



RESTORATIVE
SCHOOLS VISION
PROJECT

EST. 2006

Social and Restorative Justice: Fostering a Safe and Inclusive School Climate



*"It is easier to teach children than repair broken men."
-Frederick Douglass*

Restorative Schools Vision Project

- School Partnerships
- Professional Development
- Public Policy



Why Are We Here?

1. To provide an overview of RSVP's **organizing, training and policy** work to end the school-to-prison pipeline

1. To introduce stakeholders to school-based **restorative justice** as an effective, relationship-based approach that promotes an **equitable, inclusive, and healthy** school climate and culture



Restorative Schools Vision Project

Our Work to End the School-to-Prison Pipeline

2007: Launches volunteer training practice for Sacramento area schools in RJ practices

2008: State and national coalition building campaigns to end disparate treatment in school discipline

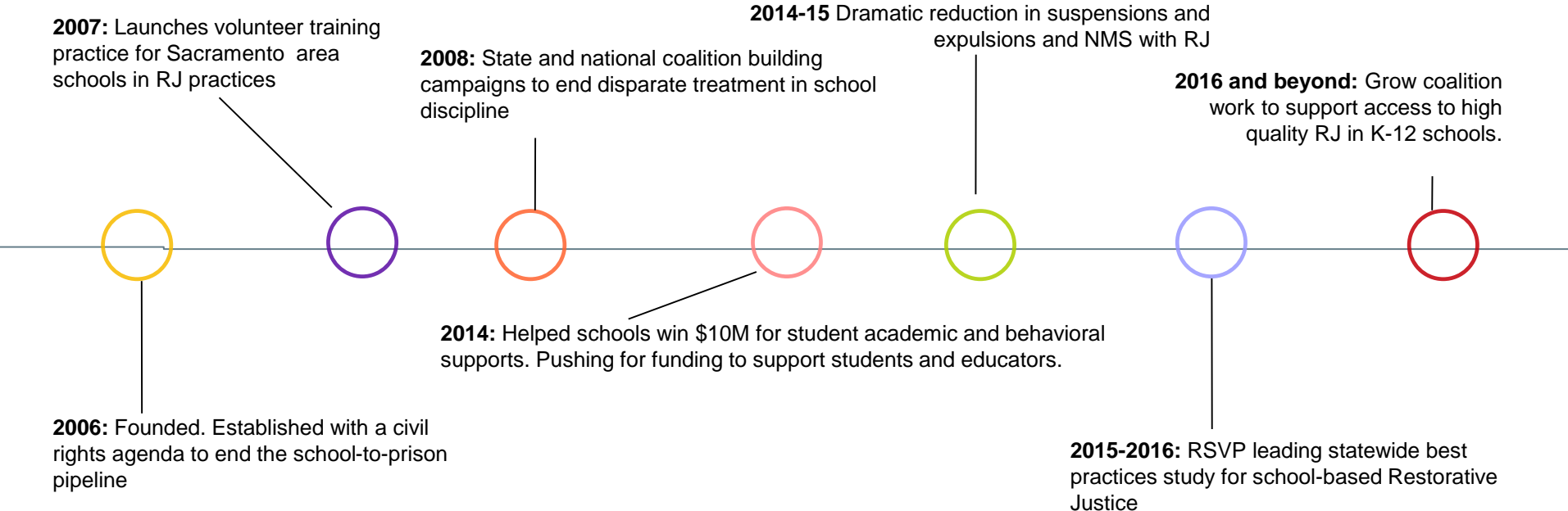
2014-15 Dramatic reduction in suspensions and expulsions and NMS with RJ

2016 and beyond: Grow coalition work to support access to high quality RJ in K-12 schools.

2014: Helped schools win \$10M for student academic and behavioral supports. Pushing for funding to support students and educators.

2006: Founded. Established with a civil rights agenda to end the school-to-prison pipeline

2015-2016: RSVP leading statewide best practices study for school-based Restorative Justice





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What is the School to Prison Pipeline?

The *policies* and *practices* that are directly and indirectly pushing students out of school and on a pathway to prison.



Suspensions and the Path to Prison

Students are more likely to be retained

Students are less likely to graduate

Students are more likely to get arrested



Being **suspended** even once in ninth grade is associated with a **twofold increase in the likelihood of dropping out**, from 16% for those not suspended to 32% for those suspended just once.

(Balfanz, 2013)

Elements of the School to Prison Pipeline

- Racial & ethnic disparities
- Zero tolerance discipline and school suspension
- Criminalization of normative adolescent behavior
- Police in school
- High stakes testing



Racial and Ethnic Disparities

For every 1 white student
to receive an OSS

...3 black students received
an OSS



Major Trends

- Police presence in schools has been on the rise, especially in the last 15 years.
- More types of incidents now require police notification.
- State and federal funding for cops in schools has expanded.
- Many Zero Tolerance policies have broadened the definition of “weapon.”



Image: [JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES](#)



Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline

Give youth, parents, and teachers a real voice in creating and implementing positive school discipline

Improve the code of conduct to hold students accountable for minor misbehavior without excluding from school

Examine the root causes of racial disparities and make a commitment to end them

Limit the role of law enforcement to serious crimes

Increase counseling and community intervention resources



What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice

A philosophy of justice that...

Emphasizes **repairing** harm

Invites all of those affected to **collaboratively** figure out how to repair the harm

Gives **equal attention** to community needs, those who are harmed, and those who caused harm



SCHOOLS THAT IMPLEMENT

Restorative Justice

ARE

Ending racially disproportionate discipline
Lowering suspension and expulsion rates
Cultivating positive school climates



Restorative Model of Prevention and Supports



Adapted from: Oakland Unified School District. *Restorative Justice Implementation Guide: A Whole School Approach.*



Build Relationships

Build intentional **equitable and safe classroom environments** for teachers and students that are conducive to learning



Provide Individualized Support

Re-entry after a suspension or other sustained absence or in cases of chronic lateness and truancy

Restorative Conferences:

Brings together parents/caregivers and others who can play a supportive role

Support all participants while insisting on accountability for harmful actions



Social Emotional Learning



Source: [Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning \(CASEL\)](#)



**A civil rights and social
justice movement**
connected to everything
we care about.

RJ Pushing back on school pushout

AB 2489 Restorative Justice
Practices (McCarty)

AB 2698 School Climate and
Student Achievement (Weber)

State Budget

Mobilizing stakeholders

Statewide practitioner organizing

K-12 RJ **Best Practices** study

Engaging **parent-led, student and
community-based** groups





ALL LABOR THAT UPLIFTS
HUMANITY HAS DIGNITY AND
IMPORTANCE AND SHOULD
BE UNDERTAKEN WITH
PAINSTAKING
EXCELLENCE

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

EACH PERSON
MUST LIVE THEIR
LIFE AS A
MODEL FOR
OTHERS

ROSA
PARKS

YOU MUST BE
THE CHANGE YOU
WISH TO SEE IN
THE WORLD

GHANDI