



Laboratory for the Study of
Youth Inequality and Justice



Immigration and School Safety: Highlighting the Roles of Teachers and School Resource Officers (SROs)

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Schools, Immigration, and Safety

It is an evil and a reproach to our nation, for which the laws and ordinances afford no adequate remedy ...we are losing our nation to them. I allude to the constantly increasing number of immigrant...vagrants, idle and vicious children...who infest our public...children who are growing up in ignorance and profligacy, only destined to a life of misery, shame and crime, and ultimately to a felon's doom. Their numbers are almost incredible, and to those whose business and habits do not permit them a searching scrutiny...The offspring of always careless, generally intemperate and oftentimes immoral, dishonest, and criminal parents, they never see the inside of a schoolroom; and so far as our excellent system of public education is concerned, and which may be truly said to be the foundation stone of our free institutions, is to them an entire nullity.

“...this class of children is, probably, the most degraded of any our country”

“these children are a burden and strain on our schools”

New York Police Chief - 1849

Complexities with Defining and Ensuring School Safety

- Schools as Institutions of Education, Socialization, and Citizenship
- Violence, Injustice, and Inequality
 - Often Focused on Individual Misbehavior and School Crime
 - Focus on Bullying, Harassment, Sexual Assault, and Victimization
 - Discrimination, Prejudice, and Biased Treatment
 - Target Hardening: Securitization, Punishment, and Control
 - Fear, Social Isolation, and Avoidance
 - Juvenile Arrests, Waivers, and School Punishment/Discipline
- Safety, Justice, and Equity
 - Contextual and Comprehensive Approaches
 - Focus on Addressing Disparities and Ensuring Well-Being
 - Healthy and Inclusive Learning Environments
 - Trauma Informed Responses, Programs, and Policies
 - Establishing Healthy Climate and Community
- Safety and Violence at School are Mechanisms of Stratification, Reproduction, Criminalization, and Marginalization

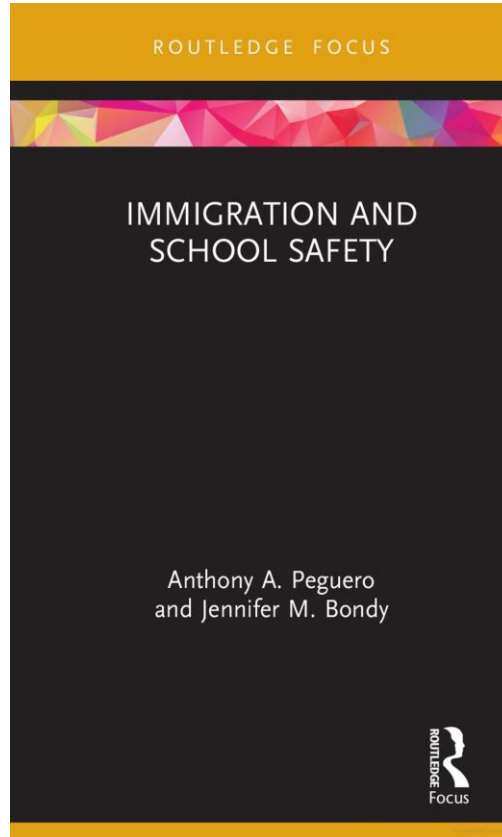
Immigration and School Safety

Routledge

<https://www.routledge.com/Immigration-and-School-Safety/Peguero-Bondy/p/book/9780367741181>

Google

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/Immigration and School Safety/AKsXEAAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Immigration+and+School+Safety/AKsXEAAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover)



Amazon

<https://www.amazon.com/Immigration-School-Safety-Crime-Society/dp/0367356910>

Book Review

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10511253.2021.1990974?journalCode=rcje20>

Roles of Teachers

<p>Frightened or uncertain because of broader anti-immigrant discourse or practices</p>	<p>Show your support – check-in with students; Include information about community organizations for youth on a bulletin board; display posters in classroom that represent inclusion and support of diversity</p>
<p>Healthy classroom learning environment</p>	<p>Culturally responsive teaching – invite guest speakers that share students’ identities, histories, and cultures; pair dominant perspectives in the curriculum with texts that reflect diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural viewpoints; ask students what they would like to learn or what social issue they would like to address using multiple perspectives, incorporate students’ ideas into lesson plans</p>
<p>Healthy school climate</p>	<p>Involve colleagues – request professional development related to school safety and immigration (e.g., impact of immigration enforcement and deportation); join/create a professional network of justice-oriented teachers</p>

Role of School Resource Officers (SROs)

Ideal

- Law enforcement officer
- Law-related counselor
- Law-related educator
- Mentor and Teacher

Reality

- Enforcement and Control
- “Safety and Security”

Practices and Policies

- Continuing overlap and deepening intersectional process of education, socialization, and criminalization
- Not supposed to be involved in discipline – viewed as primary response to school misbehavior
- Not supposed to surveil assimilation and control
- Not supposed to represent Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- Inconsistencies with philosophy, objectives, training, integration, and objectives within schools

Role of Teachers and SROs

Important Questions to Ask Moving Forward

- Do we need SROs in schools?
- If so, how should we integrate SROs within schools?
- To what extent should teachers rely on SROs for misbehavior and discipline?
- How should we think about the collaboration between teachers, staff, admin, and SROs?
- If we do integrate, how should we think about the convergence of educational and juvenile justice systems?
- What are the consequences (both intended and unintended) for the children of immigrants?
- Should there be more comprehensive approaches to school safety focus on trauma, well-being, health, and community?



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Justice-Oriented Professional Networks

- [Teachers for Social Justice](#)
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- [Equity Literacy Institute](#)