



*Sent via email*

November 16, 2021

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Community Advisory Committee  
9150 E. Imperial Highway  
Downey, CA 90242  
[JJCC-Admin@probation.lacounty.gov](mailto:JJCC-Admin@probation.lacounty.gov)

RE: Stop Funding School-Based Probation (Public Comment for Agenda Item 4a(3))

Dear Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Community Advisory Committee:

We are writing on behalf of the ACLU of Southern California to respectfully request that the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council stop funding school-based probation. School should be a place for learning, flourishing, growth, and support, not criminal legal system contact. Probation presence and intervention at school creates stigmatization and yet another track for youth to get involved in the juvenile legal and custody systems. It also targets and harms Black youth in particular. The percentage of Black children on school supervision is over three times greater than the County population—30%, compared to 9%.

School-based probation has received the lion's share of Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act funds for years. And the Probation Special Services budget unit, of which school-based probation is a part, has received \$100-130 million dollars annually in recent fiscal years. Despite the substantial funding and the corresponding obligations it creates to the youth, it is troubling that Probation claims it does not maintain a budget for the school-based probation program, nor does it have specialized training for this program. It would be remiss of the JJCC to waste another \$4.4 million JJCPA dollars into juvenile probation's coffers rather than devoting as much funding as possible to trained youth experts and youth development supports in schools and community-based organizations, including building out restorative and peacebuilding practices, assistance for youth experiencing violence or trauma, and community-based alternatives to school punitive discipline, push-out, and legal system entanglement.

We urge you to follow the Youth Justice Reimagined recommendations—unanimously supported and endorsed by the LA County Board of Supervisors—and help phase out school-based probation supervision. Please stop funding school-based probation now.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Farris  
Senior Policy Council, ACLU of Southern California

Victor Leung  
Director of Education Equity, ACLU of Southern California

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