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## MACRO LEVEL INTERVENTIONS THAT COMBAT THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE



### SOURCE

William, M., & Guz, S. (2017). Notes From the Field: Four Macro Interventions that Combat the School-To-Prison Pipeline. *Professional Development: International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education*, 20(1), 38-44.

### ELIMINATE ZERO TOLERANCE POLICIES

# 70%

## OF STUDENTS ARRESTED

are Black or Latino.

# 68%

## OF BLACK INMATES DO NOT HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

# 01

*Students of color are three times more likely to be harshly disciplined than a white student.*

- Zero tolerance policies encourage schools to use exclusionary practices to manage behavior.
- Research shows zero tolerance policies have been unsuccessful in schools and negatively impact the lives of the students.
- These policies cause many students to drop out and/or come into contact with the legal system.
- School social workers have a legal and ethical obligation to provide alternative supports and advocate to keep students safe.

### CONNECTING SCHOOLS TO NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

# 02

- Libraries, faith based organizations, businesses, and services clubs should work together to support the education of youth of color, as with Youth Voices based in Michigan.
- Evidenced-based community services have been shown to establish efficacy within the community; failure to provide can have detrimental effects to youth.
- Less than 10% of youth have access to community evidence-based community services.

### COME TOGETHER!

In Denver, The Advancement Project and Padres y Jovenes Unidos, a legal action group and grassroots community organization, created restorative practices that reduced suspensions by 53.8%.



### DEMILITARIZING SCHOOLS



Black students make up about 15% of the population but are 2.6 times more likely to be suspended than their white peers.

# 45%

# 03

About 45% of minor arrests are attributed to black youth, but only about 17% of America's population is black.

- Police officers initially began working in schools in the 1950s to build positive relationships between students and police.
- Following events of Columbine shooting, there has been a demand for increased police presence in schools.
- Evidence has shown that the increase in officers has not resulted in less violence, has contributed to tension in the school community, and leads to students of color facing physical brutality for non-violent offenses.

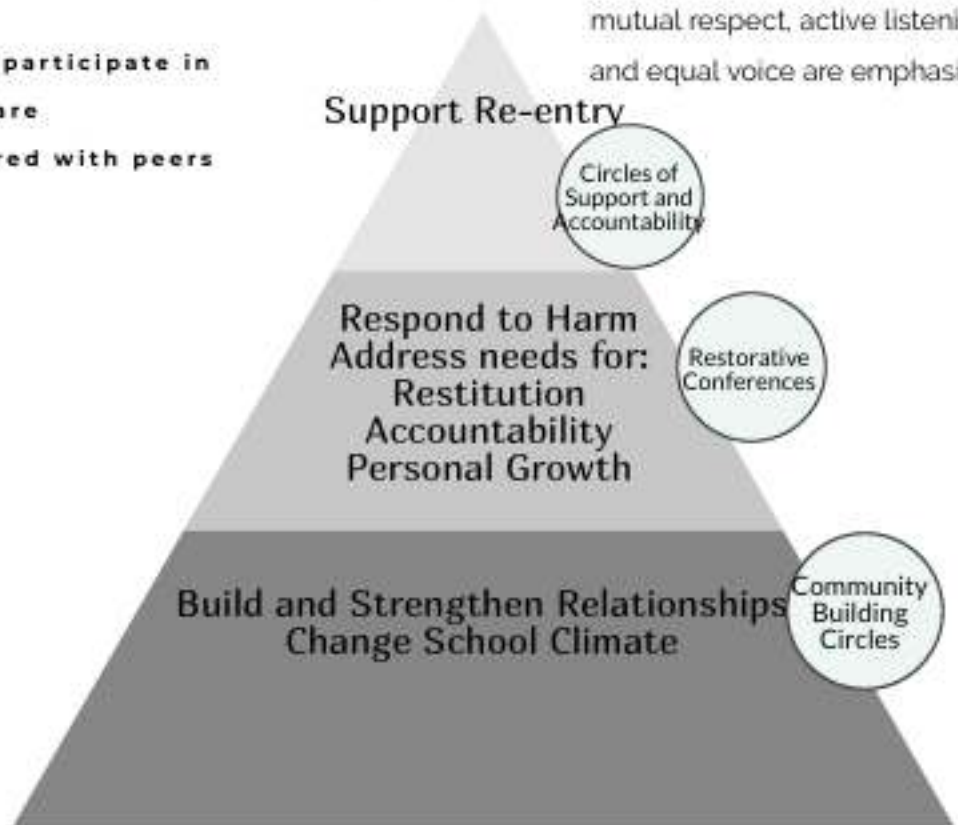
### IMPLEMENTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

### RESTORATIVE DIALOGUE

# 04

- Has been shown to reduce behavioral referrals suspensions, improve test scores, and graduation rates.
- According to three meta analyses, students that participate in mediation, or mediation and group conferencing, are significantly less likely to recidivate when compared with peers that did not participate.

Victim-Offender Mediation  
Group Conferencing  
Circles, etc:  
mutual respect, active listening, and equal voice are emphasized



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