

2020/06/17 5:21:42 PM AST

**TERRY B MCCANN**

607 Larchwood Dr  
Durham

"As a parent and DPS teacher, I really pray that whatever plan we use provides accountability pressures on students and parents so that teachers are able to assign grades to work done unlike during the Covid-19 period during the last quarter of the 2019-2020 school year. "

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2020/06/21 6:53:41 PM AST

**Dr. Dee Anderson**

Treyburn  
Durham, NC 27712

"I wish I could be there in person so you can see just how passionate and perplexed I am. Since these times only allow for written statements, I will attempt to impress upon you the seriousness of this issue in writing.

Unless I'm mistaken, Durham County is the only county in NC to have a school aged child die from COVID-19 and has the strictest restrictions in the state. DPS is also one of the few districts in the state with an overwhelming majority of its students and staff identifying as part of the very populations that are impacted the most by COVID-19. One would think that DPS, much like Durham County, would have the strictest restrictions as it relates to activities within the district. However, we continue to see blatant disregard for both state and local orders as it relates to reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Graduation and promotion ceremonies throughout DPS were contrary to what was presented as the district's plan for ceremonies. Once again this shows that district leadership continues to present seemingly false statements to the public. I have to ask, is district leadership intentionally misleading the public or are district directives just completely disregarded by school administrators? Regardless of the answer, it doesn't make the general public trust that DPS will actually do what's best for our children as it relates to reducing the spread of COVID-19.

I ask you to try and look objectively at what's happening at the individual schools and put yourselves in the shoes of parents. Would you trust the schools will actually do what's best to protect your child? Would you trust the schools will follow the guidelines of public health officials? Would you trust the information presented by district leaders? Would you be eager to turn your child over to DPS in the fall?

Unfortunately, the most vulnerable populations, as it relates to COVID-19, are also the very populations who have little to no choice. These populations will likely turn their children over to

DPS in the fall; not because they want to, but because they have no other choice. I beg all levels of DPS to take their responsibility to protect our children seriously. What else has to happen for everyone at DPS to be committed to doing what's right?

I realize public comments aren't necessarily responded to, but it would be nice if the leadership of DPS would speak to the apparent disconnect between district leadership and school administrators. After all, district leadership is asking us to put our children in the hands of school administrators.

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2020/06/22 8:46:29 PM AST

**Valarie Valentine**

1115 Golden Crest Drive

DURHAM

"Good evening,

I am the parent of a rising high school sophomore in DPS. Missing from the Task Force's consideration for school re-entry is a plan for SROs and staff to handle student behavior when and if school reopens in the fall. Because of the pandemic, families may be traumatized by death, job instability, and isolation. Some families may not have had access to healthcare and medications. In addition, the death of George Floyd has caused a national uprising on the over-policing of black and brown communities. DPS students took to the streets to remove SROs from schools. Research after previous disasters (i.e. Katrina & Matthew) suggest that the stress on staff and students caused by a natural disaster makes it more likely that suspensions will rise when schools re-open. If you have not already, DPS should take intentional steps to prevent such increases and to reduce tensions between students and SROs before the fall semester begins.

Suggestions:

1. Operate all or a portion of the SRO program off school grounds for the 20-21 school year so that administrators have access to an SRO to maintain safety and security, while reducing interactions between students and SROs.
2. Train staff and administrators on the role of an SRO. According to the Sheriff's data 66% of the calls for an SRO in 2019 ended in suspension, while only 8% ended in criminal action. Staff would benefit from training on when it is appropriate to call an SRO. Staff and SROs need joint training on de-escalation techniques.
3. Train and incorporate on-site SROs in their school's suspension reduction plan (i.e. PBIS, Capturing Kids Hearts, & Restorative practices).

4. Hold the Sheriff's Office publicly accountable to the board for setting measurable goals that are aligned with DPS' strategic plan to reduce suspensions for black and brown students. What plans, programs, or techniques are SROs using to reduce the number of students they refer for suspension?

5. Because approximately 24% of SRO calls for service ended with referrals to support services, and only 8% ended in criminal action (based on Sheriff's data), base future budget requests on the proportional use of SROs. Increase the budget request for student support programs and services and reduce the budget request for SROs.

