MOVEMENT PROGRESS
LOCAL WINS IN 2020
OUR MOVEMENT BUILDING APPROACH TO ENDING THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE

Launched in 2017, Dignity in Schools Campaign California (DSC CA) is a groundbreaking statewide movement building alliance focused on strengthening existing community-based leadership to dismantle the school to prison and deportation pipeline and improve health outcomes of young people in California. With ever-increasing presence and integration of law enforcement on school campuses, the threat of criminalization, incarceration, and deportation of Black, Indigenous, and families of color in California has compounded significantly.

DSC CA believes that ending the school to prison and deportation pipeline requires political vision beyond campaigns. It is not enough to replicate policy campaigns that merely reduce harm and bring about programmatic supports—it calls on us to further dismantle the forces, systems, policies, and practices that uphold our society’s default response to poverty and non-whiteness: criminalization, punishment, suppression, detention, incarceration, and permanent exclusion from participating in society. We must do the hard work of aligning our social systems to a set of liberatory values and principles. This will require nothing short of transforming schools and transforming society.
WHAT WE DO: WE CO-CREATE LOCAL AND STATEWIDE STRATEGY THAT REPOSITIONS PARENTS, STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES AS MOVEMENT LEADERS.

DSC CA builds on the collective leadership of parents, youth, and the organizations they belong to to advocate for school climates that support the resilience and end the criminalization of vulnerable young people in our schools—Black, Indigenous, undocumented, Latinx, refugee, LGBTQ/gender non-conforming—and their families.

We work together to build local and statewide strategies that reposition parents, students, families, and communities as movement leaders to end the school to prison pipeline and move towards our shared north star of eliminating law enforcement presence and ideology from schools. This work requires study, critical reflection, self-critique, humility, and above all accountability to the most marginalized so that strategies do not repeat past harms and mistakes caused by well-intentioned yet elitist reform efforts designed far away from the communities most impacted.

WHERE WE WORK: STATEWIDE IS LOCAL, AND LOCAL IS STATEWIDE.

Specifically, we work with communities who are targeted and left unprotected by federal, state, and local policies, practices, negligence, and/or abusive enforcement of power in five key regions throughout the state: the Los Angeles, Bay Area, Inland Valley, Central Valley, and Central Coast regions.

Our work fundamentally requires an understanding of the underlying forces upholding the school to prison pipeline in order to put data and lived experiences into a well-informed context for strategy and action in the regions we work in. The capacity we build goes well beyond technical assistance—we build transformative capacity to lead, challenge, and design radical solutions on the ground to effect change throughout the state. Statewide is local, and local is statewide.
DSC CA MEMBER VICTORIES AND ONGOING FIGHTS

2020 has been a watershed year for DSC CA. Our last three years of diligent movement building has resulted in a transformative approach to removing police from schools all around the state. Coupled with a statewide identity and cohesive theory of change, we met the uprisings generated by the dehumanizing murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police with incredible victories. Our approach has been to build Black-Brown solidarity statewide around the need to center Black-led organizing and organizations. Specifically, DSC CA worked to support the Black Organizing Project’s decade-long Bettering Our School System (BOSS) Campaign, which set the goal of removing the Oakland School Police Department (OSPD) by 2020. We simultaneously developed a “trans-local” strategy of supporting local and regional campaigns across our five regions with a shared analysis and stance on Black lives and Black-Brown solidarity.
In June 24, 2020, the Black Organizing Project became the first organization in the country to win a resolution that effectively eliminated an entire police department from a public-school district by successfully passing the “George Floyd Resolution to Eliminate Oakland Schools Police Department.” The George Floyd resolution is rooted in a vision of complete transformation of school climate, culture, and discipline practices. Moving forward through grassroots community organizing and policy change, BOP is working towards true safe and healthy environments and will continue to transform schools and communities by centering Black and other marginalized folks as the leaders creating the solutions for change.
In June, 2020, BPSB in coalition with Brown Issues and Hmong Innovating Politics, got the School Board to terminate their contract for school resources officers (SROs) provided by Sacramento City Police Department to Sacramento City Unified School District. Campaign started in 2016, when SCUSD had 11 SROs.
In June, 2020, Coleman terminated San Francisco Unified School District’s contract for 12 school resource officers (SROs) provided by San Francisco City Police Department. Campaign started in 2015.
In June 2020, MILPA and BHC removed police from school districts in Watsonville (Pajaro Valley Unified School District), Salinas, Seaside, Monterey and Soledad (2020); Successfully advocated for three districts in Salinas to refuse federal grant dollars to hire SRO’s (2017-2019); stopped the planned use of drug-sniffing dogs on school grounds in two school districts in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties (2018-2019).
In June 2020, the LAUSD School Board passed a resolution reducing the School Police Department’s budget by $25 million, resulting in the removal of 65 officers. Final resolution included an amendment that restricted the district from hiring another police force or using private security.
COPE helped cut school-related arrests in the San Bernardino City School District (SBCSD) by 90% since 2014-15, when SBCSD had the highest number of school-related arrests in the state and one of the highest arrest rates in the country. COPE successfully got the Board of Supervisors to declare racism a public health crisis and is supporting an ongoing campaign to remove police from Moreno Valley Unified.

