THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE: and the pathways for LGBT youth

**SCHOOL**

**DISCIPLINE:**
- Zero Tolerance = Automatic Punishment
- Schools also notify parents of disciplinary action

**SAFETY:**
- LGBT and gender non-conforming youth face ongoing harassment and violence in schools

**ACHIEVEMENT:**
- The lack of safety in schools for LGBT youth can lead to lower academic achievement

**FAMILY REJECTION:**
- Reporting a school disciplinary action to students' families may "out" LGBT students, increasing risk of family rejection or violence.
- Many LGBT students run away from or are forced to leave their homes once their families find out about their sexual orientation or gender identity. Many end up homeless or in family social services

**SCHOOL-BASED ARRESTS:**
- Policies that mandate direct police or criminal justice action directly push students into the pipeline

**SUSPENSION/EXPULSION:**
- LGBTQ youth are 1.4 times more likely to be expelled than straight youth. Black students are 3.5 times more likely and Latino students are 1.5 times more likely to be expelled than white students

**HOMELESSNESS:**
- LGBT youth are disproportionately represented in the homeless youth population, making up between 20 and 40 percent of all homeless youth

**FAMILY & SOCIAL SERVICES:**
- Students in foster care are 3 times more likely to be suspended or expelled than students in the care of a guardian

**HIGH-STAKES TESTING:**
- Some schools increase their test scores by pushing out low-scoring students

**PUSH OUT:**
- Denies young people their right to education and makes it more likely they will end up in prison

**DROPOUT:**
- A student with 3+ suspensions by sophomore year is 5 times as likely to drop out
- Studies estimate nearly one-third of LGBT students drop out to escape violence & harassment

**PRISON / JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM:**
- Young people who do not graduate are 8 times more likely to go to prison than students who graduate
- Emerging research indicates that approximately 13% of youth in detention facilities across the country are LGBT
- Many juvenile detention facilities do not have the training, awareness or education to meet the needs of LGBT youth

**SOURCES:**

Created for Gay-Straight Alliance Network 2011