

TRANSFORMING SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

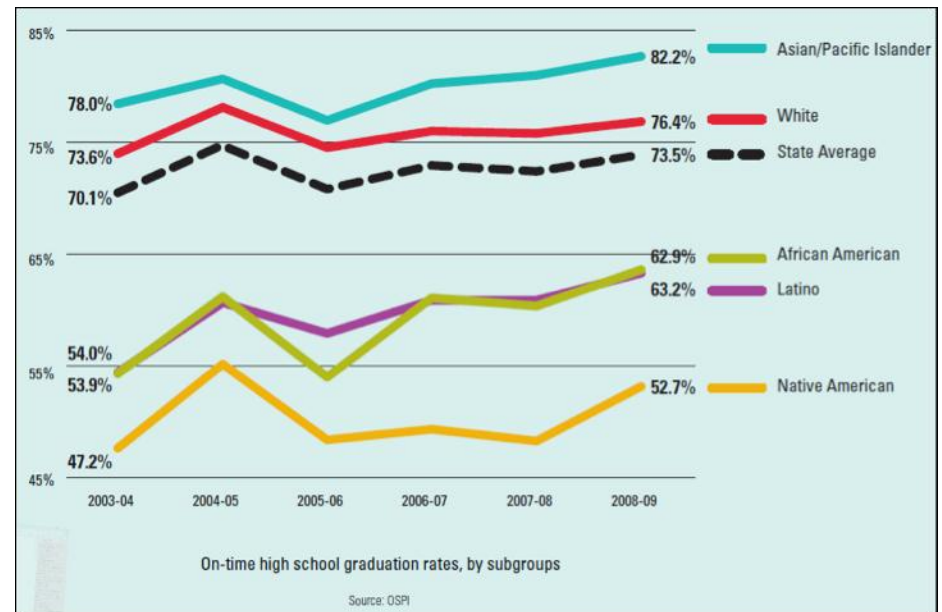
Highline CC

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WHY SCHOOL DISCIPLINE POLICIES?

- Studies have shown that anywhere from 30-50% of students who are suspended are likely to be suspended again
- 31% of students who were disciplined more than once had to repeat their grade
 - (Data from the council of state governments justice center)



SUSPENSION MATTERS

- academically speaking, suspension is the worst thing you can do for a student
- studies have shown that anywhere from 30-50% of students who are suspended are likely to be suspended again
- 31% of students who were disciplined more than once had to repeat their grade
 - (data from the council of state governments justice center)

WHEN SCHOOLS STARTED CRACKING DOWN

- 1994 gun free schools act
- zero-tolerance policies started with weapons and & grew to encompass much more
- by 1997
 - 94% of U.S. schools have zero-tolerance policies for weapons and firearms
 - 87% for alcohol
 - 79% had mandatory suspensions for use of tobacco or violence

(data from national center on education statistics)
- original goal is to create objective discipline policies

CRUEL & UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT

- nail file
- chicken finger
- candy cane
- butter knife
- blow-up doll
- sexy teacher
- “disruption”



INTERSECTION OF RACE & CLASS

- Severe punishments for crimes that are **subjective** and **ill-defined**
- Despite the aim of objectivity, we see inequities in who gets disciplined, especially in examples such as these:
 - Gang activity
 - Harassment
 - Insubordination
 - Defiance
 - Dress code
- Results across the nation show trends in racial disparities: Not just an issue in Washington

STOP SCHOOL PUSHOUT

- The Opportunity Gap, The Cost of Inequity, From Pupil to Prisoner
- Dignity in Schools
- Resilience: Lincoln High School in Walla Walla, WA
- Where is the data?

