

The Texas School-to-Prison Pipeline

The **School-to-Prison Pipeline** is a combination of (i) school disciplinary actions that remove students from their regular classrooms, such as suspensions, expulsions and alternative school placements, and (ii) the criminalization of student misbehavior, leading to school-based arrests and ticketing, that push Texas students—particularly students of color and special education students—out of Texas’ schools, decreasing their chances of graduating and increasing their chances of entering the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems.



How Are Texas Children Affected?

Suspensions & expulsions

- Well over half (60%) of Texas public school children were suspended or expelled between grades 7 and 12 from 2000 to 2009.
- The vast majority (97%) of these disciplinary actions were at the discretion of school officials, not for offenses mandating suspension or expulsion by state law.
- African-American students were 31% *more likely* to receive discretionary discipline action.
- Three-quarters of special education students were suspended or expelled from 2000-09.
- When a student was suspended or expelled for a discretionary discipline action, this *tripled* the likelihood of juvenile justice system contact in the following school year.

School-based arrests & ticketing

- Over 229,000 non-traffic citations were issued to juveniles in 2012 on and off school campuses.
- Most “crime” on school campuses is minor behavior—Disruption of Class and Disorderly Conduct are commonly ticketed offenses.
- Most school-based arrests are for misdemeanor offenses, like theft, criminal mischief, and simple assault.
- African-American students are vastly overrepresented in ticketing and arrests.
- Over 100,000 Texas children were prosecuted in adult criminal court for failure to attend school in 2012.

How Do We End the School-to-Prison Pipeline in Texas?

Proven practices can be implemented by schools to improve student behavior while decreasing reliance on suspensions, expulsions, arrests and ticketing:

- **School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports**
- **Social & Emotional Learning**
- **Restorative Justice.**

Texas Appleseed is working alongside schools and communities to end the school-to-prison pipeline. For more information, contact Deborah Fowler at (512) 473-2800 x105 or dfowler@texasappleseed.net.

