

Discussion Questions:

The School-To-Prison Pipeline



1. What do you think are the reasons for the increase in suspensions, expulsions, and school-based arrests in schools across the country?
2. What are the disciplinary policies in your school? How do they compare to the policies in place when you or your parents were in school?
3. Have you ever seen any instances of the school-to-prison pipeline operating?
4. Should children ever be arrested at school? If so, when? Should disorderly conduct or disruptive behavior be enough to warrant arrest?
5. How would you feel if you were arrested at school? What if your friend or your child were arrested? How about if you (or your friend/child) were being unfairly punished by school officials?
6. What trainings should police officers receive before they are deployed to work with children in schools?
7. Why do you think students of color are more likely to receive harsh punishments for misbehavior? What about children with special needs? Have you seen evidence of this disparate treatment in your own life?
8. How can we ensure safe public schools while respecting all students' right to education?
9. Has the increased importance of standardized testing changed education in America? How?
10. Do you think disciplinary alternative schools are a good idea? What kinds of minimum requirements should they be subject to?
11. Do you believe children waive their right to an education under certain circumstances? What circumstances?
12. How much do you think it costs to incarcerate a child? How much do you think it costs to provide a child with a decent education?
13. What steps can you as an individual and we as a society take to make sure that all young people have access to quality education?
14. If you had a million dollars to spend on education in your community, what would you do with it?