

# HOW POLICE ARE INVOLVED IN SCHOOLS AND WHY THAT HARMS STUDENTS

Texas law lets school districts choose what type of security to have on campus. For example, it lets them choose whether to create their own police departments, contract with local municipal police, or hire private security companies.

Districts spend too much money on policing at the expense of kids' education. For example, in 63 districts across the state, schools spent more on security than guidance and counseling. The median district spent was \$51 per student on security, but only \$2 on counseling.

Some of the districts that use police the most are also districts where police closely monitor the surrounding communities. This constant police presence can increase anxiety and foster a negative self-image for kids.

This harms all students — a 2014 study found that as schools disciplined more and more kids, school-wide education performance decreased. So, the more schools discipline, the worse kids do in school.

Under Texas law, prosecutors or police officers must report arrests to school officials. This can lead to students being expelled, suspended or sent to DAEP even if no charges are filed or the charges are later dismissed.

Every day, teachers, principals, and law enforcement officers make decisions about which behavior deserves punishment. These choices frequently lead to officials treating students of color differently than white students. Nationally, despite being 12% of the student population, Black students are 2.3x more likely than white students to be arrested or referred to law enforcement.

Schools are required to have "Threat Assessment Teams," which are groups of school-based employees, including police, that monitor students and can possibly bring in local law enforcement. At some districts, felony or misdemeanor charges have resulted from monitoring a student's snapchat, tiktok, facebook, and other off-campus activity.

Police are heavily involved in many kids' every day school experience. But having police in schools increases the likelihood of arrests, suspensions, expulsions, and dropout rates.

