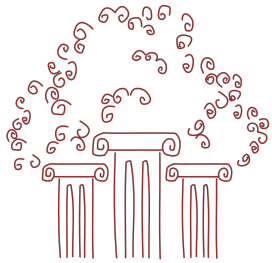


Centering Efforts to Dismantle the School-to-Prison Pipeline during the Twenty-First Century



Texas
APPLESEED

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May 2024

Prison Industrial Complex Abolition

PIC - interwoven web of policing and prisons in the U.S. that cages 2.3 million people - and keeps them under supervised control

Term developed by Black women activists like Dr. Angela Y. Davis, Ruth Wilson Gilmore, Mariame Kaba and organizations like Critical Resistance

As Michelle Alexander puts it, mass incarceration is a continuation of the racial caste systems of chattel slavery and de jure segregation

Abolition seeks to end these death-making institutions and replace them with life-building resources for community

School-to-Prison Pipeline

Through exclusionary discipline (suspensions, expulsions, and alternative education placements) and school policing, so many kids are put into contact with the criminal legal system

This feeds the broader criminal legal system - kids who are classified as 'bad' often end up facing the consequences of the system for years - they are disproportionately Black, Brown, LGBTQ, and living with disabilities

It also leads to placements in juvenile detention centers and state-run youth prisons

School Policing

There are tens of thousands of school police officers in schools across the United States, though the exact number is unclear

There is no empirical evidence that school police officers keep students safe or prevent mass shootings

A 2020 GAO report confirms that most school-shooting fatalities occurred in wealthier, predominantly white schools; environments that are generally unlikely to have the presence of school police officers

Many schools dedicate multi-million dollar budgets to school policing without meeting recommended ratios of counselors to young people

Houston ISD spends over \$10 million per year to employ over 150 school police officers

Snapshot of the School-to-Prison Pipeline in Texas: 2018-2020

According to data from the Texas Education Agency, 6,802 Black students and 5,906 Latinx students were suspended out-of-school from Dallas ISD during the 2018-2019 school year, as compared to only 363 white students

In Spring ISD, in Harris County, Black children account for 40% of student enrollment, yet they represent a staggering 74% of students arrested from 2018-2019

After a months-long fight, the Austin ISD Board of Trustees refused to defund its internal school police department, which employs over 80 officers and has a multi-million budget (demonstrating the belief of so many policymakers that police have a role at all during a pandemic)

Response During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Schools should divest from school policing and invest in resources that will achieve recommended ratios of young people to mental health professionals (1 school counselor for every 250 students and 1 school psychologist for every 600 students)

Policymakers should strive to go beyond the call of recommended ratios - optimally, there would be one school counselor for every 25 students in schools across the country

Schools should adopt trauma-informed models of care to create nurturing environments for young people as they process the mass loss brought on by the pandemic

Hardening measures, including increased policing and security measures, should be scrupulously avoided

Recommendations

End school policing - and use the multi-million dollar budgets of school police departments to fund student support services

Implement restorative & transformative justice programs to do away with the philosophy of zero tolerance

Equitably fund public schools to ensure that they can fully serve their neighborhoods and communities

Center the voices of Black children and other underserved young people in policy conversations about American K-12 education