

**School Justice PSD
TALKING POINTS
August 18, 2020**

School Justice PSD believes that law enforcement (SROs) should be removed from schools because:

- 1) Students are in need of vital services for students, such as providing counselors and mental health workers.
- 2) Security can be provided by non-law enforcement entities at less expense with better outcomes.
- 3) Police presence in schools is harmful to our students and disproportionately impacts minoritized and disabled populations.

SROs must be eliminated and those funds must be redirected for these reasons:

- While approximately 25% of the students in Poudre School District are students of color, nearly 50% of the students referred to law enforcement or disciplined in PSD are minoritized students.
- While approximately 8% of children in PSD have an IEP (special education plan) they compose approximately 25% of children disciplined and 18% of law enforcement referrals.
- PSD spends nearly \$1 million a year on police in schools.
- PSD does not have enough money for counselors and does not maintain the recommended student to counselor ratio.
- Law enforcement in schools does not increase school safety or prevent school shootings.
- An increase in mental health services for students does increase school safety.
- Money spent on SROs should be used instead for increasing the number of counselors, mental health services, and other necessary resources for students.
- SROs in schools lead to racial profiling of students.
- SROs in schools increase fear and mistrust among students of color.
- SROs result in violations of procedural and civil rights of students.
- SROs lead to the criminalization of students.
- SROs lead to more suspensions, expulsions, and legal actions against minoritized students.
- A law enforcement referral can cause students to lose their DACA, resulting in possible deportation of undocumented students.
- When police are in schools, administrators use law enforcement for discipline.
- Administrators in police free schools use more effective disciplinary practices, such as restorative justice.

There are many alternatives to deploying SROs in schools that do not cause harm to students of color and instead result in healthier school communities.

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