



# Community Organizing

## Engaging your community

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# Define community priorities

- Research
  - Obtain data about your community
  - Attend local school board meetings
  - Reach out to other parents and stakeholders



# Form a Coalition

- Hold a community meeting
- Examine community priorities
  - Develop strategies & tactics for each
- Develop mission
- Identify resources



# Coalition Building

- Identify Allies
- Engage the press and community
- Obtain data about community to support mission
- Develop strategic plan
- Continuously reach into community



# Get Active

- Public Education
- Encourage parent advocacy
- Testify at state and local school board meetings
- Start letter writing campaigns.
- The missing puzzle piece is you!



# Resources

- **The American Civil Liberties Union**

The ACLU's Racial Justice Program is committed to challenging the "school to prison pipeline," a disturbing national trend wherein children are funneled out of public schools and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

[www.aclu.org/racial-justice/school-prison-pipeline](http://www.aclu.org/racial-justice/school-prison-pipeline)

- **The Dignity in Schools Campaign (DSC)**

A coalition of over 40 individuals and organizations. Our aim is to challenge the systemic problem of pushout in our nation's schools and provide concrete alternatives to a culture of removal and punishment.

[www.dignityinschools.org](http://www.dignityinschools.org)

- **Advancement Project**

An innovative civil rights law, policy, and communications "action tank" that advances universal opportunity and a just democracy for those left behind in America. For the past ten years, Advancement Project has focused on the use and devastating effects of harsh school discipline policies and practices and the increased role of law enforcement in public schools

[www.stopschoolstojails.org](http://www.stopschoolstojails.org)