

# School To Prison Pipeline

By: Laila Hamza

## What is the School To Prison Pipeline?

The School-to-Prison Pipeline: “A trend” that funnels students into the prison system that disproportionately affects Black and Brown students and/or students with a history of suffering from poverty and abuse.

Source: <https://www.aclu.org/issues/juvenile-justice/school-prison-pipeline>

Students who are affected

**Students of Color**



**Students with disabilities**



## Numbers that support the school to prison pipeline concept

### Fact:

According to the American Bar Association, Black students made up **“only 18 percent of students in public schools** in 2009–2010”, yet **“they accounted for 40 percent of students who received one or more out-of-school suspensions.”**

Source:  
[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/apsolo/publications/apsolo\\_report/2014/june\\_2014/the\\_emergence\\_of\\_the\\_school-to-prison\\_pipeline/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/apsolo/publications/apsolo_report/2014/june_2014/the_emergence_of_the_school-to-prison_pipeline/)

### Fact:

Students of color with disabilities are also referred out of the classroom at an alarmingly disproportionate rate. **“1 in 4 African-American students with disabilities** are suspended at least once, **in comparison to 1 in 11 white students.”**

## Zero Tolerance Policies in Schools

The Zero Tolerance Policy allows for disciplinary action for minor misbehaviors. Punishment includes **suspension and expulsion for minor misbehaviors** such as “disrespect, disruptive conduct or insubordination.”

Sources:

<https://www.debate.org/opinions/do-zero-tolerance-policies-in-schools-work>

<https://www.aclu.org/issues/juvenile-justice/school-prison-pipeline>

### **ZERO TOLERANCE**

Use of profanity, verbal threats  
or any act of violence will NOT  
be tolerated on school grounds  
or at school events

## Zero Tolerance Policies in Schools

The zero tolerance policy was apart of my middle schools disciplinary system. I was suspended because my teacher thought what I had said was “disrespectful” and “rude”. I did not mean any harm with my comment but because of the way I speak it came off that way.

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# The Criminalization of Innocent students

In The Youth Accountability Program students are put on **probation** for receiving bad grades.

When placed on probation, program participants along with their parents sign contracts that subject them to **close monitoring, searches, drug testing, and disruptive interrogation**. But, before signing these contracts, **parents and children are not given information about the offence they are accused of, neither are they advised of their legal rights**. This program violates the rights of these children, specifically the **4th amendment right**.

Source:

<https://www.aclu.org/blog/racial-justice/race-and-inequality-education/innocent-students-are-getting-criminalizing>



## Policing in Public Schools

Police officers in schools are referred to as SROs or **School Resource Officers**. With the “increased reliance” on police officers in schools, students are more susceptible to school based arrests for low level offenses, including non-serious assaults or disorderly conduct.

In California, Compton's Unified School District has authorized SROs to carry military grade assault rifles which create the image for students that the SROs are set in place to criminalize them.

### Fun Fact:

SROs are more common in “**urban public schools in impoverished communities**” when ironically mass shootings are more likely to occur in schools dominated by “middle-class whites”

#### Sources:

“Policing The Black Man” by Angela Davis

<https://www.aclu.org/issues/juvenile-justice/school-prison-pipeline>

“Militarization of School Police”: One Route on the School-to-Prison-Pipeline” by Bethany J. Peake



What should we do?

**Solutions:**

1. School Officials should reassess their discipline policies
2. Positive images of police officials should be created for adolescents



## Civil Rights Amendments

### The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments

These Amendments allowed a path to be set for Black people to be free and help them be successful. Yet many ways were created to oppress Black people.



Jim Crow Laws, Black Codes, Police Brutality, Stop and Frisk, and the School to Prison pipeline are many systems to keep Black and people of color oppressed.



## Civil Rights Movement and Black Lives Matter

Many successful strategies from the Civil Rights Movement have been adopted by the Black Lives Matter movement, but with a modern twist. Lunch Counter sit-ins were employed in the Civil Rights Movement, and we now use methods like die-ins. Die-ins are protests in which participants pretend to be dead by lying still for a set amount of time, which varies depending on the demonstration. We also have a social media advantage that the Civil Rights Movement lacked. We can engage with anyone at any time, wherever in the globe, thanks to social media. This also aids in the speedier dissemination of information. When people throughout the world learn about what's going on in America, they become concerned and raise awareness in their localities, putting pressure on local governments to act.



*“The use of guns and militarized equipment undermines the basic ethos of school as a learning environment and replaces it with fear and control.”*

*–Alex Vitale*

the coordinator of the Policing and Social Justice Project at Brooklyn College.

<https://policingandjustice.squarespace.com/>

Thanks!

ANY QUESTIONS?



# Reference Page

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Hinger, Sarah, and Sylvia Torres-Guillén. "Innocent Students Are Getting Criminalizing Probation in One California County." *American Civil Liberties Union*, American Civil Liberties Union, 2 July 2018, [www.aclu.org/blog/racial-justice/race-and-inequality-education/innocent-students-are-getting-criminalizing](http://www.aclu.org/blog/racial-justice/race-and-inequality-education/innocent-students-are-getting-criminalizing).

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