3 Facts About School Arrests in Escambia's Prison Pipeline
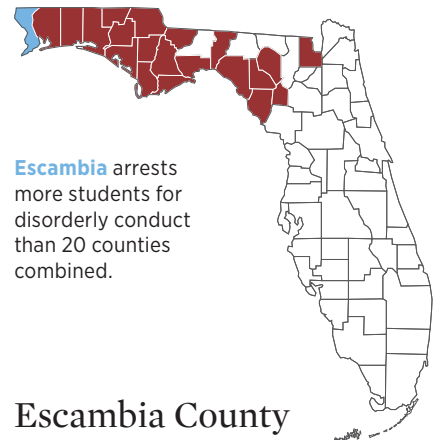
1. Escambia County School District (ECSD) has one of the highest in-school arrest rates in the nation.

➤ Nearly 90% of Florida school districts arrest children less frequently than ECSD, and Florida has the highest number of student arrests in the country.

➤ School arrests increased by 11% in the district last school year, despite a 6% decline across the state.

➤ Recent Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's analysis of Florida schools found that three ECSD schools are among the top 25 for school arrests.

➤ There have been 1,212 arrests in Escambia schools over the last four years.

2. Students are being arrested in school for childish misbehavior.

Roughly 70% of ECSD arrests are for infractions that would be better addressed with alternatives like civil citation. In Escambia County, only 2% of out-of-school youth arrests are for disorderly conduct (1 out of 50). However, in county schools 24% of arrests are for disorderly conduct (nearly 1 out of 4).

3. Black students are arrested in schools at much higher rates than white students.
Black students make up only 35% of ECSD's student population, but 77% of the students who arrested in school. Because of this disproportionality, the district is under investigation by the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education. The investigation was spurred by a 2012 complaint filed by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Escambia Schools Lead the Nation and State in School Arrests
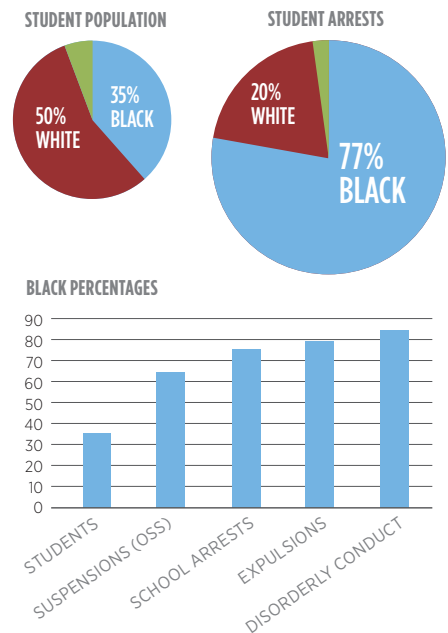**Warrington Middle School is #6 in Florida**
Warrington Middle School arrested more students in the 2014-2015 school year than nearly 20% of all Florida school districts, including nearby Santa Rosa and Okaloosa.

Pine Forest High School is #15 in Florida
Pine Forest High School arrested more students in the 2014-2015 school year than the entire Santa Rosa County School District. Pine Forest High has 1,706 students while Santa Rosa has 26,738 students. 100% of disorderly conduct arrests at Pine Forest High were of black students who only comprise 34% of the school.

Escambia High School is #25 in Florida
Escambia High School arrested more students in the 2014-2015 school year than the entire Okaloosa County School District. Escambia High has 1,749 students compared to Okaloosa's 30,000+ students. Black youth make up only 46% of Escambia High students, but arrested for 10 out of the 11 disorderly conduct charges.

Escambia arrests more students for disorderly conduct than 20 counties combined.

Escambia County

STUDENT POPULATION: 50% WHITE, 35% BLACK

STUDENT ARRESTS: 20% WHITE, 77% BLACK

BLACK PERCENTAGES

(bar chart: STUDENTS ~35, SUSPENSIONS (OSS) ~65, SCHOOL ARRESTS ~75, EXPULSIONS ~80, DISORDERLY CONDUCT ~85)

Recommendations

1. Maximize the use of civil citation to encourage youth growth and development and save Escambia county tens of thousands of dollars.
2. Stop arresting students for disorderly conduct. Many school districts across Florida have zero disorderly conduct arrests.
3. Create school discipline policies that better distinguish between school infractions and criminal behavior.
4. Implement intervention programs with proven results such as restorative justice programs.
5. Implement Trauma Informed Care training and programming to equip school staff to be responsive to student needs.
6. Encourage the school board to approve and implement the civil rights complaint resolution between the Southern Poverty Law Center and ECSD.

Top 4 Arrest Charges in Escambia County Public Schools
2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR

■ Felony
■ Misdemeanor

Charge	Value
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	68
ASSAULT/BATTERY NOT AGGRAVATED	65
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT/BATTERY	36
MISD VIOLATION OF DRUG LAWS	19