WHY WE NEED TO REMOVE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS FROM PROVIDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

and end a cycle of racist and arbitrary school discipline practices, break the Providence School-to-Prison Pipeline, and build schools that are safe, healthy, and equitable.
The Harm:

POLICE TRAUMATIZE STUDENTS

Youth of color report higher stress levels as a result of contact with police, which can lead to adverse mental health outcomes such as symptoms of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress.

POLICE PUSH US OUT OF SCHOOL

Schools with police are more likely to suspend, expel and arrest students, which disproportionately impacts Black and Brown students, LGBTQ+ students, and students with disabilities.

Black students make up 16% of overall Providence Public School enrollment and 30% of all student arrests.

This is serious: students are twice as likely to drop out of high school after being arrested for the first time.
POLICE DON'T MAKE US SAFER

A review of 40 years of evaluations of police in schools shows school police have no positive impact on school safety.

"As a student of color I’ve always had to be cautious about who or what makes me feel safe. A middle-aged white man with a pistol and no basic understanding of what it means to be me, was not one of those things."

~ PPSD student

POLICE NEGATIVELY IMPACT STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

A study of 2.5 million students showed that the presence of school police leads to an increase in disciplinary actions, a decrease in high school graduation rates and a decrease in college enrollment rates. In New York City, an increase in the number of school police officers correlated with worse test scores for Black students.
How we got here:

Police were first introduced into schools in the early 50's under the pretext to protect school property after the beginnings of integration. As Black and Brown students began to organize to fight racist Jim Crow Laws from the North to the South,

school police acted as agents of the state to suppress the growing power of student movements and to maintain the power of White-dominated institutions.

Police were later placed in schools in increasing numbers as a response to school shootings from Columbine, Sandyhook, and Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School.

But while each of these school shootings were committed by White students in majority White suburban schools, Black and Brown students would be increasingly criminalized and physically brutalized by the increased presence of police in their schools.
WE DEMAND MORE SUPPORTIVE AND RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN OUR SCHOOLS

Guidance Counselors
Art Therapy
Restorative Justice
Mental Health Supports
Nurses
Educators, Staff, and Administrators of Color
Mentors
A Quiet Place to Reflect
Student empowerment and decision making
Adults to Listen
Social Workers

@pvdstudentunion
“Students should not have to feel alone because they have no one to listen to them.”  
-former PPSD student

Social, emotional and mental health supports are vital:
- About 72 percent of children in the U.S. will have experienced at least one traumatic event in their lives such as witnessing violence, experiencing abuse, or experiencing the loss of a loved one.
- Students are 21 times more likely to seek support in school than anywhere else.

“If somebody had just tried to understand why I was doing what I was doing instead of trying to judge me for it, punish me for it, or abandon me for it, I think it could have made a difference.”  
-former PPSD Student

Schools that employ more mental health professionals see
- improved attendance rates
- lower rates of suspension and expulsion
- improved academic achievement and career preparation
- improved graduation rates
- improved school safety
TAKE ACTION

COUNSELORS NOT COPS

Sign this petition: bit.ly/PSU_CNC

Go here to send an email to

to Education Commissioner Angelica Infante-Green at
angelica.infantegreen@ride.ri.gov and
PPSD Superintendent Harrison Peters at
Superintendent@ppsd.org

and other city and state officials

Both links will be in our bio!

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Sources


