



VIBES CHECK:

**CREATING & SUSTAINING POSITIVE,
INVITING SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS**



Keeping Kids Safe With Positive Discipline

Nancy Duchesneau, Senior P-12 Research Manager
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1 What creates safe schools?

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3 Q&A

Today's Speakers



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A Short Poll Before We Begin

School Safety

According to National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments, **school safety** is defined as....

"schools and school-related activities where students are safe from violence, bullying and harassment, and the influence of substance use."

- According to this definition, what are safety concerns in schools?
- What's missing?

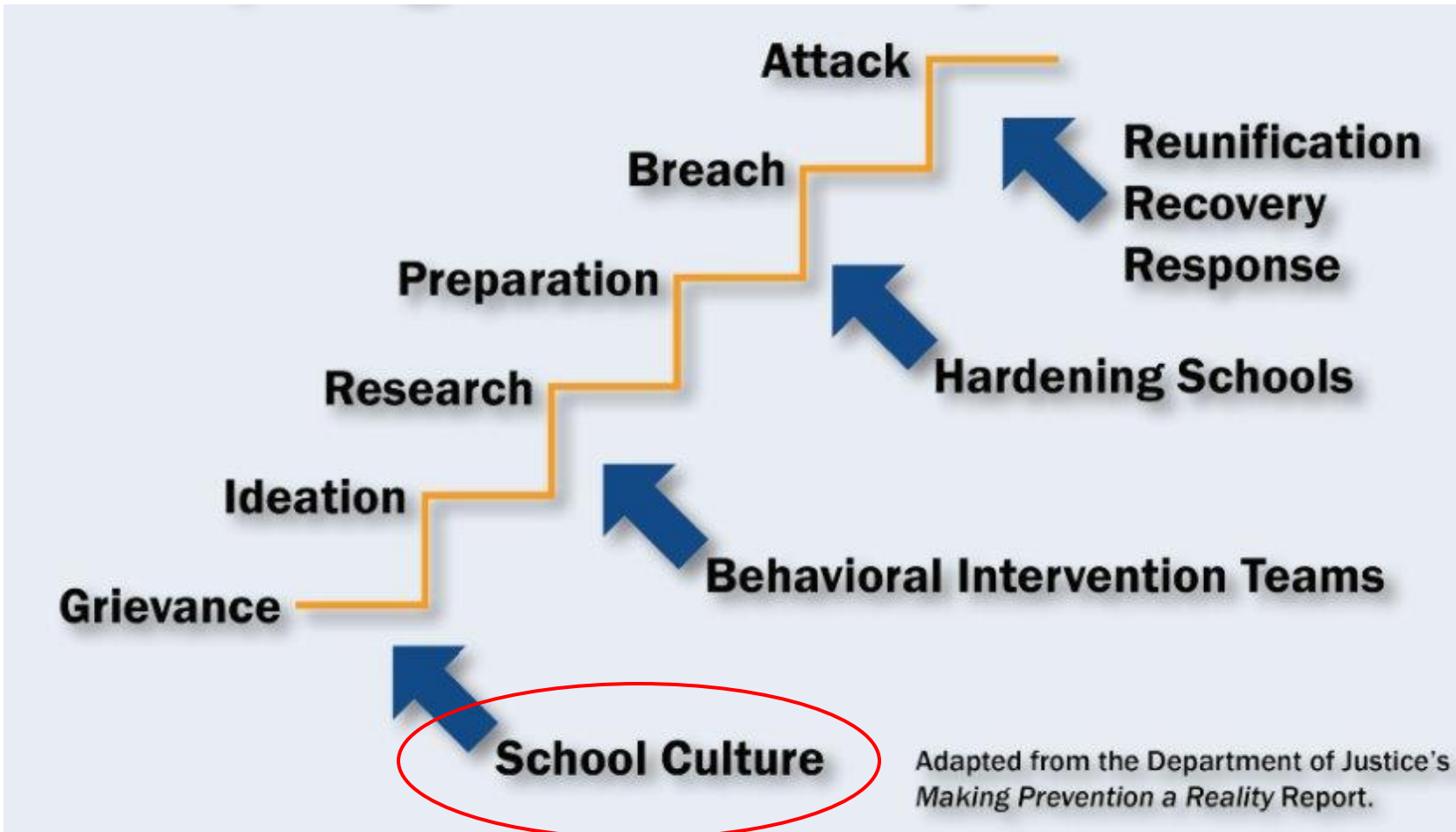
School Hardening as a Reaction



- School resource officers (i.e., police in schools)
- Metal detectors
- Surveillance
- Facial recognition software
- Fortified entrances
- Threat assessments

These are not effective at creating safe schools.

