



STAY CONNECTED:

#RethinkingSafety



@VoyceProject





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YOUTH- LED
ALLIANCE

COMMUNITY
ORGANIZING

PARTICIPATOR
Y ACTION
RESEARCH

YOUNG
PEOPLE
OF COLOR

What is Voices of Youth in Chicago's Education (VOYCE)?

ENDING
THE
SCHOOL
TO PRISON
PIPELINE

STATEWIDE
LEGISLATION

TRAUMA
INFORMED
LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT

Why did Voyce start?



- A group of 10 young people came together to design what they wanted their schools in IL to look like in 2012
- They wanted 3 things:
 - Data transparency: Because no one ever believed us
 - End zero tolerance: Because we should not be getting suspended/expelled for small things
 - End school based arrest: Because schools should not be a pipeline to prison



Accomplishments:

In 2013- we passed SB 2793 for data transparency

In 2015- we passed SB 100



BREAKING

**A win for students:
SB100 signed into law by Gov. Rauner!**

- Ends zero tolerance in schools
- Limits suspensions and expulsions
- Prohibits disciplinary fines and fees

Congratulations to VOYCE student leaders on this groundbreaking victory!

The Roles of Young people in VOYCE



1. Identify the issues that affect us
2. Develop our own solutions and design campaigns
3. Organize youth meetings to talk about strategy on our campaign
4. Build alliances
5. Educate policy makers and the general public on the campaign and solutions
6. Make final decisions on campaign and organizational structure
7. Interview youth interns and other positions when needed
8. Spread the knowledge: teach others the skills we need to achieve our goals. We also branch out and teach other people outside of the organization on youth engagement, leadership, and power building



Roles of Adult allies in VOYCE

1. Give feedback on campaign strategy
2. Provide space, food, and transportation when possible
3. Help fundraise
4. Help speak to policy makers and general public
5. Help with research





VOYCE believes.....

1. The people affected by the issue the most should be a part of the solution.
2. This work is healing
3. Using this approach will allow for great personal transformation & even greater policies since they are informed by the people who are affected by it the most

Why Rethinking Safety?



3 Demands of the Rethinking Safety Campaign



1. Creating a grants program for school districts to create or expand their mental and behavioral health programs (SB 1941)
2. Creating data transparency in school based arrests (HB 2084)
3. Building School Based Health Clinic across the state of Illinois



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