Thank you for the work you to for our students and staff!

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2020/06/24 4:56:38 AM AST

**Myron Smith**

520 PANTHERS RUN DR  
DURHAM

"I would like to know when DPS will present its detailed plans to improve the reading, writing, and mathematics proficiency of black and brown males."

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2020/06/24 9:16:28 AM AST

**Terry McCann**

607 Larchwood Dr  
Durham

As a DPS parent and teacher (JDCECHS) students really need to be back in the classroom in the fall. A hybrid schedule would be great. I am hoping we will get a vaccine for Covid-19 soon but if we do not we cannot allow students to be away from teacher face to face instruction any more longer. Learning takes place in the classroom not virtually.

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2020/06/24 12:33:00 PM AST

**Ann Rebeck**

2701 Old Sugar Road  
Durham, NC 27707

As a member of the DPS Foundation who saw up close the amazing work of Durham FEAST I am very surprised that our DPS Administration thinks that ONLY offering on-line instruction to our high school students is a viable option. I'm sure our virtual learning will be better but it completely ignores all the psycho-social elements to learning for teenagers. As our elected leaders I hope you will let the Administration know that better solutions need to be proposed so that our students can have a plan that could possibly be used the whole year. We WILL lose our most vulnerable students with this approach. DPS needs to better embrace that ALL of Durham will help educate our students this year and lean into a collaborative approach to instruction.

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2020/06/24 1:07:37 PM AST

**Eva Flowe**

924 Urban Ave.  
Durham NC 27701

"I attended the March for Black Students and signed the letter written by Aissa Dearing demanding an end to the MOU. There is no place for police in our schools, we need more counselors and people with training for dealing with student crises. "

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2020/06/24 1:11:16 PM AST

**Aissa Dearing**

511 Cleveland Street  
Durham, NC, 27701

I think Durham Public Schools should be more willing to have a conversation with the young people it serves especially on school safety and the presence of school resource officers.

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2020/06/24 1:12:20 PM AST

**Lily Lehman**

511 Cleveland Street  
Durham, NC

Remove SROs from the schools and replace them with social workers and psychologists

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2020/06/24 1:42:30 PM AST

**Jodi selca**

1516 pebble creek crossing  
Durham nc 27713

I feel that we need to have a hybrid schedule for all students. Some high schools already do a block schedule and some classes Arwen meant to be done in classrooms. I have a rising junior at Jordan and it was a struggle to get him to do work as it was. He doesn't want to socialize with anyone now from being home. I'm assuming a lot of kids are this way and how can this be healthy for them? How can they function and get the grades they would if they were in a classroom setting at least twice a week. They need good grades to get to the colleges they want. They also need structure to help guide them. Having lunches in a class room is a great idea along with even breakfast. Please consider doing a modified schedule for both remote and classroom for all students. Or have them split up where half in school in a day and half at home. Alternate the day's m/w/f am for what ever grade. And so on. Pe and science classes and other classes required to be taken to remain in a program are meant to be at school. Wall sits and like that at home is a usual way to teach pe. Let's get these kids in at least part tie and remote learning the other days

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2020/06/24 1:50:08 PM AST

**Michelle Reich**

1413 Rosedale Avenue  
Durham, NC 27707

"Incoming freshman should have the opportunity to be on campus at least 2 days per week. Students have not formerly been at the school, and they have not operated in a block schedule. I think the freshman academy is important and will be nearly impossible to deliver online. Also, students need a chance to meet each other in person, especially those who are new or coming from smaller schools with few other students. "

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2020/06/24 1:50:46 PM AST

**Claudio Battaglini**

504 Harkness Circle  
Durham NC 27705

"All students should have the choice to go back to school! Online did not work, and the mental health of students will suffer without a sense of normal with human contact. Online should be

an option for those who want it, but not forced on those who it did not work for. "

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2020/06/24 1:51:54 PM AST

**Karrie Comatas**  
1715 MYSTIC DRIVE  
DURHAM

"Hello. I'm not certain that remote learning is the best option. I'm not certain that it isn't. I do know that my child is not 100% motivated on his own and unless I can have the teachers working together with me (parent), we will not succeed. Last semester was rough and I imagine not much was learned/retained in my house. We need to be safe, but we also need these kids to learn. I'm not sure I have any solid suggestions though. "