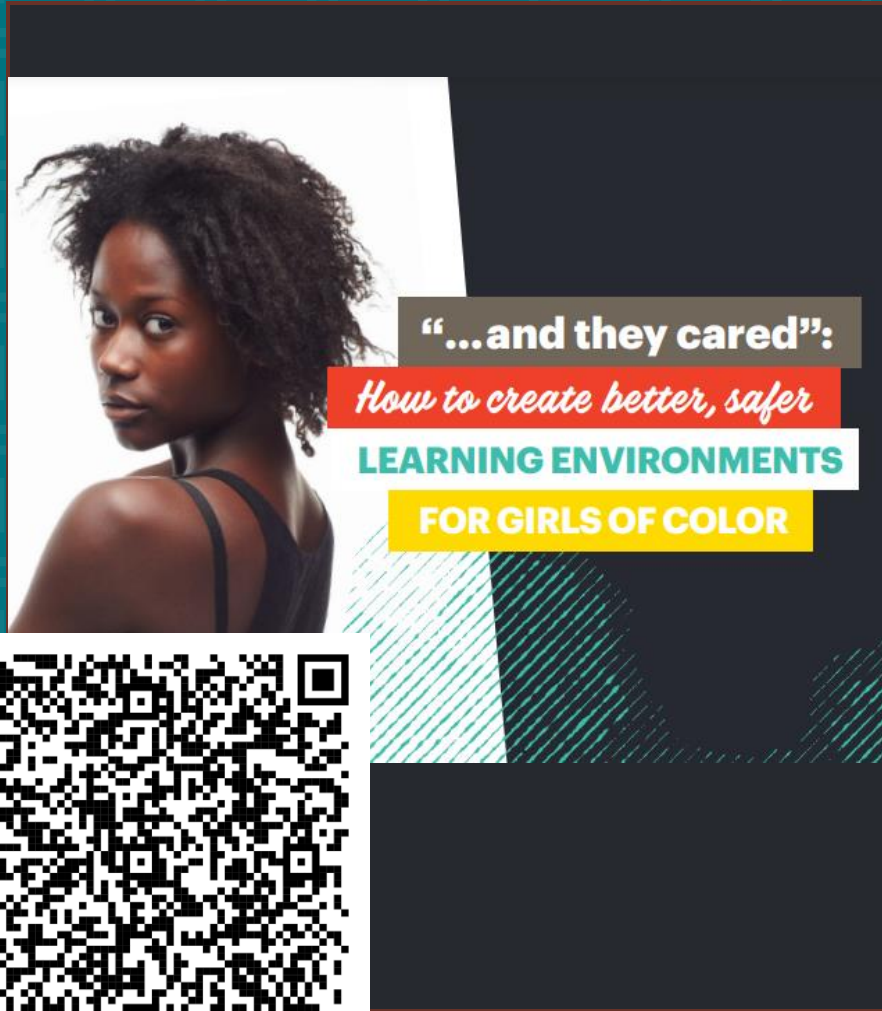




What Creates Safe Schools?

- Restorative discipline practices
- Multi-tiered systems of support
- Culturally sustaining curricula
- Family and community engagement and partnerships
- High-quality professional development

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“...and they cared”:
How to create better, safer
LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
FOR GIRLS OF COLOR

The cover features a portrait of a young Black woman with curly hair, looking over her shoulder. The background is dark with a white and teal geometric pattern.



CREATING SAFER SCHOOLS:
A CASE STUDY

The cover features a photograph of a young Black woman in a yellow shirt and blue jeans, smiling as she steps out of a yellow school bus. The background is a solid green color.





Educators should not act on impulse but actually figure out exactly what's going on before making a decision. Talk to the students to see where their head is at instead of going right to punishment.

- Student, McClymonds High School, Oakland



Role of Federal Government

To improve school safety and support students, Congress should pass:

