

# OUR WORK

## Model Code on Education and Dignity

Our Model Code presents recommended policies to schools, districts and legislators to reduce the use of suspensions, expulsions and law enforcement in schools and implement positive approaches to discipline, like Restorative Practices and Positive Behavior Supports.

## Solutions Not Suspensions Initiative

The Solutions Not Suspensions initiative, launched by the Dignity in Schools Campaign and Opportunity to Learn Campaign, calls for a moratorium on out-of-school suspensions and the adoption of more constructive disciplinary policies.

## Federal Advocacy

At the federal level, we engage youth, parents and educators in advocating for federal legislation and administrative policy that promote and fund solutions to school pushout.

## Week of Action

Our annual National Week of Action Against School Pushout raises awareness about the harsh disciplinary practices that push young people out of school and criminalize student behavior, and highlights the growing movement to transform school discipline policies.

# DIGNITY IN SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

## DSC Mission Statement

The Dignity in Schools Campaign (DSC) challenges the systemic problem of pushout in our nation's schools and advocates for the human right of every young person to a quality education and to be treated with dignity. The DSC unites parents, youth, advocates and educators to support alternatives to a culture of zero-tolerance, punishment and removal in our schools.

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**PUSH BACK  
AGAINST  
PUSHOUT**



## WHAT IS SCHOOL PUSHOUT?

Every child has a right to a quality education and to be treated with dignity. Yet, the way our schools approach discipline often pushes young people out of schools through suspensions, expulsions and the involvement of law enforcement in schools. While these approaches negatively impact all students, students of color, students with disabilities and LGBTQ students are disproportionately affected. In fact, Black students are suspended at a rate three times greater than their white peers.

There is no evidence that punitive, zero-tolerance policies make schools safer, but there is an abundance of evidence that the harmful effects of these policies follow students for the rest of their lives.

Students who are repeatedly suspended are more likely to drop out of school and be pushed into the criminal justice system. The simple fact is that students cannot succeed in their education if they are not in school to learn.

"I was suspended for opening an entrance door at the school I attended. I was never given the chance to explain or defend myself. The suspension has really affected my studies, causing me to fall behind in my work, but that's what a suspension does. And suspensions don't get to the root of the problem."

**Amrit, Youth Leader, DRUM**

"Guns, armed guards and police in our schools do not make schools safer. A safe school is one where there are positive and constructive relationships between students, teachers and school staff. A safe and positive school is one where students feel at home, not like inmates in a prison."

**LaTonya, Parent, Gwinnett STOPP**

## WHO WE ARE

At the Dignity in Schools Campaign, we promote more positive and common sense approaches to discipline that hold young people accountable while keeping them in school and giving them the support to reach their fullest potential.

We are a coalition of youth, parents, educators, grassroots groups and advocacy organizations in 24 states working together to address school pushout. Our membership structure creates space for all to contribute, while placing youth and parent voices at the center of our work to advance the goals of the coalition and support the local success of our members.



## JOIN US

Learn how you can get involved and become a member by visiting us at [www.dignityinschools.org](http://www.dignityinschools.org)

### SUPPORT OUR WORK:

- Sign-on to the Solutions Not Suspensions Pledge
- Share resources like the DSC Model Code in your community
- Participate in our National Week of Action Against School Pushout
- Join our newsletter and follow us on Twitter and Facebook

### BECOME A MEMBER:

- Join our national conference calls to shape the work of the coalition
- Travel to attend our Annual Membership Meeting and Days at the Capitol
- Participate in skill-building and political education trainings and webinars
- Join or start a local DSC chapter
- Promote your organization on our website and e-newsletter