



Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability

SCHOOL SAFETY, REIMAGINED: REPLACE POLICE OFFICERS WITH STUDENT SUPPORTS

CURRENT LAW PUTS POLICE IN SCHOOLS STATEWIDE

Every Maryland school district utilizes school police, also known as School Resource Officers (SROs), despite evidence that police presence criminalizes students for minor behaviors without addressing serious safety threats, needlessly perpetuating the school-to-prison pipeline.

Current law perpetuates the harmful school policing model by:

- Authorizing school districts to utilize school police as the primary means of providing “adequate law enforcement coverage” within every school building (Educ. § 7-1508);
- Creating a \$10 million/year SRO fund, which pays counties to station police in schools (Educ. § 7-1508); and
- Establishing a standalone police force within Baltimore City Public Schools (Educ. § 4-318).

In the 2021 Maryland General Assembly session, “Reimagining School Safety” companion bills will get police out of schools and reinvest in student mental health services, wraparound supports, and restorative approaches.

MDGA21 BILL

POLICE-FREE SCHOOLS

(Sponsor: Del. Gabriel Acevero)

- Redirects the \$10 million/year SRO fund towards student mental health services, wraparound supports, and restorative approaches – so that districts can hire counselors, social workers, school psychologists, restorative approaches practitioners, community school coordinators, and implement trauma-informed practices.
- Requires reporting on the use of force by school security and on calls to City or County police for incidents in school.
- Strengthens the School Safety Subcabinet Advisory Board to include families impacted by school-based arrest, and experts in student mental health and conflict resolution.
- Prohibits school districts from contracting with police departments to station police at schools.
- Repeals the creation of the Baltimore City Public Schools standalone police force.

MDGA21 BILL

COUNSELORS NOT COPS

(Sponsor: Del. Jheanelle Wilkins)

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WHAT THE BILLS DO NOT DO:

- Prohibit school districts from calling City or County police in an emergency.
- Prohibit school districts from developing “adequate law enforcement coverage” plans with City or County police.
- Remove school security guards who are unarmed and do not have the power to arrest students.
- Prevent schools from installing door locks or other non-personnel safety measures.

Find more information about the five necessary police reforms in Maryland, and the more than 90 organizations calling for them:

aclu-md.org/reimaginepolicing

SUPPORT REIMAGINING POLICING

A coalition of over 90 groups from across the state are calling on Maryland legislators to support strong, renewed demands for police reform and accountability:

- 1 Repeal in full the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights.
- 2 Reform the Public Information Act to allow disclosure of all complaints of police misconduct.
- 3 Establish a statewide use of force policy that will prevent officers from using force unless it is necessary.
- 4 **Remove police officers from children's schools.**
- 5 Return control of the Baltimore City Police Department to Baltimore City residents.