



**SPEAK TRUTH  
TO POWER**

**-Say no to SROs-**



## GET INVOLVED

**STUDENT ACTIVISM** – student activism has a rich history; whether it be teach-ins or walk-outs, almost every instance of injustice since the rise of the modern school has been met with student resistance. Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale were students at Merritt Junior College when they organized the Black Panther Party.

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT** – like the Black Panthers supported student activism throughout its existence, modern leftist groups have taken to supporting this. We have already been endorsed by MEChA de ASU, CrimethInc, and Cutting Class. We are persistently working to secure more support and that starts with you spreading the word. This movement isn't driven by any one organization - that would leave room for co-option. Instead, this movement is a coalition of autonomous individuals driven to end violence in schools.

**ORGANIZE** – knowledge is power. The statistics in this pamphlet are not meant to be a neutral tool stuck to the paper, they are meant to be utilized to spread resistance. Pass out fliers, give a speech on the street corner, setup a sit-in, a walk-out, or a reading group; infuriate as many people as possible. We will never win the battle in one blow, but a series of direct actions may just exert the pressure necessary to spark real change.

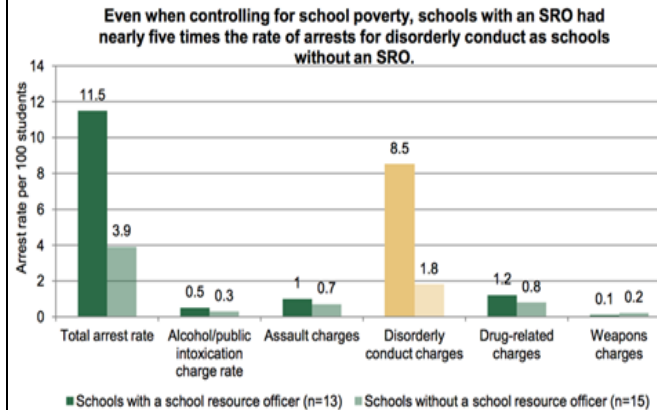
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## QUICK FACTS

- There is less than a 1 in a million chance of students dying at school<sup>2</sup>
- In the 2013-14 school year, over 223,000 students were referred to law enforcers at school<sup>3</sup>
- SROs are ineffective in reducing school violence<sup>4</sup>
- SROs increase disorder in the schools they are stationed at<sup>5</sup>
- SROs increase rate of arrests for “disorderly conduct” by over 100% even when studies control for poverty<sup>1</sup>
- Black students constitute 31% of arrests at school, despite only making up 16% of the student population<sup>6</sup>
- Non-able bodied students represent 12% of the student population, but constitute
  - 25% of arrests at school
  - 75% of instances of physical restraint being used against a student
  - 58% of instances of a student being placed in seclusion or involuntary confinement<sup>6</sup>
- SRO presence increases the likelihood of immigrant students facing deportation<sup>7</sup>

## SCHOOL-PRISON PIPELINE



(citation 1)

Police officers assigned to k12 campuses long ago realized that it is extremely difficult to get a student charged for public intoxication, drugs, or assault. This leaves one clear outlet for officers to actually get students in jail: disorderly conduct. In fact, according to the Journal of Criminal Justice, students with police officers stationed at their schools are five times as likely to be arrested for disorderly conduct.<sup>1</sup> In the court of law, a disorderly conduct case is largely reduced to word of mouth testimonies by witnesses. This makes cases often just dueling advocacies between a cop and a kid. The criminalization of normal student behavior is the lynchpin of the school to prison pipeline. This school to prison pipeline causes around 70,000 students a year to enter the criminal justice system.<sup>8</sup> A study by the DOJ found that 77% of prisoners are arrested again within five years.<sup>9</sup> Essentially, every year 49,000 children have their future stripped from them as they begin an endless cycle of incarceration and re-incarceration.

## PRISON-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

We saw one of our classmates, Evan Kelsey, get ruined by an uncaring school district and police force. With the opioid epidemic claiming 116 lives a day in 2016<sup>10</sup>, you'd think the Newton High School administration would be interested in helping those with serious addictions seek help, instead of enabling the police to set up a drug bust on someone who was in no way a 'dealer' of narcotics.

Evan Kelsey was addicted to opioids, and instead of getting him help, Newton PD got an informant to arrange Evan to 'middle-man' him pills. If Evan Kelsey is sentenced, he will then be entered into the criminal justice system as a felon, denying him voting rights, access to government assistance, and destroying his ability to find work outside of prison.<sup>11</sup>

His imprisonment will only serve to benefit the prison-industrial complex, which profits off of virtual slave labor in prisons. If he were interred at Fort Leavenworth Penitentiary, less than 200 miles from home, he would be working stripping recycled computer parts for at most \$1.15 an hour.<sup>12</sup> A prisoner could work for 50 hours and only earn \$57.

This is only possible because students, teachers, and administrators cooperate with Newton PD to imprison children who are already desperate. Instead of offering counseling or any form of support, our school system only offers punishment and exploitation for addicts suffering from one of the worst drug epidemics directly created by profit seeking from massive pharmacological companies.<sup>13</sup>