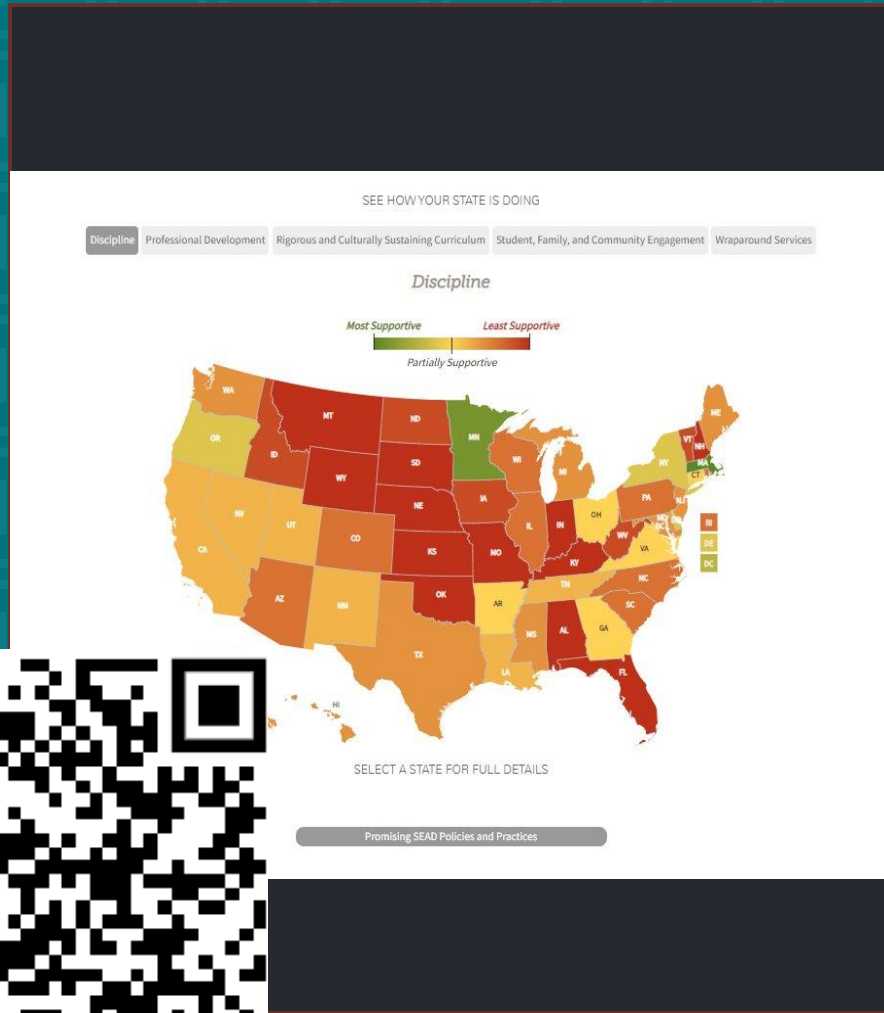
- The Protecting our Students in Schools Act ([HR 3596](#); [S. 1762](#))
- The Ending PUSHOUT Act ([HR 2690](#))
- The Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act ([HR 6202](#); [S. 3214](#))
- The Keeping All Students Safe Act ([HR 3470](#); [S. 1750](#))

The Department of Education should also:

- Strengthen the existing nonregulatory guidance issued in [May 2023](#), "Resource on Confronting Racial Discrimination in Student Discipline," including by revisiting the 2014 guidance issued by the Departments of Education and Justice



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The Education Trust APRIL 2023

HOW SCHOOL DISCIPLINE IMPACTS STUDENTS' SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT (SEAD)

By Blair Wriston, senior government affairs associate and Nancy Duchesneau, senior P-12 research associate

What is School Discipline?

Last year, [Mississippi schools used corporal punishment 4,300 times](#) — and the impact affects more than the students experiencing the abuse. According to one parent in Madison County School District, her son's perception of safety in school changed after seeing another student get paddled in his classroom. This is a prime example of harsh school discipline practices, which can harm students' social, emotional, academic, and in some cases, physical health. These practices must be reformed.

In general, school discipline refers to the rules and strategies applied in school to manage student behavior and support students in developing self-management skills. Informed by national, state, and local laws, school discipline encompasses a wide range of policies and practices — from those that are positive and evidence-based in supporting holistic development, such as restorative justice and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS); to practices that are most harmful, including discriminatory codes of conduct, expulsions and in- and out-of-school suspensions, corporal punishment, seclusion, restraint, and other punitive and exclusionary measures.

School discipline policies are broadly intended to foster a high-quality learning environment by the classroom; however, far too often, schools adopt measures that harm a student's social, emotional and in some cases, physical health and well-being.

To create physically safe and emotionally supportive environments for all students, schools must also adopt approaches such as restorative justice that can be used to build and repair relationships while also holding schools accountable for their actions. When positive discipline policies and practices use a race-equity lens implemented, these efforts can not only create safe and inclusive learning environments, but also holistic development.

“To create physically safe and emotionally supportive environments for schools must adopt evidence-based approaches such as restorative that can be used to build and repair relationships while also holding students accountable for their actions”



Fireside Chat with Leon Smith



Give us feedback
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<https://forms.office.com/r/HYenKzkJDY>



Join us next week!



**"Using Resource
Equity to Address
Chronic Absenteeism"**

Wednesday, October 9th
2:00-3:00pm ET

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