



OPAL

Organization for Positive Action and Leadership

535 Custer Street, Evanston IL 60202

www.opalevanston.com

What is the Pipeline to Prison?

The ACLU describes the School to Prison Pipeline as "...a disturbing national trend wherein children are funneled out of public schools and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Many of these children have learning disabilities or histories of poverty, abuse or neglect, and would benefit from additional educational and counseling services. Instead, they are isolated, punished and pushed out."

Evanston's James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy states: "...each year in the United States, a school-to-prison pipeline is pushing low-income children, children of color, and children with special needs out of school and into the criminal justice system."

Making the connection between school discipline, academic achievement, and incarceration, OPAL's Pipeline to Prison research found striking similarities between our local data and the conclusions made by The American Bar Associations in their 2016 report:

- Disproportionality manifests itself all along the pipeline where students of color are poorly served: academically and disciplinary
- Students of color are disproportionately lower achievers and unable to read at basic or above
- Students of color are disproportionately referred to law enforcement or subject to school-related arrest
- Students of color are disproportionately placed in alternative schools
- Students with disabilities are disproportionately disciplined
- Students with disabilities are disproportionately students of color
- Students with disabilities are disproportionately likely to spend time out of the regular classroom, to be secluded, restrained or placed in alternative schools
- Youth of color are disproportionately referred, detained (longer), charged, and held
- Youth of color are disproportionately arrested.