



# SUSTAINING POLICE-FREE SCHOOLS THROUGH PRACTICE:

A TOOLKIT FOR NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES



## 12 QUICK REASONS TO SUPPORT POLICE-FREE SCHOOLS:

1. School Police Compromise Access to Education by imposing a pathway from classrooms to police cars, precincts, and courts – violently separating young people from their schools
2. School Police Make Students Less Safe by escalating everyday issues and responding with the tools of policing – handcuffs, arrests, searches, and uses of force and violence
3. School Police Target Black, Latinx, and Indigenous Students, who in 2019, represented 67% of the New York City student population but 91% of all school-based arrests
4. School Police Evade Accountability because school police misconduct complaints go to the NYPD, and school police answer to the NYPD, not to the principals or the school community where they're deployed
5. School Police Gobble up Public Funds year after year, with the cost of school policing reaching \$451 million in NYC this coming school year – and tens of millions more spent on safety and security infrastructure, like student surveillance technologies

6. **School Police Uphold Unjust Laws**, solely functioning as a tool of control and repression. Police in schools most often enforce “disorderly conduct,” a catchall category of behavior used at officer’s discretion to restrict student autonomy in their schools
7. **School Police Threaten Public Health**, by using policing to respond to students in mental health or emotional crisis with force and coerced hospitalization or by police responses to student drug or substance use in lieu of harm reduction
8. **School Policing Continues to Expand**, pushing the boundaries of what school policing actually is. By rebranding police as counselors, spending millions on retraining in so-called “restorative practices” and Collaborative Problem Solving, and implementing marketing strategies like “Team Up Tuesdays” – school police are encroaching into more areas of young people’s lives where they don’t belong
9. **School Police Presence is Traumatizing and Re-Traumatizing**, as it attempts to normalize routine stops and student surveillance, and it carries with it a threat of imminent violence as State Law affords school police and peace officers the legal authority to use physical and deadly force
10. **School Police Operate At the Expense of Meeting Students’ Needs**, resources that should go to changing the material conditions of students’ lives get funneled into a hyper-funded NYPD, increasing policing at the expense of real solutions
11. **School Police are Police, not Counselors**, and relying on school police to be kind does not reduce their power to harm anyone – we must reduce their power and presence, not rely on their benevolence or personal discretion to ignore the duties outlined in their job descriptions
12. **School Policing is a Tool to Suppress Resistance** that uses surveillance and violence to enforce the status quo and push back on racial justice and liberation movements, like those demanding full access to education and life chances