

ZERO TOLERANCE

DISCIPLINE IN EDUCATION

A ONE SIZE FITS ALL APPROACH TO DISCIPLINE

GUN FREE SCHOOLS ACT OF 1994

Zero tolerance began in 1994 as a response to growing concerns about serious offenses (e.g., drug and gun violence) in schools



ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL



Modeled after mandatory sentencing laws, this approach mandates explicit, predetermined punishments for categories of offenses

Zero tolerance does not specify rehabilitative actions, and punishment are often exclusionary (e.g., suspension) with little impact on school safety

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS



NOT JUST FOR SERIOUS OFFENSES



Exclusionary discipline forms the basis for most school policies, including police presence in schools and consequences for minor offenses

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ZERO TOLERANCE, VISIT

<https://www.sharedjustice.org/domestic-justice/2017/12/21/zero-tolerance-policies-and-the-school-to-prison-pipeline>

<https://supportiveschooldiscipline.org/zero-tolerance-policy>

ZERO TOLERANCE

IS IT WORKING FOR OUR STUDENTS?

DISCIPLINE GAP

Black students and students with disabilities receive harsher punishments and at 4-7x the rate of other students



EXCLUSIONARY DISCIPLINE

Research has shown that removing a student from the classroom (e.g., suspension) has detrimental impacts on the academic and life outcomes

PUSH OUT

Over-reliance on exclusionary discipline and unwelcoming school environments are among the factors that push students out of schools (i.e., drop-out)



SCHOOL TO PRISON?

~68% of national male inmates did not complete high school (many of which were push-outs) and the average reading level of offenders is grade 8

Read more at <https://ed.stanford.edu/in-the-media/schools-vs-prisons-educations-way-cut-prison-population-op-ed-deborah-stipek>

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SCHOOL DISCIPLINE AND ZERO-TOLERANCE, VISIT
[HTTPS://SUPPORTIVESCHOOLDISCIPLINE.ORG](https://supportiveschooldiscipline.org)
[HTTPS://WWW.SHAREDJUSTICE.ORG/DOMESTIC-JUSTICE/2017/12/21/ZERO-TOLERANCE-POLICIES-AND-THE-SCHOOL-TO-PRISON-PIPELINE](https://www.sharedjustice.org/domestic-justice/2017/12/21/zero-tolerance-policies-and-the-school-to-prison-pipeline)

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE: "THE PATHWAY FROM EXCLUSIONARY DISCIPLINE TO THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE." AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 2020.