CONGREGATIONS ORGANIZED FOR PROPHETIC ENGAGEMENT (INLAND EMPIRE)
Barrios helped establish the Fresno Educational Justice Coalition which strives for abolition, liberation and equity in education. Barrios is also supporting a citywide coalition to defund the Fresno Police Department, end FPD’s contract to provide SRO’s to Fresno Unified, and reallocate the dollars to Public Health, Behavioral Health, and Fresno Unified to build an adolescent system of care.
FFSJ is part of a coalition waging a campaign to abolish their Stockton Unified’s school police department and reallocate the $8 million to student health and wellness. The coalition gathered 1500 signatures and public comments in support of defunding the police department. The board chose not to move forward on the resolution, but the coalition is not giving up the fight.
The DHF has been successful in eliminating LCAP funding for police in schools in Mojave Unified and Arvin Unified. In 2013, as part of the Kern Educational Justice Collaborative, the DHF diverted $2.5 million away from police in schools and into improving school climate in Kern High School District. The DHF is currently a Plaintiff in a successful lawsuit against Kern High School District for discriminatory discipline practices resulting in a three-year settlement agreement.
WHO WE ARE: VISIONARY MOVEMENT STRATEGISTS BORNE FROM GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING

It matters who is leading the work. Who is leading, from where, and with whom can literally mean the difference between repeating past harms and being transformative. We have honed our strategy from decades of community organizing, through real-life stories, collective analysis, shared vision, intergenerational ownership of the work, and mutual accountability. This genesis of experience makes us fundamentally distinct from coalition strategy derived from research review, lack of proximity to injustice, and bottom-lines that preserve the top-down nature of most solutions that often lack any accountability to impacted families.

DSC CA PARTICIPATING REGIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

**BAY AREA**
- Black Organizing Project
  [http://blackorganizingproject.org/](http://blackorganizingproject.org/)
- Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth
  [https://colemanadvocates.org/](https://colemanadvocates.org/)
- Forward Change
  [https://forwardchangeconsulting.com/](https://forwardchangeconsulting.com/)
- Genders & Sexualities Alliance Network
  [https://gsanetwork.org/](https://gsanetwork.org/)

**CENTRAL COAST**
- Building Healthy Communities East Salinas
  [https://bhceastsalinas.org/](https://bhceastsalinas.org/)
- MILPA Collective
- Youth Alliance
  [www.youthall.org](http://www.youthall.org)

**CENTRAL VALLEY**
- Central Valley Movement Building
  [https://cvmb.org/](https://cvmb.org/)
- Black Parallel School Board
- Dolores Huerta Foundation
- Tower of Youth
  [https://www.towerofyouth.org/](https://www.towerofyouth.org/)
- Fathers and Families of San Joaquin Valley
  [https://www.ffsj.org/](https://www.ffsj.org/)
- Fresno Barrios Unidos
- Legal Services for Children
  [https://www.lsc-sf.org/](https://www.lsc-sf.org/)

**INLAND VALLEY**
- Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement (COPE)
  [https://copesite.org/](https://copesite.org/)
- Community Asset Development Re-Defining Education (CADRE)
  [http://www.cadre-la.org](http://www.cadre-la.org)
- Public Counsel

For more information about DSC CA, visit [www.dignityinschools-ca.org](http://www.dignityinschools-ca.org) or contact Noemi Soto, Statewide Coordinator, at [noemi@dignityinschools-ca.org](mailto:noemi@dignityinschools-ca.org).