

NEW YORK CITY CAN'T WAIT: SHRINK POLICING IN THE NAME OF PUBLIC HEALTH

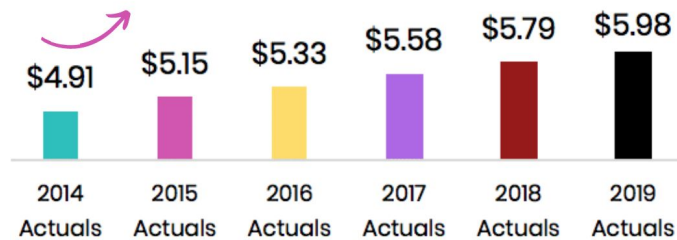
Fighting for Budget Justice During COVID-19

In late May, we learned of the deaths of Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd – losses that sparked uprisings across the country and escalated the urgency to transform the way New York City allocates public resources. The violent tear-gassing, beatings, and abuse of protestors who came out in response to those deaths broadcasted the fact that NYPD resources are used against communities of color and creating real and lasting safety would require a divestment from policing and real investments in community needs.

INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 interrupted the City's process of negotiating the next fiscal year's expense budget, canceling New York City Council preliminary budget oversight hearings, compromising anticipated revenue, and forcing financial savings plans alongside new spending on pandemic relief.

With the April Executive Budget announcement, the administration published their commitment to protecting the New York City Police Department (NYPD) from austerity measures, at the same time **choosing to sacrifice agencies that pledge to support young people.**



↑ NYPD Annual Expense Spending in Billions

As Mayor de Blasio attempts to brand his tenure as “[six-and-a-half years of police reform](#),” his budget documents reveal \$1 billion in growth in [spending actuals](#) on the NYPD over the course of his administration. **The division of the NYPD directing and controlling school policing has outpaced that rate of growth – expanding by \$100 million, or a colossal 28.5%.**

In this moment marked by a public health and economic crisis, adoption of #PoliceFreeSchools across the country, and the rejection of the violence of policing, we refuse this trajectory of spending on policing and criminalization.

A redistribution of the NYPD's \$450 million annual school policing budget... ...would give every school budget an additional \$282,000 each year. ...across all 1,600 public schools...

THE APRIL BUDGET

On March 15th the Mayor announced the closure of schools – a moment marking the halfway point between the budget's 1st draft (the Preliminary) and the second draft (the Executive).

In the days leading up to the Executive Budget announcement, the public learned of the Mayor's intention to eliminate the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) for summer 2020. When he disguised his willingness to sacrifice an income for [tens of thousands of youth of color](#) as a concern for their health and safety, young people countered, compelling the Mayor to shift his talking points to “[we're running out of money](#).” Now, as the political will to preserve SYEP grows among the Council, resistance to this dynamic where youth must fight for funding while the NYPD grows year after year is gaining strength.

DYCD's \$177 million budget cut is 12% of the Mayor's whole list of cuts for FY2021, while DYCD's budget is 0.7% of the City's total budget. vs The NYPD's \$16 million budget cut is 1% of the City's whole list of cuts for FY2021, while the NYPD's budget is 6% of the City's total budget.

The Mayor's [Citywide Savings Program](#) outlined \$641 million in cuts to the DOE in FY2021, including:

- \$100 million cut from Fair Student Funding (FSF)
- \$40 million cut from School Allocation Memorandums (SAMs)
- \$46 million cut for a hiring freeze
- \$67 million cut from Professional Development
- \$54 million cut from Equity & Excellence programming

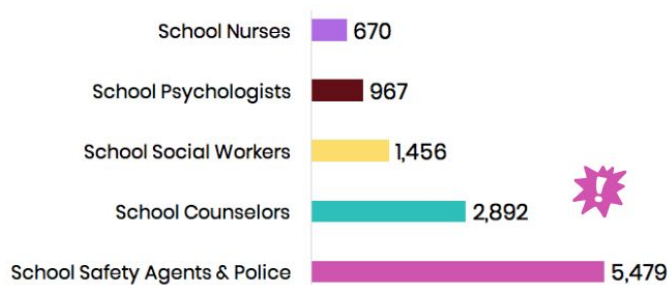
Despite the DOE's operating budget only being 4.8x the size of the NYPD's, the next four years of proposed cuts to the DOE's budget amount to 58x the cuts to the NYPD.



NEW & LONG-UNDERFUNDED NEEDS

Young people have been thrust into new roles during this pandemic: essential worker, caretaker, homeschooler for younger siblings, and nurse to sick family members and loved ones.

School communities are grappling with the potential for cuts to school budgets, as the Mayor proposes chopping funding streams like FSF and SAMs that give schools the flexibility to afford multilingual counselors, trauma-responsive social workers, and other specialized resources. Those same school communities are working nonstop to connect young people and families to meals, remote learning supplies, grief and trauma counseling, information on new grading and testing policies, and opportunities to prepare for their futures amidst great uncertainty. A sustained investment in trauma-informed schooling is overdue, but it is not too late.



↑ In the Mayor's proposed budget, students are offered 8x as many school safety agents than school nurses

OUR DEMANDS

With a proposed four-year hiring freeze for school staff, but no freeze for police, young people will continue to encounter policing more often than they can access healing supports. If Mayor de Blasio continues to [insist](#) "this next school year is going to have to be the greatest school year we've ever had," we'll need an adopted budget that recognizes the negative impact of policing on learning and safety – a budget that defunds the NYPD.

