

CALL TO ACTION

STATE POLICY MAKERS
LOCAL POLICY MAKERS
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

1

Support congressional legislation designed to change the outcomes, and increase the possibility for Black girls to thrive in schools

As federal legislation seeks to eliminate the use of zero-tolerance policies that disproportionately impact girls of color, as well as advance policy designed to create effective school-based programming and reforms, federal policymakers should support efforts that address trauma and promote a safer climate for Black girls and other girls of color to attend and succeed in schools.

2

Less School Resource Officers (SRO) in public schools

Less School Resource Officer (SRO) in public schools: Law enforcement agents on school campuses do not increase the psychological or physical safety of students in school. We need more preventive, trauma-informed interventions, such as social workers, school counselors, psychologists, and other mental health professionals. Furthermore, to ensure that school police respond in a developmentally appropriate manner when situations do arise, agreements between schools and law enforcement should require that school police receive training in child and adolescent mental health and cognitive development. Criminalizing school behavior not only creates a school-to-prison pipeline.

3

Eliminate the use of suspension and expulsion for pre-K through grade 2

The 2016 National Survey of Children's Health found an estimated 50,000 preschoolers were suspended at least once, and a report by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights reveals that Black children represented 18 percent of public preschool enrollment, but 48 percent of preschoolers receiving multiple out-of-school suspensions. Calling for the elimination of suspension and expulsion of young children and replacing it with effective, positive strategies to address behavior and support students and teachers.

4

Provide funding for schools and communities to enhance mental and physical health resources in schools

Investing in the expansion of mental and physical health resources in schools will ensure that educational institutions have resources in place to support students in need, instead of criminalizing their behavior.

5

Mandate schools to include students in the development of codes of conduct, as well as the policies, practices, and cultural expectations of the school

Students, should be included in the development classroom and school-based policies. Specifically, they should be included in the creation of dress code policies and classroom expectations.

LET OUR GIRLS BE GIRLS