Statistics on the National Pushout Problem

• States spend $5.7 billion a year on the juvenile justice system instead of our schools. On average, states spend $88,000 to incarcerate a young person, but only $10,000 to educate one.

• 3 million students are suspended from school each year. The vast majority of suspensions are for minor, subjective infractions.

Disparities in School Discipline

• Black students are suspended and expelled at a rate three times greater than white students.

• 70% of students arrested or referred to police at school are Black and Latino. While Black students represent 16% of enrollment, they represent 31% of school-related arrests.

• Students with disabilities are more than twice as likely to receive an out-of-school suspension than students without disabilities.
Recommendations for Policy Change

• Ensure that all schools adopt school-wide, preventive and positive discipline policies, such as Restorative Practices and school-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports.

• Revise codes of conduct to limit suspensions, expulsions and other removals to be used only for the most serious behaviors and only as a last resort.

• Limit the presence and role of any law enforcement personnel in schools to ensure they are not involved in school disciplinary matters, and invest instead in counselors and other support staff in schools.

• Ensure that students and parents have a right to participate in decision-making affecting school policies.

• Provide regular training and supports on positive approaches to discipline for all school personnel — including teachers, principals, support staff, and school-based law enforcement officers.