

The Movement to Dismantle the School-to-Prison Pipeline: A Call to Action

The school-to-prison pipeline is a serious problem that disproportionately affects students of color. This pipeline begins with the over-policing of schools, which leads to the criminalization of minor student behavior. Students of color are more likely to be suspended or expelled from school for the same behaviors that white students are not. This can lead to a downward spiral, as students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school and become involved in the juvenile justice system.



Willful Defiance: The Movement to Dismantle the School-to-Prison Pipeline by Mark R. Warren

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The school-to-prison pipeline has devastating consequences for students, their families, and their communities. Students who are suspended or

expelled are more likely to experience academic difficulties, poverty, and homelessness. They are also more likely to be incarcerated as adults.

The movement to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline is growing. Educators, parents, and community members are working together to create schools that are safe, supportive, and restorative. They are also working to change the policies and practices that lead to the criminalization of students.

The following are some key strategies for dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline:

- **End the over-policing of schools.** Schools should be places of learning, not prisons. Police officers should only be called to schools as a last resort.
- **Reform school discipline policies.** School discipline policies should be fair, consistent, and restorative. They should focus on helping students to learn from their mistakes, not on punishing them.
- **Provide support services for students.** Students who are struggling need support services, such as counseling, mentoring, and tutoring. These services can help students to succeed in school and avoid the school-to-prison pipeline.
- **Advocate for policy changes.** Educators, parents, and community members can advocate for policy changes that will dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline. These changes include ending the zero-tolerance approach to school discipline, raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction, and investing in early childhood education.

The movement to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline is a critical step towards creating a more just and equitable society. By working together, we can make a difference in the lives of our children and our communities.

Resources

- The American Civil Liberties Union
- The Sentencing Project
- The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People



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