



Dignity in Schools Campaign National Conference June 5-6, 2009 ♦ Chicago, IL



A Collective Voice for Dignity in Schools

Sponsored by

ACLU Racial Justice Program

Advancement Project, National Economic & Social Rights Initiative

National Education Association, Southern Poverty Law Center

Children & Family Justice Center at Northwestern University School of Law

NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, ACLU of Illinois

CADRE and Public Counsel

REGISTER NOW! at <http://www.dignityinschools.org/conference-registration>

The Dignity in Schools Campaign National Conference will bring together advocates, students, educators, parents, school administrators, and policy-makers to reframe the national dialogue on school climate and discipline within a human rights framework and to affirm that the human right to an education includes:

- * the full development of the child
- * the protection of human dignity
- * freedom from discrimination
- * the right to participation of students, parents & educators

The conference will engage participants in the following formats:

- * Plenary Panels - National leaders will share their knowledge and experience of positive models for school climate and discipline and strategies for ending school pushout.
- * Community Dialogue Breakout Sessions - Small, multi-stakeholder discussions will offer opportunities for deeper dialogue about positive alternatives and strategies for change. Each group will include community leaders, educators, advocates and policy-makers.
- * Resolution for Action Breakout Sessions - Participants will come together to build a collective voice through a National Resolution on Ending School Pushout. The Conference Working Group is preparing a draft Resolution based on input gathered by advocates and educators around the country. The draft will be discussed and revised at the conference and finalized for signatures following the conference.

Following the conference, the Working Group will also prepare and disseminate a Conference Report of Strategies for Ending Pushout based on the models and next steps discussed during the conference.

Special thanks to the Ford Foundation.

The Dignity in Schools Campaign (DSC) is a national coalition of policy advocates, parent and student organizers, educators and lawyers united to challenge the systemic problem of pushout in our nation's schools and advocates for the human right of every child to a quality education and to be treated with dignity.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.: **Registration & Continental Breakfast**

MORNING PLENARY

9:00 – 9:20 a.m.: **The Dignity in Schools Campaign (DSC) is All of Us**
The DSC will welcome participants, introduce the conference and describe the draft process for the National Resolution on Ending School Pushout.

- *Conference Emcee: Maisie Chin, Community Asset Development Redefining Education (CADRE)*
- *DSC Core Group*
- *Bernadine Dohrn, Children and Family Justice Center, Northwestern University School of Law*

9:20 – 9:50 a.m.: **Keynote Address: Judith Browne-Dianis, Advancement Project**

9:50 – 10:45 a.m.: **School Pushout & Human Rights**
Community leaders and educators discuss the devastating impact of zero-tolerance discipline and explore how policy and practice can be reframed to protect the human right to education and dignity in schools.

- *Moderator: Catherine Kim, ACLU Racial Justice Program*
- *Youth Leader, Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM)*
- *Nancy Franklin, Coordinator, Behavior Support, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)*

BREAKOUTS

11:00 – 12:15 p.m.: **Community Dialogue Breakout I – Discussing A Human Rights Approach**
In facilitated small group dialogues, participants will discuss how the human rights framework can be used as a tool for challenging pushout and promoting positive alternatives to zero-tolerance discipline.

12:15 – 1:00 p.m.: **Lunch and Informal Networking**

AFTERNOON PLENARY

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.: **Promoting Alternatives to Zero-Tolerance**
Participants learn about positive models and frameworks for transforming school climate and discipline practices, including restorative practices and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

- *Moderator: Matthew Cregor, Southern Poverty Law Center*
- *John Gardner, Illinois Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Network*
- *Steve Korr, International Institute for Restorative Practices*
- *Judge Brian Huff, Jefferson County Family Court, Alabama*

BREAKOUTS

- 2:40 – 3:55 p.m.: **Community Dialogue Breakout II - Exploring What Works**
In facilitated small group dialogues, participants discuss school practices, policy models and advocacy strategies that are working in their communities to end school pushout.
- 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.: **Resolution for Action Breakout I**
In facilitated small group dialogues, participants discuss and revise language for a draft National Resolution on Ending School Pushout.

DINNER AND PERFORMANCE

- 5:45 p.m. Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Performance Workshop
Dignity: We Deserve and Demand It
Voices from L.A. and Detroit Streets Speak
by Alternative Intervention Models (A.I.M.) & Detroit Summer

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m.: **Continental Breakfast**

MORNING PLENARY

- 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.: **A Vision for Dignity in Schools**
Educators and community leaders will discuss what it means to create school climates and policies that respect the dignity of students, parents and teachers, and share provoking stories of change in their schools and communities.
- *Moderator: Holly Thomas, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund*
 - *Joyce Parker, Parent Advocate, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Citizens for a Better Greenville, Mississippi*
 - *Jack Wuest, Alternative Schools Network, Chicago*
 - *Rodney Skager, Professor Emeritus, UCLA Graduate School of Education*

BREAKOUTS

- 9:40 – 10:30 p.m.: **Resolution for Action Breakout II**
In facilitated small group dialogues, participants discuss and revise language for a draft National Resolution on Ending School Pushout.

PLENARY

10:40 – 12:00 p.m.: Resolution for Action Report Backs

Breakout groups will come back together to present their analysis and changes to the National Resolution, and participants will reach consensus on a draft to be finalized after the conference.

- *Moderator: Anna Lambertson, Dignity in Schools Campaign Core Group*

12:00 – 12:45 p.m.: Lunch and Informal Networking

AFTERNOON PLENARY

12:45 – 1:45 p.m.: Strategies for Ending School Pushout

Participants learn about local, state and federal strategies to reduce pushout, including multi-stakeholder collaborations.

- *Moderator: Liz Sullivan, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative*
- *Saneta deVuono-Powell, Schools for All Campaign, ACLU of Northern California Racial Justice Program*
- *Marco Nuñez, Padres & Jovenes Unidos*
- *Julie Washington, Elementary Vice President, United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA)*

BREAKOUTS

1:45 – 3:00 p.m.: Community Dialogue Breakout III - Strategies for Collective Action

In facilitated small group dialogues, participants will discuss ideas for collective action to end school pushout, including legislative, organizing, legal and media strategies, as well as how the National Resolution can be used as an organizing tool for change.

CLOSING PLENARY

3:10 – 4:00 p.m.: Community Dialogue Report Backs - Making it Real

Breakout groups will come back together to share strategies for national action and affirm their commitments for change.

- *Conference Emcee: Maisie Chin, Community Asset Development Redefining Education (CADRE)*
- *Rosa Hirji, Dignity in Schools Campaign Core Group*

OPTIONAL PLANNING SESSION

4:15 p.m. Model Code Mapping Session

This is a planning meeting for individuals who have mobilized around a national project to develop a Model Code to address pushout. The model code will be featured and debated at a Summit on Education on October 23, 2009 at Northwestern Law School sponsored by the ABA's Children's Rights Committee. Everyone is invited to attend.