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2020/06/24 1:53:08 PM AST

**Martin Hill**  
511 Cleveland St  
Durham NC 27712

Get the SROs out of DPS

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2020/06/24 1:54:54 PM AST

**Christine Balen**  
1216 Haventree Rd  
Durham,NC 27713

"My children, particular my high schooler, have learning differences and struggled with online learning. They would not have passed if it weren't for the first three quarters. They need to be in a classroom. I also do not have the ability to help them as I work 7 days a week. Also, music and art classes are near impossible to teach online let alone have the needed supplies. I am willing to sign a waiver and send my child to school in a mask. Other options, such as a mix of alternative days at school or giving parents the option to choose in person classes and/or virtual. "

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2020/06/24 1:55:31 PM AST

**Clare Harrop**

604 N Gregson St  
Durham, NC, 27701

"We have a rising Pre-K at Watts for 2020-2021. We are a two-parent working family with other younger children. Our preferred option would be for younger children to remain in school for more of the week (3> 5 days). Our rationale for this is that remote learning for young children is not feasible especially for working parents. Many parents do not have the resources to send young children to additional childcare or hire a sitter. We want young children to embrace school, not reluctantly sit down at a Zoom meeting. Added to this, the Montessori model specifically promotes minimal screen time, therefore it is unclear how this would work remotely. "

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2020/06/24 2:01:29 PM AST

**Stephanie Massengale**

6933 Calais Drive  
Durham, NC 27712

I strongly feel the high schoolers should be able to use a combination of in-person and online learning instead of 100% online. Alternating schedules and block scheduling can allow high schoolers to be able to have an in-person classroom experience.

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2020/06/24 2:01:36 PM AST

**Andrea Huffman**

315 Oxfordshire Lane  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

"I am in favor of our children going back to school. My daughter cannot easily learn online due to the learning issues that she has. Also, with the loss of in-person schooling, the mental health of our children, (our future generation of leaders) cannot be ignored. "

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2020/06/24 2:12:10 PM AST

**Jennifer sones**

435 tall oaks Dr  
Durham, NC 27713

"Our high schoolers NEED in person education as much as the little ones. It is a mistake to think that they are capable of creating or sticking to the necessary structure to educate themselves from home, where there may not be an adult to help guide them. Adolescent youth need the critical piece of socialization as well. I think it's easy to believe children of high school age are capable of being left home while parents work, and organizing themselves to get the work done. They aren't. Teen brains are impulsive and underdeveloped and need guidance as much as any other child, particularly in the 9th and tenth grades. This also means they potentially will be left home to care for younger siblings who are not yet old enough to go to school, as well as having to figure out food etc, which not all kids have access to at home. Please do not leave the high schoolers home. "

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2020/06/24 2:14:48 PM AST

**Rebecca Najera**

820 Horton Rd

27704 Durham,Nc

"I still don't feel like it is an adequate time to return to in person learning, especially for grades K-8th. I don't believe it would be easy for grade school children to fully grasp and follow proper social distancing rules. If anything highschool students would be better at social distancing, but little children? It's just not possible, plus the fact that I don't feel like in person learning is a risk worth taking in exchange for my children's health."

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2020/06/24 2:16:11 PM AST

**Heather darden**

2505 hart st

Durham nc 27703

My daughter will be entering 9th grade in all honors and AP classes. I have 3 other children at home. Both parents work full time one during the day one at night. There is no way she will be able to successfully complete all of her classes 100% online. She does not have a quiet space to work and she thrives on the actual teaching from the teachers. She needs the structure provided at school that there is no way she would get online. Parents should have the option to decide if they want their high school students to attend school or do virtual. Forcing high schoolers to do 100% virtual is setting them up for failure and you will be failing the county if this is how you proceed with the coming school year.

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2020/06/24 2:20:34 PM AST

**Nori McDuffie**

511 Cleveland St.  
Durham,NC 27701

I want SRO's out of school! They never made me safe and seeing them how aggressive they and just the excessive force they use just made me disgusted.

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2020/06/24 2:21:26 PM AST

**Marissa Kirkland**

307 w delafield ave  
Durham, NC 27704

The long term mental health implications of being completely online are not worth it.

