FACT SHEET: REMOVE POLICE FROM SCHOOLS

SROs, SCHOOL SAFETY AND RACIAL JUSTICE

SROs, or School Resource Officers, are simply police officers assigned to schools. There is no specific mandatory training or accreditation required before an SRO is placed in a school setting.

SROs in schools are intended to maintain a safe and secure learning environment, but studies have shown that SROs do not measurably increase safety. Further, the presence of an SRO in a school increases the likelihood that youth, specifically Black and Latino youth will be referred to law enforcement and/or arrested. Experiencing arrest, or watching a classmate experience arrest, can be traumatizing for students.

Police presence in schools to address “safety” must be viewed through a racial justice lens due to the disproportionate, negative impact of SROs on students of color.

INVESTING IN SUCCESS NOT ARREST

Instead of paying for a police presence in schools, districts should increase investment in people trained and programs focused on providing health and mental health services, behavioral support, and student achievement. The cost-savings in removing SROs from schools can be used to fund:

- Wrap around services, such as job readiness programs, mentorships, tutoring, and programs open past 8pm on weekends
- Social workers and guidance counselors
- Nurses and health services
- Mental health service professionals and services
- Mediation specialists, restorative justice trainers and school climate specialists

Currently, some districts in Connecticut invest more money in school resources officers than they do in nurses. By default, SROs do not receive training in mental health services and therefore are not the appropriate persons to respond to behavioral issues. Money being used to fund SROs can be better spent towards creating supportive learning environments where students have access to services and programs that promote success and provide opportunity.

Please Support NO Police in Schools

SOURCE: Connecticut Voices for Children - Counselors Not Cops

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