

# PUNISHED: What They Carry on Their Backs

Hillsborough County Council PTA/PTSA  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Workshop  
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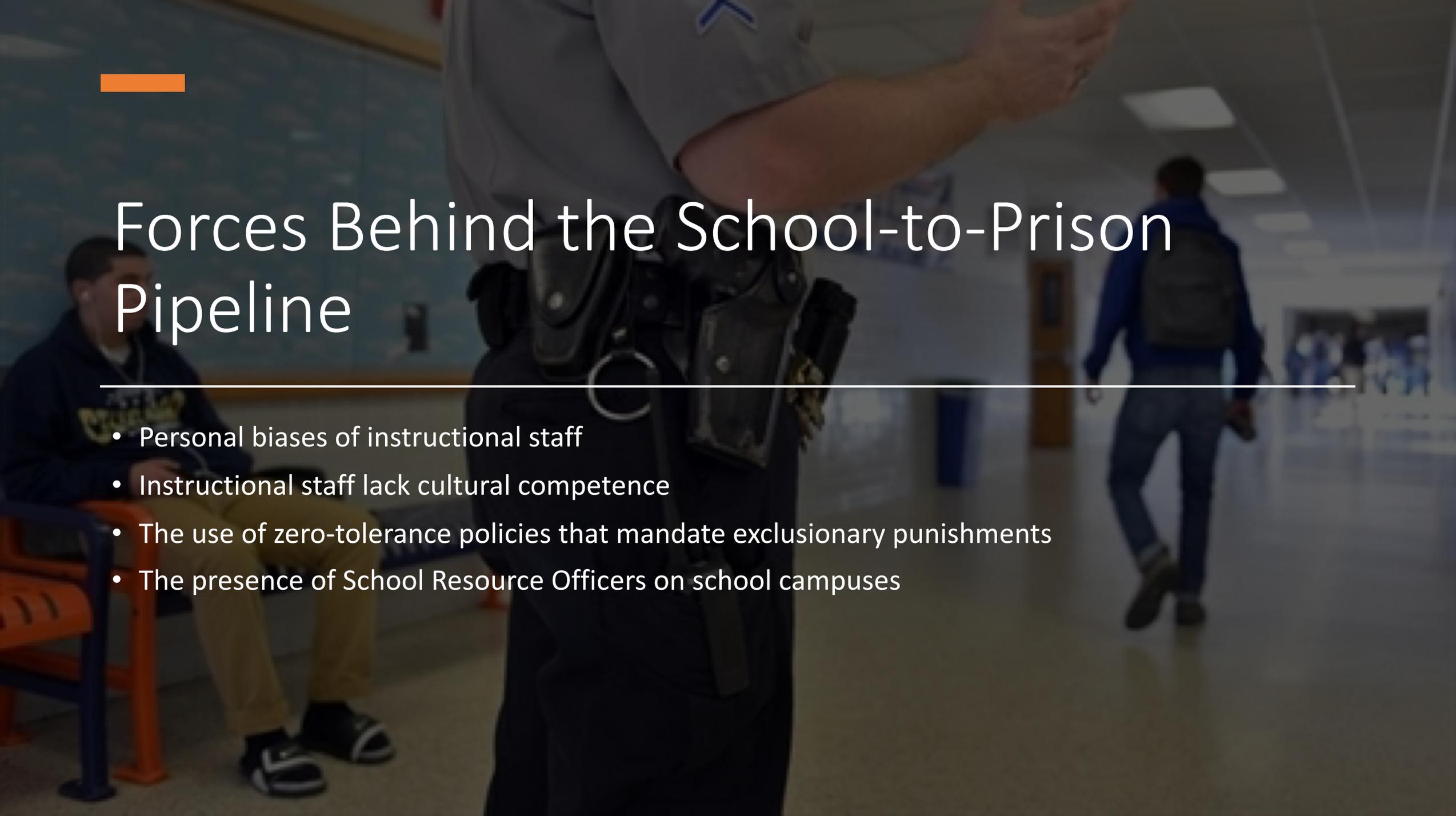


**WHAT WE CARRY ON OUR BACKS:**  
THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE



## What is School-to-Prison Pipeline?

A social phenomenon where students become formally involved with the criminal justice system as a result of school policies that use law enforcement, rather than discipline, to address behavioral problems and push youth out of school.



# Forces Behind the School-to-Prison Pipeline

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- Personal biases of instructional staff
- Instructional staff lack cultural competence
- The use of zero-tolerance policies that mandate exclusionary punishments
- The presence of School Resource Officers on school campuses



# 5-Factors that Contribute to School-to-Prison Pipeline

- Home
- Community
- School
- Law Enforcement
- State Attorney's Office



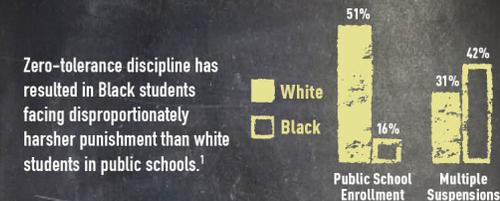


# The Impact of Zero-Tolerance Policies

Data and research are clear on this point: children of color, to include those with disabilities face high, disparate rates of exclusionary discipline.

## SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

School disciplinary policies disproportionately affect Black students.



Black students represent



Black students are suspended and expelled



Students suspended or expelled for a discretionary violation are nearly three times more likely to be in contact with the juvenile justice system the following year.<sup>4</sup>



BROWN AT 60: STILL SEPARATE. STILL UNEQUAL.



1. Data Source: <http://files.aclu.org/files/assets/2012-03-01-School-Discipline-Report.pdf>

# What Can PTAs Do To Improve Black Students (w/disabilities, LGBTQ) Outcomes?

- Acknowledge that Black children are being pushed out of school due to harsher disciplinary consequences than their White peers
- Be intentional about reviewing your school site's discipline data
- Be willing to initiate courageous conversations surrounding the disproportionate number of Black students being suspended/change of placement
- Offer a variety of ongoing educational opportunities, such as workshops, panel discussions, and instructional activities about School-to-Prison Pipeline
- Cultivate a discipline committee to undermine the systemic School-to-Prison Pipeline



# Critical Reflection