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2020/06/24 2:26:02 PM AST

**Elizabeth albrecht**

435 Tall Oaks Drive  
Durham NC 27713

"I have a high schooler who has an IEP and a 6th grader. It would be great if they are on a schedule where half the kids go to class for two weeks and are off for two weeks and the other half goes. Or half goes to school for two days a week and clean the school one day and have the other half go for two days. They have workbooks they have to do for the other days or online. There is no way the kid with the IEP is going to learn anything without his full accommodations."  
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2020/06/24 2:27:16 PM AST

**Sarah Cook**

6 medearis ct  
durham, NC 27707

"My children attend Morehead Montessori (magnet school). I am in favor of the proposed plan for phase B where HS will be virtual. If social distancing requires classrooms to spread out, I feel

that prioritizing in-person instruction for elementary children is most important as they need the structure and cannot be left home alone. Whereas older children are better able to handle online classes and can be left if parents had to work. These plans need to consider that there are many households where the only parent(s) hold essential jobs and simply cannot be out of work for childcare. If we want this economy to rise and family economic situations not worsen, I feel the elementary children need to have priority for in-person instruction."

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2020/06/24 2:30:02 PM AST

**Laura**

Walsenburg Drive  
Durham, NC 27712

My HS school student would love school to be 100% online. I only ask that teachers take feedback seriously and have doable turnaround times for assignments.

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2020/06/24 2:31:41 PM AST

**Melissa Eimer**

3315 Park Overlook Drive  
Durham NC 27712

"I understand this is an overwhelming process and certainly has more complexities to consider than I can imagine. I appreciate the work being done to safely reopen schools. That being said, I am the parent of two high school students who most certainly would benefit from some in school learning. While I understand it is easier for these older students, their families and faculty to manage the many aspects of remote learning these young people need social interactions as well as in person guidance from their teachers. Entering back into an exclusive remote learning environment will be very hard for my two high schoolers."

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2020/06/24 2:35:29 PM AST

**Kimberly Sabo**

7 Hummingbird Lane  
Durham, NC 22712

Get these kids back in school all PreK-12 so we can get back to some normalcy please!!!

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2020/06/24 2:47:06 PM AST

**JENNIFER GARCI**

5102 FAIROAKS RD  
DURHAM, NC 27712

"I appreciate all the thinking and work it takes to create a plan that is considering safety, education, and mental health. I implore you to continue to find creative ways of offering all students at least a half-time in-school option. High schoolers need to see their teachers in person, as much as younger students. They also need this for their own mental health, including maintaining routines. I also believe the high school teachers will also do better by having this routine and being in the physical environment around their colleagues, admin, and most importantly, their students. Lastly, high schoolers will not be as well prepared for college, even if it looks different in the future. Now is the time to rethink the model, try something bold, safe, and well thought out, all the while taking care of our young people and ensuring that they do not miss valuable years in the classroom. Thank you!"

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2020/06/24 3:00:52 PM AST

**Laurie VanDine**

18 Aman Court  
Durham

"Hi. I am shocked, to be honest, that DPS is considering sending PreK-8, ESL and EC back to school buildings all day M-F as usual! I, personally, cannot fathom how this can be safe with the way schools are currently overcrowded. There is no way to return to the school buildings, full time, and implement proper social distancing in the classrooms or on school buses at any age group level. Studies have proven that the highest risk of COVID-19 transmission is by being indoors in poorly ventilated spaces with groups of people who are not socially distanced for longer than 10-15 minutes. I do not feel comfortable sending my rising 7th grader back to the school building without reduced numbers so students can be properly social distanced from each other. On the flip side, I also have a rising senior in high school. My senior in high school struggles with ADHD and requires structure and routine for success in her life and needs some level of in-person instruction to be able to thrive academically. Learning remotely did not work out great for her during the spontaneous change of events this past spring, but as it was temporary and best for everyone's health and safety we completely understood. Moving forward, I believe a blended model of in-person and remote learning is what will work best and make the majority of families feel comfortable. For the academic, emotional and social well being of all three of my children, I feel some level of in person academic curriculum is very much so needed in a safe, socially distanced manner, but because the virus is still out there with no vaccine and nothing has really changed since March, in fact, the numbers are staggeringly going in the wrong direction right now, some level of remote learning on all

