


ON TRACK—OUT OF TROUBLE—IN SCHOOL

KEEPING CHILDREN OUT OF THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE



What is the School-to-Prison Pipeline?


Mark P. Fancher

Racial Justice Project Staff Attorney

ACLU of Michigan

What is the School-to-Prison Pipeline?

- One of the most important education and civil rights issues of our time
- Refers to the policies and practices that lead young people out of school and into the justice system
- Impacts educational outcomes and effects can last a lifetime
- Disproportionately impacts minority, disabled, and low-income household students



The School-to-Prison Pipeline in Michigan

Rodd Monts
Field Director
ACLU of Michigan


The School-to-Prison Pipeline in Michigan

One Family's Story


Video Inserted

Addressing the School-to-Prison Pipeline

RECLAIMING MICHIGAN'S THROWAWAY KIDS




Students Trapped
IN THE
School-to-Prison Pipeline



- **8 committees of ACLU volunteers engaged in outreach and research**
- **Hosted a series of public education/student rights forums**
- **Followed up on complaints & promoted greater use of alternative strategies**
- **Worked at state level to call for policy change**

State Level Reforms Needed

- **State Board of Ed approved resolution in 2012 calling for zero tolerance reform, greater use of alternatives**
- **Legislative reform could return focus of zero tolerance to safety, encourage more appropriate discipline for non-safety related offenses**



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

ROD SMITH
Governor

WENDY P. FLANNERY
Superintendent of Public Instruction

State Board of Education
Resolution to Address School Discipline Issues Impacting Student Outcomes

Given the steadily increasing use of zero tolerance policies, the alarming rate of suspensions in school districts across Michigan, the lack of evidence these policies improve safety, and negative impact these disciplinary actions are having on student outcomes, the State Board of Education calls for schools across the state to adopt discipline policies without mandated suspension or expulsion for issues that do not involve weapons.

The Board, along with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, remains absolutely committed to policies that promote the safest environment possible for students, staff, and visitors in all of the state's schools. There is a mounting body of evidence, however, that suggests safety can be maintained, and educational outcomes can be improved, by reducing the number of student suspensions and expulsions.

The Gun Free Schools Act of 1994 mandates zero tolerance for firearms in schools and the refusal to law enforcement of any student accused of a violation. Since the enactment of this law, Michigan has more other states. See attached additional legislation (HR 7, HR 1111, HR 1011, HR 1111) and

Reducing Suspensions and Expulsions

- **Progress**
- **Challenges**
- **Recommendations**

Reducing School-Based Referrals & Arrests

- **Progress**
- **Challenges**
- **Recommendations**

Increasing Use of Alternative Discipline Strategies



- Progress
- Challenges
- Recommendations

Addressing the School-to-Prison Pipeline



- Discussion

ACLU of Michigan Contacts



- Mark P. Fancher, Racial Justice Project Staff Attorney,
mfancher@aclumich.org, 313.578.6822
- Rodd Monts, Field Director, rmonts@aclumich.org,
313.578.6830
