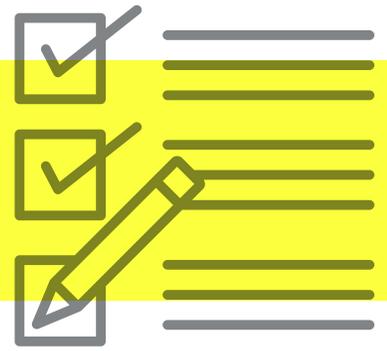


ADVOCACY ASSESSMENT TOOL: THE WAR ON DRUGS MEETS THE EDUCATION SYSTEM



a Drug Policy Alliance publication

Ballooning jail and prison populations are only the most visible signs of the drug war in the United States. Despite the immense harm that has been done in the name of the drug war in the criminal legal system, the actual universe of devastation extends far beyond. The drug war seeps into our daily lives – and it's easy to lose sight of how much our world is shaped by it.

Surveillance and punishment are the default reactions to drug use and activity wherever it shows up, impacting our lives in profound but largely unrecognized ways. This assessment tool is designed to help organizers, advocates, and policymakers ascertain how drug war policies and practices appear in your local education system.

DRUG TESTING, ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICIES, AND PUNISHMENTS FOR DRUG-RELATED ACTIVITY

- Do schools in my jurisdiction use drug testing and if so, how?
- Can schools in my jurisdiction randomly drug test a student? Is suspicion of drug use required? Is parental consent required?
- Do schools in my jurisdiction have a zero-tolerance policy that will suspend or expel a student based on a positive drug test or drug-related activity? How many students have been penalized for a positive drug test or drug-related activity?
- Do schools in my jurisdiction restrict or deny a student's ability to participate in programs, activities, or sports based on a positive drug test or drug-related activity? How many students have been penalized for a positive drug test or drug-related activity?
- Do colleges or universities in my jurisdiction restrict or deny a student's ability to participate in programs, activities, or sports based on a positive drug test or drug-related activity? How many students have been penalized for a positive drug test or drug-related activity?

TRAINING AND RESOURCES

- How many counselors do schools in my jurisdiction have? How many school resource officers (SROs) or police and security officers do schools in my jurisdiction have? How much money is spent on school resource officers (SROs) or police and security officers versus counselors?

- Are counselors at schools in my jurisdiction trained in overdose reversal and equipped to discuss drug use using harm reduction principles? What kinds of student assistance programs are there for people who use drugs?
- Do schools in my jurisdiction offer restorative or transformative justice programs?
- What kinds of drug education programs do schools in my jurisdiction have? Do they use abstinence-based drug education programs, such as Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.)?
- What kinds of drug education and counseling do colleges or universities in my jurisdiction offer?

PUNISHMENTS FOR DRUG CONVICTIONS

- Do colleges or universities in my jurisdiction ask about drug arrests or convictions on the application?
- Do colleges or universities in my jurisdiction deny aid or scholarships based on a drug arrest or conviction?
- Does my state deny aid or scholarships based on a drug arrest or conviction?
- Do colleges or universities in my jurisdiction restrict or deny student housing based on a drug arrest or conviction?
- Do colleges or universities in my jurisdiction restrict or deny a student's ability to participate in student government, activities, or sports based on a drug arrest or conviction?