



SCHOOL-TO- CONFINEMENT PIPELINE

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THE BLURRING OF SCHOOL AND PRISON

- The 80s saw the mass criminalization of various actions and identities unleashing government-enforced movements such as the war on drugs which coupled with a heightened societal fear over crime “increasing” resulted in schools adopting many of the zero tolerance policies that law enforcement agencies were applying to communities
- As a result, schools now reflect punitive law and order policies and institutions that criminalize students in the classroom inhibiting their success in school

School vs. Prison

School

- Authoritarian structure
- Dress code
- Emphasize on silence and order
- Negative reinforcement
- Walk in lines
- Loss of individual autonomy
- Abridged freedoms
- No input in decision making
- Set time enforced for waking, eating etc.

Prison

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THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

- With schools acting as agents of “law and order,” a nexus has been created most commonly referred to as the school-to-prison pipeline
- The pipeline is defined as the funneling of youth from schools to carceral systems as a result of the harsh school policies and the presence of forces like SROs



Link: <https://youtu.be/HoKkasEyDOI>

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE AS A MEDIUM OF CRIMINALIZATION

- School Resource Officers- sworn law enforcement officer that is placed in a school for crime prevention and to assure safety in schools
- Zero tolerance policies or school disturbance laws- criminalize minor infractions in schools like dresswear, truancy, and school-related incidences
- Funding- with low funding for schools, there are no or little alternatives to the current disciplinary practices

← The main drivers of the school-to-prison pipeline



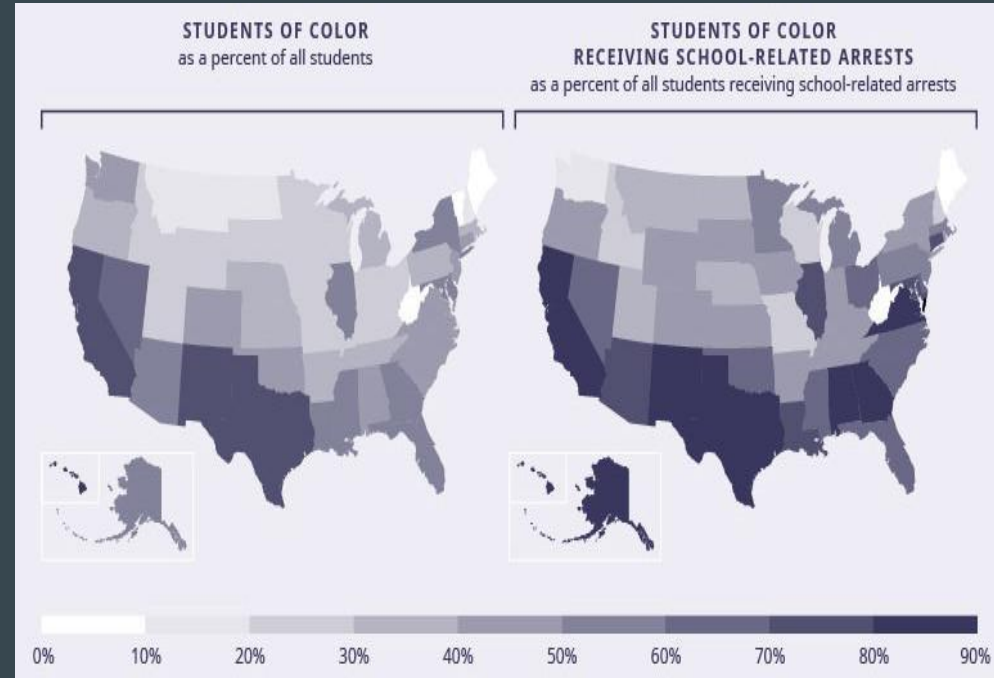
HOW DO THE MAIN DRIVERS IMPACT THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE?

- SROs- They police hallways and classroom creating a direct pathway through school-related arrests for incidents that could be handled within the school
- School policies- Refer young people to courts for actions like truancy that lead to punitive disciplinary actions, increase contact with law enforcement and the juvenile justice system
- Funding- With lack of funding for public schools, there are no resources focused on programs that are restorative focused for staff and students that can disrupt the pipeline



RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES

- The school-to-prison pipeline has disproportionately impacted youth of color
- Studies show that students of color are disproportionately disciplined at higher rates than white students even when the white student population is greater than the population of students of color
- In Illinois, when school disciplinary data for the 25 school districts with the highest racial and ethnic disparities in discipline was compared to the state's juvenile detention data, the counties in which the school districts were in had the highest detention data



Source: (Illinois Collaboration on Youth 2019;
Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission 2018)

THE POWER OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



Link: https://youtu.be/Kh8cc_i1gNc

ACTIONS: HOW CAN WE DISRUPT THE PIPELINE?

- POLICY
- ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SCHOOLS
- RESTORATIVE ALTERNATIVES TO THE CURRENT DISCIPLINARY PRACTICES
- SCHOOL POLICY EVALUATION
- COMMUNITY COLLABORATION: YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY PRESENCE IN SCHOOLS
- SRO PRESENCE ALTERED OR ABANDONED
- BETTER FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHAT ACTIONS
WILL YOU TAKE
TO DISRUPT THE
CURRENT
TRENDS IN
SCHOOLS?