



Why SROs are Harmful in Our Schools



Creating an unwelcome learning environment

37.7% of students of color said they would not tell their SRO if they knew about something unsafe or illegal

43.3% of students of color said they would not feel comfortable going to their SRO if they needed help

“having a cop in school feels like it’s assuming the worst of the student population - which hurts.” - a current Denfeld student

Is this really what we want the environment of our schools to be?

[2019 Semi-Annual Report to MDHR: Disproportionate Suspension/ Expulsion](#)



Students have all seen the positive impacts of counselors, but the same cannot be said for SROs.



They don't achieve their goal of community building for every student

Community building was heavily emphasized, however, SROs don't establish positive relationships with all students.

How can we justify some good, for all the hurt that they can cause students of color.



School to prison pipeline

What is it?

- The disproportionate tendency of minors and young adults from disadvantaged backgrounds to become incarcerated.

Data Includes incidents at East High School, Denfeld High School, Lincoln Park Middle School and Ordean East Middle School during the school year where the responding Officer was an SRO

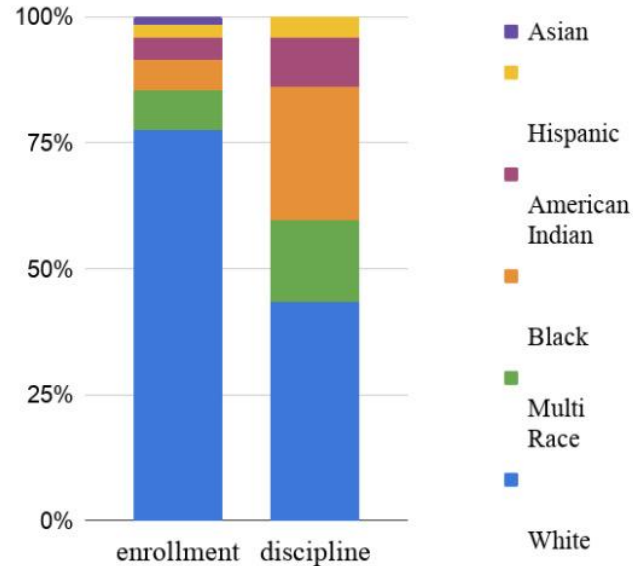
| Gender | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Female | 29 | 27 | 29 |
| Male | 49 | 61 | 62 |
| Total | 78 | 88 | 90 |

| Age | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 10-11 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 12-13 | 22 | 16 | 16 |
| 14-15 | 31 | 43 | 52 |
| 16-17 | 24 | 28 | 21 |
| Total | 78 | 88 | 90 |

| Race | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Black | 26 | 27 | 35 |
| Native | 12 | 16 | 8 |
| White | 39 | 44 | 45 |
| Other | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 78 | 88 | 90 |

| Crime Type | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Assault | 30 | 28 | 20 |
| Tobacco/Alcohol | 28 | 24 | 35 |
| Disorderly Conduct/Harassment | 27 | 32 | 43 |
| Drugs | 14 | 34 | 28 |
| Truancy | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Theft/Possession Stolen Property | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| Obstruct Legal Process/False Name/Fleeing | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Trespassing | 3 | 17 | 15 |
| Indecent Exposure/Criminal Sex Conduct | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Damage to Property | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Total | 116 | 145 | 156 |

Enrollment and Discipline by Racial Category in Duluth Public Schools, 2014-2019





Their responsibilities could be, and already are, better handled by others

Duties according to the DPD presentation:

1. Role model
2. Mentor
3. Community Liaison
4. Law Related Educator
5. Law Enforcement Officer

All teachers and staff are wonderful role models and mentors for students

Law enforcement officer is last on the list. This shows that it is less essential than their other capacities that are already fulfilled by others.



Alternatives to SROs

The PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports) 3 tier system

<https://www.pbis.org/pbis/getting-started>

Average salary of a high school counselor: \$56,310 (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Budget for SROs in 2019-2020: \$251,906



Respecting students, our future

The school board is inaccessible to students. This minimizes the board's understanding of problems that students face because they can't communicate the magnitude of them.

Harmful language being used:

- Helping students overcome their fear vs. Dealing with what's causing the fear



“It is our responsibility and our duty as elected officials of the Duluth School Board - and as humans - to challenge the systems that we have created or perpetuated, as those systems continue to create results that, for some, end with adverse and unequal outcomes.

We must remember that many in our community, especially our children, are grappling with the fear they have just because of the color of their skin, and it is critical that we as elected officials continue to commit ourselves to equity and justice in the systems in which we have power.

We on the School Board of ISD 709 choose change”

How can we say we choose change, when we continue to partner with an oppressive and outdated system?