools to effectively de-escalate police-youth encounters, they can rely only upon what they do have—adult-based techniques. But youth are not “little adults,” and they act and react very differently. The effect of using verbal and physical control techniques designed for use on adults upon youth is like throwing gasoline on a fire. Pain escalates youth anger and aggression because the youth brain relies more upon parts that respond emotionally, which triggers a fight-or-flight reaction.

<http://www.policemagazine.org/training-to-work-effectively-with-youth-reflect-on-the-past-and-retool-for-the-future/>

Children with Disabilities

■ 70%

■ 200 %



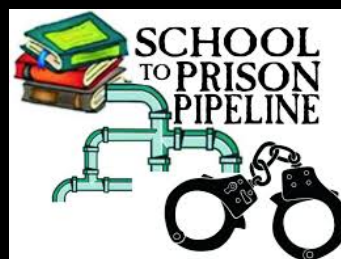
http://www.ywcamadison.org/atl/cf/12487BDaF-90C7-49BC-858D-CC50637ECE23/SchooltoPrison_Reform_Project_Presentation.pdf



Racial & Ethnic Disparities



Drop Out Impacts



How Prevalent is the STPP?

THE STPP IN VIRGINIA



THE STPP IN VIRGINIA

- U.S. Department of Education data, analyzed by the Center for Public Integrity, show that Virginia schools in a single year referred students to law enforcement agencies at a rate nearly **3 times** the national rate.
- Virginia's referral rate: about **16 for every 1,000** students, compared to a national rate of **6 referrals for every 1,000 students**.

<https://www.publicintegrity.org/2015/04/10/17089/virginia-tops-nation-sending-students-cops-courts-where-does-your-state-rank>

THE STPP IN VIRGINIA

- The data reveals startling details about the tender age of some of the children accused of crimes, and a disturbing racial divide.
- More than half the students sent to court were black, even though black students are **only 26 percent** of enrollment.
- And almost half of the students issued criminal complaints were children **14 or younger**.

<https://www.publicintegrity.org/2015/04/10/17089/virginia-tops-nation-sending-students-cops-courts-where-does-your-state-rank>

THE STPP IN VIRGINIA

- In southeastern Virginia, for instance, a **12-year-old girl** was charged with **four misdemeanors** — including obstruction of justice for **“clenching her fist”** at a SRO.
- In Green County, Virginia, a school cop handcuffed a **4-year-old** who was throwing blocks and kicking at teachers. He then drove the small child to a sheriff's department.

<https://www.publicintegrity.org/2015/04/10/17089/virginia-tops-nation-sending-students-cops-courts-where-does-your-state-rank>



WHY IS THIS A TOPIC
WE MUST ALL
ADDRESS?

It Is All Connected

Gang violence is connected to bullying is connected to school violence is connected to intimate partner violence is connected to child abuse is connected to elder abuse. It is all connected.

-Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD,
Adjunct Professor, Harvard School of Public Health
Connecting The Dots, Center For Disease Control

Victims vs. Perpetrators



- “For many of these adolescent females, there appears to be a link between the experience of abuse and neglect, the lack of appropriate treatment, and the behaviors that led to arrest.”

www.law.georgetown.edu/go/poverty

Youth in Foster Care



Taking Back Our Schools:
Organizing to Stop the School-to-Prison Pipeline

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sjTIVUk3Js>

A BETTER ALTERNATIVE

- Restorative practices has its roots in restorative justice, a way of looking at criminal justice that emphasizes repairing the harm done to people and relationships rather than only punishing offenders
- Restorative practices has the potential to positively influence human behavior and strengthen civil society around the world.

<http://www.cirp.edu/what-we-do/what-is-restorative-practices>

PAPER TIGERS



WYOMING SUCCESS

A Non-Punitive Approach



"Restorative Justice is a different way to approach conflict or difficult behavior. When we are talking about student discipline traditionally, we ask, 'What was the rule? Who broke it? What is the punishment?'"

With RJ we're instead asking, 'What happened? Who was affected or harmed, and what needs to be done to repair the harm and keep it from happening again?'"

