

School-to-Prison Pipeline:

Understanding the Relationship Between School Discipline, Dropout, and Incarceration

The school-to-prison pipeline: an epidemic that is plaguing schools across the nation. Far too often, students are suspended, expelled or even arrested for minor offenses that leave visits to the principal's office a thing of the past. Statistics reflect that these policies disproportionately target students of color and those with a history of abuse, neglect, poverty or learning disabilities. The purpose of this workshop is to begin to examine the root causes and repercussions of the school-to-prison pipeline on today's youth; understand the impact race, gender, and poverty have on this epidemic; and empower participants to make changes in their schools and communities.

Purpose of Course:

The purpose of this course is to broaden and develop our understanding of the policy, the practice, and issues related to the School-to-Prison Pipeline. Related issues will include student/family issues, discipline placements, juvenile placements, educational equity, civil rights, and access.

Specific Objectives of the Course:

Students will be able to:

1. Know the historical roots of the school-to-prison pipeline.
2. Examine federal, state, and local policies grounding the school-to-prison-pipeline.
3. Explore how federal, state, and local discipline policies work against the poor, minority males, and students with disabilities.
4. Understand how discipline criminalization in elementary schools affects children of color.

Questions to consider when choosing this course:

Do you believe that children of color are treated unfairly in schools?

Do you believe that your surrounding environment influence your educational motivation?

Do you believe children waive their right to an education under certain circumstances? What circumstances?