

## Video: Breaking School-to-prison Pipelines

By **Briana Johnson**, Video Production Specialist

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Students, parents and teachers are demanding Minnesota eliminate school-related discipline practices that heighten certain acts to criminal offenses. It would go a long way in breaking the school-to-prison pipeline, which disproportionately targets youth of color. Getting school resources officers (which are police stationed in schools) out of the buildings will also limit the number of students who wind up in the criminal justice system, researchers and activists say.

More school staff diversity and implementing restorative justice measures will also help ensure safer schools.



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**Jean Lewandowski says:**

*May 27, 2014 at 1:43 pm*

The school-to-prison pipeline is partially the result of the notion that some kids should be someone else's "problem." In the school where I spent the last 7 years of my teaching career and on whose board I now serve, we have a strong bias against suspending students out of school and toward working collaboratively to address behavior and academic problems with the goal of solving them, rather than "getting rid" of them. This involves encouraging healthy and supportive relationships between students and staff, direct instruction in pro-social skills for students who struggle with behavior, time for staff collaboration, and the belief that every student who enrolls at our school is deserving of the best we can give.

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