<http://www.schoolnewsnetwork.org/index.php/2015/16/mediator-schools-resolve-escalating-conflict/>

Restorative Justice Outcomes

From the YWCA Madison

- 86% (159 out of 185) students who participated in a 2014 Restorative Justice referral circles showed attitude and behavioral improvements.
- 75% of Restorative Justice participants felt more connected to their schools.
- 233 school staff were trained in Restorative Justice Practices. The RJP was held in 16 schools within 6 school districts.

http://www.ywcamadison.org/site/c.cu1W10oq4l8E/b.7968327/k.87EF/Restorative_Justice_Program.htm

Additional Success Stories

- Restorative justice programs and other disciplinary initiatives led to **92 percent decrease** in the number of days lost to suspensions. The city plans to establish restorative justice programs in all schools by 2020.
- Brady Smith, the principal of the James Baldwin School in Manhattan, said that RJ practices contributed to a decrease in disciplinary actions against students. "We hardly have any suspensions," Smith said. He pointed to restorative-justice circles as among the most powerful tools.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/06/school-violence-restorative-justice/488945/>

SUCCESS IN VIRGINIA

- Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) initiated a system wide implementation of restorative justice processes in schools which aims to transform how the FCPS community handles harm and wrongdoing.
- Several schools in this 200+ school system, the 11th largest in the country, have been exploring the use of restorative justice since 2004 to respond to discipline issues through pilot programs at two large high schools and various trainings for staff.

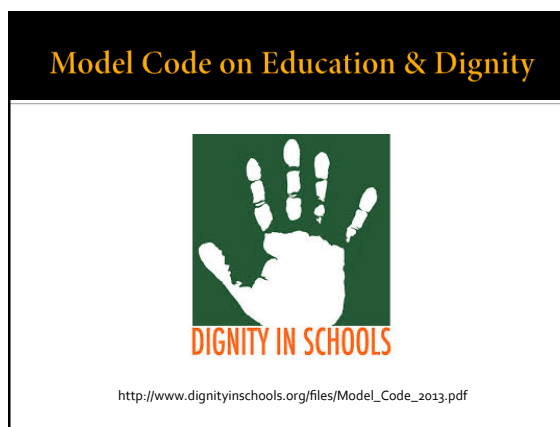
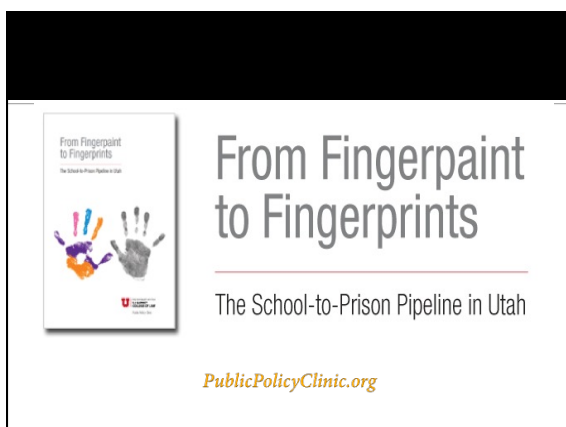
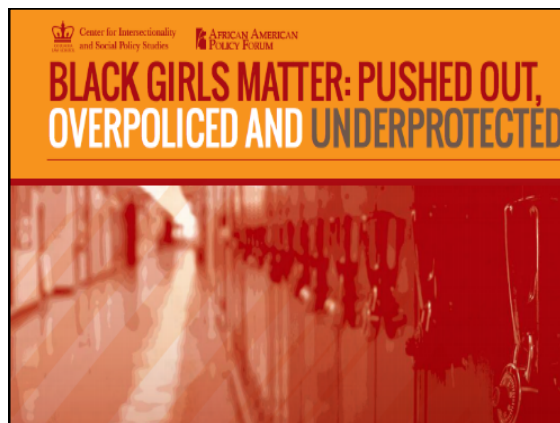
<http://www.itrp.edu/news/2338-fairfax-virginia-developing-restorative-practices-in-schools-juvenile-justice-policing>

What Can You Do?

- Become invested in dismantling the STPP in your community
- Push to eliminate zero-tolerance policies in your school districts—PTA, Community Councils, Board of Education
- Inquire regarding PBIS/Restorative Justice programs
- Review the Civil Rights Data Collection for your school district for suspension/expulsion/ LE referral
- Revisit SRO's Roles in schools → Guardians vs. Guards
- Diversion Programs vs. JJS involvement
- Help capture their story & SEE THEM

Potential Partnerships

- NAACP
- ACLU
- Public Policy Practicum at local law school or University
- Boys & Girls Club
- Racial Justice Coalitions
- Peer Court / Diversion Programs
- Local Activist Groups Against Police Use of Force
- Police Departments/ Community Policing/ SRO's





Contact Information



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Public Policy Clinic