



ADDRESSING RACISM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Children deserve safe and supportive learning environments where their voices and experiences are valued and their development is nurtured. Unfortunately for far too long, it has been evident that our public schools are failing too many children, especially children of color. While the ongoing pandemic has brought increased awareness to the deep inequities in our systems, the impact of these systems, such as the school-to-prison pipeline, has been felt for generations. The school-to-prison pipeline refers to a trend wherein children are funneled out of public schools into the criminal justice system; this trend disproportionately impacts students of color. Time and resources are necessary to transform our educational system into one that centers all children—and the time to make it happen is now.

During this legislative session, the foundation for equitable schools can be established with these bills as first steps in disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline:

HB 2166

Several key equity issues within educational settings are addressed in this bill, building on the work of the Education Recovery Committee of the Racial Justice Council. Topics covered include:

- Social emotional learning content standards centering on mental health
- Educator equity
- Nontraditional pathways to licensure
- Early childhood suspension and expulsion prevention program

HB 2945

Requires school districts to provide certain services to students who have been subject to out-of-school suspensions or expulsions. The Oregon Department of Education will provide support to school districts that disproportionately impose discipline on any student groups that have historically experienced academic disparities.

SB 238

Removes School Resource Officers from schools.

SB 328

Requires school districts to provide data on expulsions and suspensions, including by demographic group.