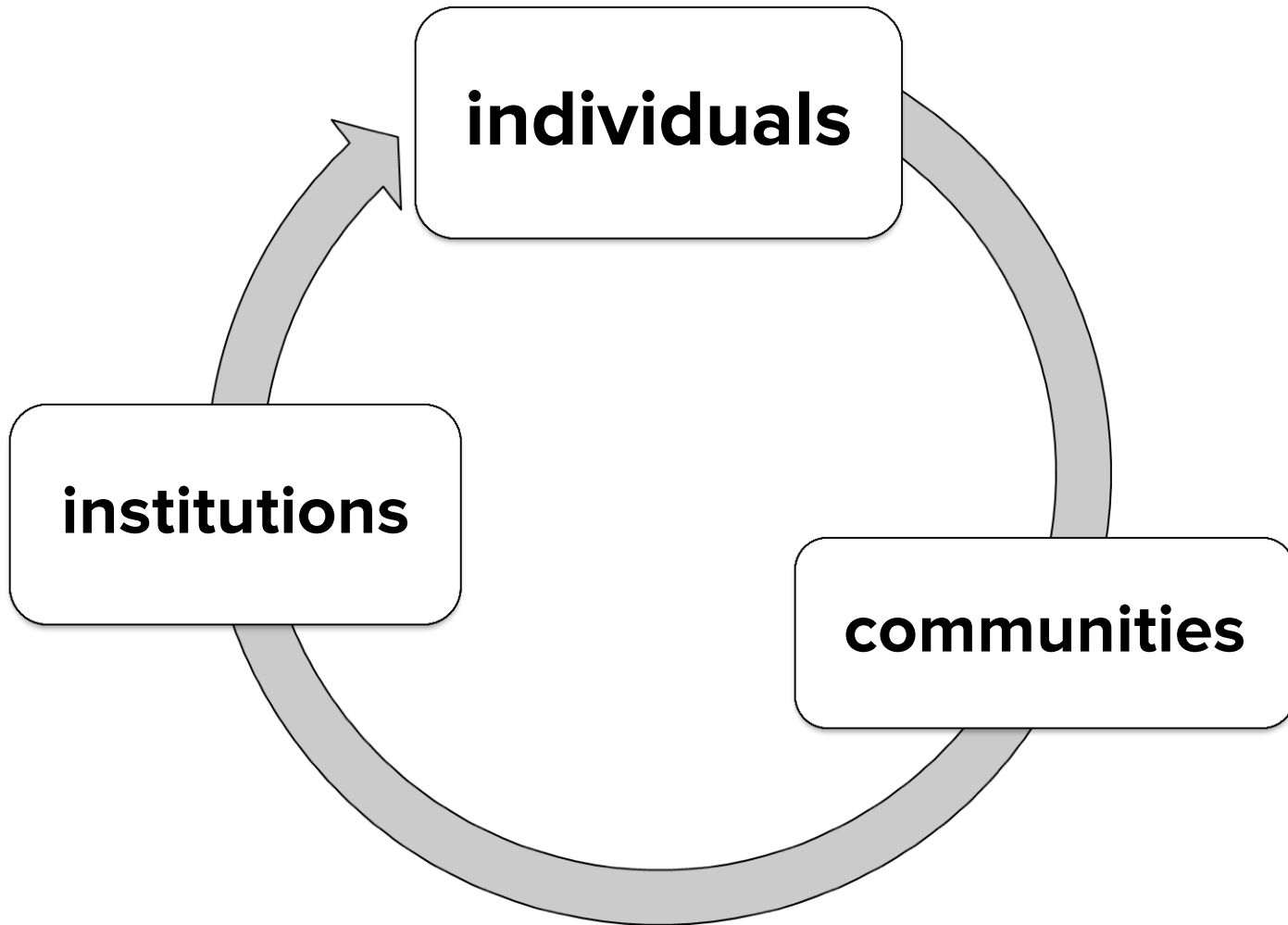
GOALS FOR 2013

- Convene a coalition of community and advocacy groups who are invested in transforming school discipline, both short-term and long-term.
- Introduce and pass legislation in the 2013 session that supports:
 - the increased collection of student discipline data
 - Establish that school must require an end-date for exclusionary discipline policies
- Discuss long-term goals: What larger movement is this coalition connected to?

