

THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON-AND-DEPORTATION PIPELINE



The School-to-Prison-and Deportation Pipeline (STPDP) pushes young people out of school and into the criminal legal system through policing and punitive discipline. The STPDP impacts Black, Brown, Latine, Indigenous, immigrant, LGBTQ+, youth with disabilities, and young people at the intersections of those identities, the most. For immigrants and undocumented young people, the STPDP can result in loss of benefits, detention, and deportation. See more at the [Youth Mandate for Education and Liberation](#).

HOW IT PUSHES YOUNG PEOPLE TO PRISONS AND DEPORTATION

Suspensions push young people into incarceration.

Young people suspended from school are less likely to graduate on time and more likely to repeat a grade or be pushed out of school.

Students attending schools with high suspension rates are more likely to be arrested or incarcerated as adults.

Arrests push young people out of school and into the criminal legal system.

A first-time arrest doubles the odds that a young person will be pushed out of high school (sometimes referred to as “dropping out”). A first-time court appearance quadruples the odds.

One study showed that young people who attended stricter schools were 17% more likely to be arrested and 20% more likely to be incarcerated than those at less stringent schools.

Another study found that attending a school specifically with a higher suspension rate could mean a 15%-20% higher likelihood of a young person being incarcerated as an adult.

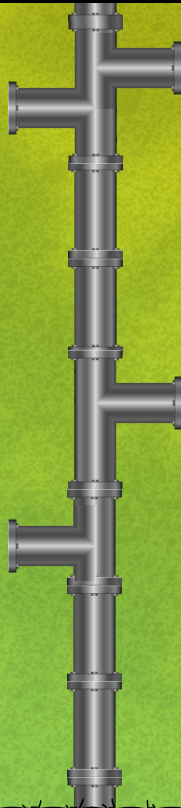
Police in schools can have immigration consequences for young people and their families.

Students can enter the deportation pipeline through interactions with school police, including tickets, citations, and arrests that can put young people at risk. Arrests can become part of young people’s records, impacting their ability to apply for immigration status or, in the case of convictions, lose their legal status (for example, DACA) or bar them from becoming eligible to get immigration status.

Police in school create a culture of hostility for Black and Brown young people.

The experiences of countless Black and Brown young people show that police in schools create hostile environments leading to more assaults, arrests, and harassment from police against Black and Brown young people.

Black and Latine students, plus students from low-income families, experience the most significant increases in discipline when police patrol their schools. The incidents that see white students referred to principals or counselors see Black students directed to handcuffs and prosecution, despite no behavioral differences.



“I feel traumatized by [police] and purposely avoid seeing them or interacting with them.”



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NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON YOUNG PEOPLE

Exclusionary school discipline policies are linked to “higher average levels of student substance use, depressed feelings, less school and community support, and lower feelings of school safety.”

- In particular, young people attending schools with strict exclusionary discipline policies “had higher levels of depressive symptoms” than other schools.
- Young people suspended or expelled were nearly **50% more likely** to have subsequent drug use than those who were not.

In a national survey of 630 young people in four states, young people reported disturbing patterns of harassment and violence by school police. When asked to report for themselves or someone they know, respondents said that school police:

- **Bully, abuse, and traumatize young people:** One in five respondents reported police verbally harass or make fun of students (20%).
- **Prevent young people from learning at school:** Half of respondents reported police taking students out of the classroom (50%).
- **Force young people into the criminal legal system and advance punitive techniques:** For example, more than a quarter of respondents reported arrests at school (26%).
- **Sexually harass young people:** In three out of four jurisdictions, young people experienced or knew someone who experienced sexual harassment at the hands of police at school.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IMPACTED

According to the most recently available national data of K-12 students (2017-2018):

Students with disabilities served under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) were:

- Disproportionately expelled, representing **13%** of the total student enrollment but receiving **23%** of all expulsions with educational services.
- Accounted for over **75%** of all restraint and seclusion cases.
- **Disparities were even more severe for Black students with disabilities** (**2%** of total student enrollment but **9%** of out-of-school suspensions.)
- Black students served under the IDEA accounted for **2%** of enrollment, but **8%** of students referred to law enforcement and **9%** of students who were arrested.

Black students were:

- **Expelled at rates more than twice their share of total enrollment** (**15%** of total enrollment versus **39%** of expulsions with educational services and **33%** of expulsions without educational services).
- Referred to law enforcement at higher rates (**15%** of enrollment versus **32%** of all students arrested at school or during a school-related activity).

American Indian or Alaska Native students were:

- Expelled at higher rates than their share of enrollment (**1.1%** expulsions with educational services and **1.8%** of expulsions without educational services versus **1.0%** of student enrollment).

Students who are LGBTQ+:

- In one study, **60 percent of LGBTQ+ students reported they were disciplined because of their identity.** LGBTQ young people of color are nearly twice as likely to be suspended versus white LGBTQ+ young people.

“Police appear randomly at my school. It is a majority white school. I am the only Black student in my grade. I don’t feel safe with police in school because it seems that they like to intimidate me more than they do my peers. I feel like an easy target. When they make eye contact with my friends, they smile. When they make eye contact with me, it seems more scary. My friends mostly feel safe with police but I don’t.”

“

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