We demand the following:

- ★ **Begin efforts to permanently shrink the NYPD's School Safety Division** by eliminating the recruitment, training, and graduation of classes of School Safety Agents in FY2021.

Department	Population	Number of Officers	Per 10,000 Residents
NYPD	8,537,653	36,078	42
Chicago	2,704,958	11,965	44
Los Angeles	3,976,322	9,870	25
Philadelphia	1,567,872	6,031	38
NYPD School Safety	1,100,000	5,511	50
Houston	2,254,546	5,203	23
Washington DC	681,170	3,712	54
Dallas	1,236,028	3,408	28
Miami-Dade	1,345,983	2,723	20
Phoenix	1,615,017	2,689	17
Las Vegas	1,592,178	2,566	16

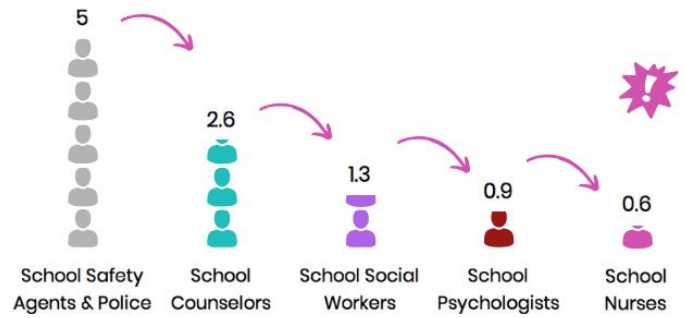
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

↑ If the School Safety Division was a standalone police department, it would be the fifth-largest in the country

- ★ **Phase-out the contract between the NYPD and DOE** by shifting all attrition savings to social-emotional supports and restorative approaches to preventing and responding to conflict and harm.
- ★ **Remove all uniformed police officers from schools** and dismantle the 188-officer "Uniformed Task Force" – an immediate cost savings of at least \$24 million.
- ★ **Reduce the operating budget of school policing** by downsizing "other than personnel services" (OTPS) spending and reject runaway overtime spending – currently budgeted for \$40 million each year, but amounting to over \$52 million last fiscal year regardless.
- ★ **Freeze all recruitment and hiring of patrol officers to reduce the NYPD headcount**, aiming to end the 316 new Youth Coordination Officer positions and youth policing initiative.

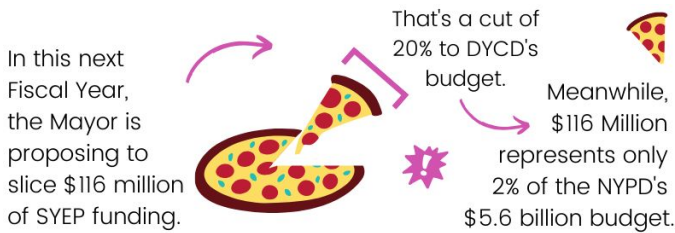


↑ The Mayor proposes to cut \$100 million in FSF while the Patrol Bureau grew by \$100 million in FY20



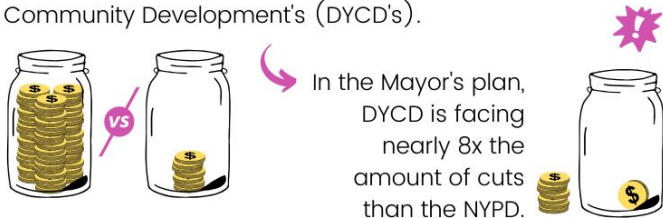
↑ For every 1,000 students, the Mayor's budget offers...

★ **Ensure adequate resources are committed for mental health and trauma response in DOE schools** for years to come. This means increasing the number of school-based social workers, restorative justice practitioners, and supportive, non-law enforcement staff.



★ **Ensure students have access to an adapted Summer Youth Employment Program**, enabling youth and families to access that income to eat, pay for utilities, and cover rent.

The NYPD's expense budget is 9x larger than the Department of Youth & Community Development's (DYCD's).



★ **Introduce a \$100 million rapid-response investment for organizations doing the work to meet the needs of young people of color** who have been most harmed by this pandemic.

★ **At \$1,651 a day, the cost of youth incarceration in New York City is indefensible.** Over the past 45 days alone, the City has spent nearly \$400,000 to incarcerate girls at Crossroads Juvenile Detention Center during a pandemic. Efforts to fund healthy communities must also prioritize ending youth incarceration.

CONCLUSION

Young people are living through what is likely the most uncertain time in their lives. Communities of color in particular are under attack by both a global pandemic and the continued ongoing threat of state violence. The moment we are living in can be the chrysalis before schools emerge as sites for liberatory education, healing, and community strength. For that to be an option, the City cannot continue to siphon more public money away from schools and into policing.

The uprisings here and now have created the conditions for a radical shift, and we've seen tangible steps taken across the country to shift to #PoliceFreeSchools. **Those with decision-making power must choose to take bolder, braver, action to meet the needs of young people.**

ABOUT GIRLS FOR GENDER EQUITY

Girls for Gender Equity (GGE) is a Brooklyn-based intergenerational advocacy organization, engaging cisgender and transgender girls of color and nonbinary and gender non-conforming youth of color. GGE centers Black girls in the movement to achieve gender and racial equity. Since 2001, GGE has committed to the development of our communities through a combination of direct service, policy change, community organizing, and culture change work.

CUT HERE:

- ✗ Reduce the scope of school policing
- ✗ Reject new school policing equipment

COUNSELORS

NOT CAMERAS
NOT COPS
NOT CRIMINALIZATION

NOT HERE:

- ✓ Grow supportive school staff and mental health resources