



The School-To-Prison Pipeline: A Comprehensive Assessment

Christopher A. Mallett

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The only text to fully address the causes, impact, and solutions to the school-to-prison pipeline

The expanded use of zero tolerance policies and security measures in schools has exponentially increased arrests and referrals to the juvenile courts—often for typical adolescent developmental behaviors and low-level misdemeanors. This is the first truly comprehensive assessment of the school-to-prison pipeline—a term that refers to the increased risk for certain individuals, disproportionately from minority and impoverished communities, to end up ensnared in the criminal justice system because of excessively punitive disciplinary policies in schools. Written by one of the foremost experts on this topic, the book examines school disciplinary policies and juvenile justice policies that contribute to the pipeline, describes its impact on targeted—both intentionally and unintentionally—children and adolescents, and recommends a more supportive and rehabilitative model that challenges the criminalization of education and punitive juvenile justice.

The book outlines effective policies, interventions, and preventative efforts that can be used to improve school climates and safety. The author includes specific recommendations for delinquency, detention, and incarceration prevention. The text incorporates a vast store of empirical knowledge from all relevant fields of study and includes research citations for more in-depth study. Case examples illuminate the plight of adolescents enmeshed in these systems along with effective interventions. The book is a vital resource for undergraduate and graduate students of social work and criminal justice as well as for juvenile court and school personnel and policymakers.

Key Features:

- Provides a comprehensive assessment of the school-to-prison pipeline
- Recommends a supportive and rehabilitative model that decriminalizes education and challenges punitive juvenile justice
- Written by one of the foremost national experts on this topic
- Identifies the major risk factors for involvement in the pipeline

About the Author:

Christopher A. Mallett, JD, PhD, MSW, is Professor and BSW Program Director, School of Social Work, Cleveland State University. He is licensed in Ohio as an attorney and independent social worker. His research focuses on children and adolescents with disabilities and their involvement with the mental health system, school districts (special education), child welfare, and juvenile courts, with a focus on the impact of comorbid problems and juvenile justice system outcomes. Dr. Mallett is a consultant whose expertise is nationally tapped by juvenile courts, school districts, and children's service agencies, including serving on the Schools to Juvenile Justice Technical Assistance Training Team (2013 to present) sponsored by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). He has published over 55 journal papers, national training briefs, and book chapters, as well as a textbook, *Linking Disorders to Delinquency: Treating High Risk Youth in the Juvenile Justice System* (2013).

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