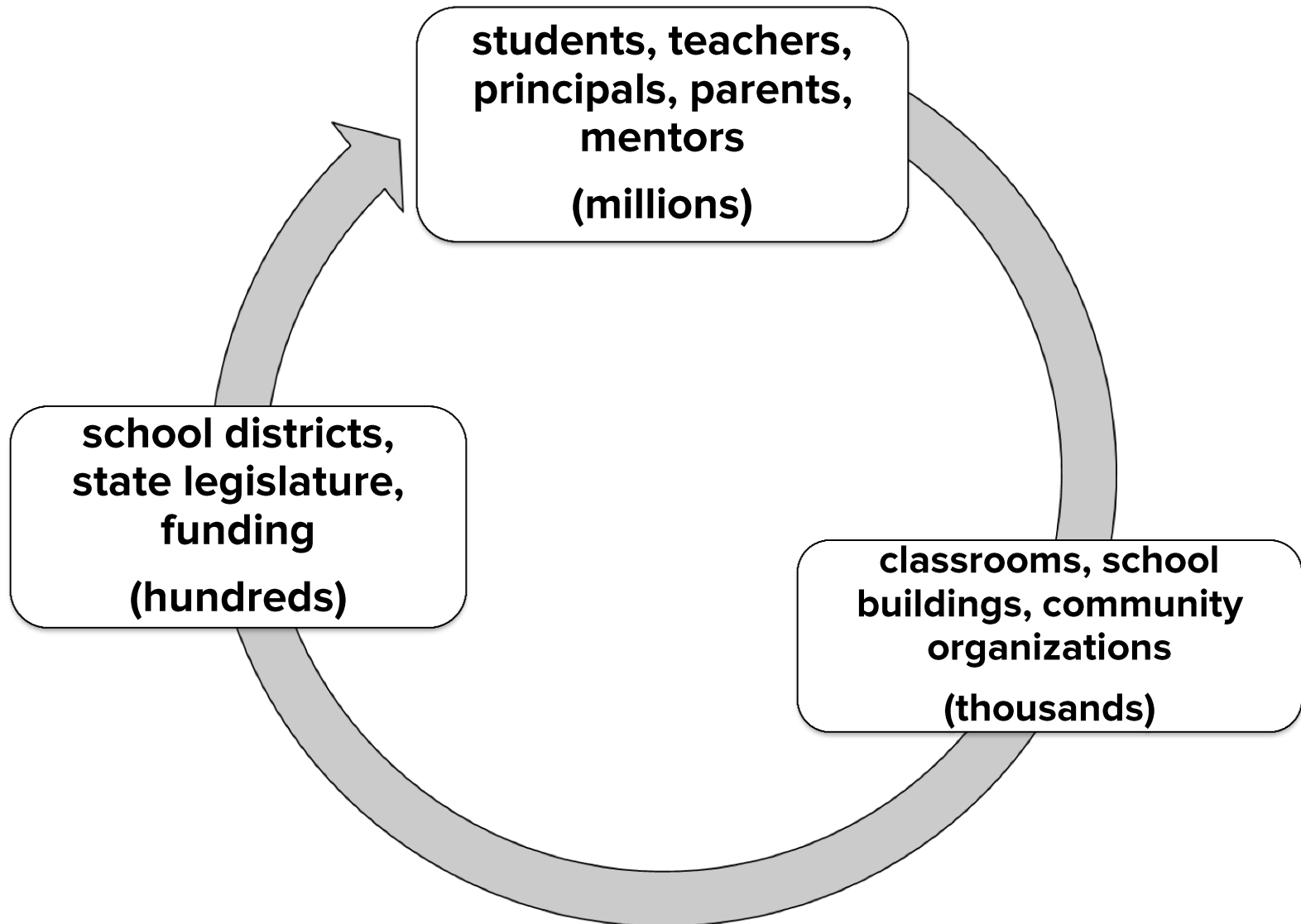
HOW CAN WE RE-ENVISION SCHOOL DISCIPLINE?

- Punitive vs. restorative: using discipline as an opportunity to educate
- Build trust and accountability between adults and youth
- Approach school-based strategies with an explicit focus on culturally competent solutions

INSTITUTIONALIZING CHANGE



IN THE CONTEXT OF SCHOOL



SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Improve data collection**
- **Reduce exclusionary discipline practices**

Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks to dramatize the issue so that it can no longer be ignored... I am not afraid of the word tension.

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Letter from a Birmingham Jail

LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide educational services to excluded students
- End indefinite exclusions
- Require districts to retrieve and reengage students
- Work collectively—share best practices
 - Punitive vs. restorative: using discipline as an opportunity to educate
 - Build trust and accountability between adults and youth
 - Approach school-based strategies with an explicit focus on culturally competent solutions

STATEWIDE CALL NEXT WEDNESDAY

- August – Seattle—in partnership with King County Youth Development Network
 - September – Burien—School to Prison Pipeline Symposium with the Race and Pedagogy Initiative at the University of Puget Sound
 - October—Tacoma –in partnership with the Latino Community Fund
 - October—Seattle—in partnership with One America
 - November—Yakima—in partnership with the Office of Education Ombudsman
 - December—Renton—in partnership with Community Connection Consulting
 - December—Spokane—in partnership with United Way of Spokane
- Between these 7 meetings in 6 cities, we estimate that we've engaged over 500 people and over 75 organizations across the state. The legislative session begins the second week of January.
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