

# STUDENTS | FOR EDUCATIONAL | JUSTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## *Students for Educational Justice Sends an SOS To New Haven Public Schools*

August 25, 2021

Students for Educational Justice's newest campaign "Students Over SRO's" (SOS) demands that New Haven public schools remove school resource officers (SROs) and invest in mental health resources and restorative justice practices for students.

Students for Educational Justice (SEJ) is excited to announce the launch of our Students Over School Resource Officers (SROs) Campaign (SOS). Amidst generations of racialized police brutality, especially toward young Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color, SEJ is urgently working to protect the young people of New Haven Public Schools (NHPS) through the SOS campaign. In light of the New Haven Board of Education's decision to maintain the SRO system in NHPS, SEJ continues to imagine and fight for police-free schools in New Haven.

Through our campaign, we aim to push NHPS to end its contract with the New Haven Police Department and re-invest NHPS resources into institutionalized mental health support such as social workers, therapists of color, and restorative justice trainers and practitioners. Our members, who are middle and high school students from the greater New Haven area, have propelled this campaign in numerous ways including:

- Creating a [survey](#) aimed at centering student voices across all NHPS schools
- Facilitating virtual classroom visits in local New Haven schools
- Planning an in-person Summer of Pride & Power intensive teaching young people leadership skills, self reflection and love, community and connection building, and New Haven power
- Reimagining police-free & mentally healthy schools through an in-person summer art series using written & visual art as forms of organizing

- Writing opinion pieces detailing their thoughts on why police should not be in schools
- Designing and creating a public-facing mural in New Haven

Any NHPS student can join the fight to remove police from New Haven public schools by filling out our [survey](#) centering student opinions on SROs. Those who fill out the survey have the opportunity to be entered into a gift card raffle.

Young people who are interested in racial and educational justice are encouraged to contact the Lead Organizer at [vy@students4edjustice.org](mailto:vy@students4edjustice.org) and follow us on Instagram [@students4edjustice](#). Adult supporters can visit our [website](#) and donate [here](#) to support our fight with young people in New Haven.

SEJ is an intergenerational, youth-led grassroots organization based in New Haven that works to cultivate self-pride in young BIPOC people and organize for racial and educational justice.

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