education levels has to still be implemented for the safety of all! An "A/B" schedule would work best in my opinion. Students on an "A" schedule go to in-person classes on Monday/Wednesday. Students on a "B" schedule go to in person classes on Tuesday/Thursday and everyone stays home and works remotely on Fridays. Please consider this as a viable option. That way, with only half the students going to school on any given day, the classrooms and school buses can be more easily social distanced, everyone gets some in-person academic time, but the children are not exposed indoors, 6.5 or 7 hours a day, every day in somewhat large group numbers to the virus on a daily basis either. Thank you."

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2020/06/24 3:14:46 PM AST

**Paola**

Willow Bridge Drive  
Durham NC 27707

"What is the plan for the school buses? How many kids will be riding the bus?  
Cleaning procedures? "

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2020/06/24 3:25:54 PM AST

**Jorren Biggs**

511 Cleveland Street  
Durham, NC 27701

"I'm a graduate of Durham Public Schools, and the sibling of a sister still enrolled in DPS. When sitting and talking to her we tried to count the number of times we were able to see a nurse at school when we were sick. We settled on 3 times between my 13 and her 12 years in DPS. When remembering how many times we saw a police officer present in the hallways, in the office, outside of school, we lost count. There is no evidence showing that our schools become any safer by placing police officers within them. Our current MOU and usage of SROs place a faulty band aid over the problems our students bear the brunt of once the bell rings. Actions like "BLM week" prove performative when we allow an inherently anti black system to enter children's safe place. I ask that we begin to end our contract with the Sheriff's office, and divert funding towards more nurses, counselors, and social workers who are equipped to address the root causes of the behavior SROs are tasked with policing."

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2020/06/24 3:43:36 PM AST

**Hannah Demeritt**

829 Wilkerson Ave  
Durham, NC 27701

"Please consider finding a way to get the high school students in for at least some F2F instruction!!! My high schoolers did not do well at all academically (or socially, but I'm mainly concerned with academics here) with classes completely online. I know we need to stop the spread of the virus, but couldn't they be brought in in small numbers, on certain days or times, at least once a week per class? "

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2020/06/24 3:51:56 PM AST  
**Kerri Lockwood**  
201 E Maynard Ave Durham 27704  
27704

Since the covid19 numbers are still on the rise please keep our students safe at home.

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2020/06/24 3:56:28 PM AST  
**Desiree Marie eltayeb**  
815 Pauli Murray pl  
Durham, NC 27701

"Please do not do 100% virtual. Students need to interact, learn to work together and be social as part of the learning process. Please consider at least 25% in person. "

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2020/06/24 4:22:07 PM AST  
**Michael Lepine**  
10 Chartwell Ct  
Durham, NC 27703

I am in favor of online learning during this pandemic

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2020/06/24 4:42:00 PM AST  
**Libbie Weimer**

1222 broad St,  
Durham, NC 27705

"Get SROs outta our schools! These are our kids. Fund teachers, nurses, guidance counselors, social workers ... People whose job it is to uplift and support our kids!"

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2020/06/24 4:46:20 PM AST

**Rebecca Cray Concha**

810 Ninth Street  
Durham, NC 27705

"My name is Rebecca and I am a Durham resident. I continue to stand with the DPS students, staff and community asking for the removal of School Resource Officers (SROs) from Durham Public Schools. If your true goal is to ensure student success and the health and well-being of your students, staff and community are really of utmost importance to you, then put these words into action and suspend the existing MOU with the Durham County Sheriff's Office. There is little to no definitive evidence that SROs keep schools and students safer. Instead they disproportionately criminalize Black and brown children. Shift the \$2.7 million currently spent on SROs towards interventions that DO have a strong evidence base like restorative justice programs, counselors, social workers, nurses and school psychologists. I am new to the Durham community but I hope to call this city and county my home for a long time. In the year that I have lived here, most notably the past few weeks and months, I have been so encouraged to see the organizing efforts that DPS students have built and mobilized themselves to make their schools safer and stronger. LISTEN to the brilliant young voices that are learning in your halls and classrooms and make Durham Public Schools an example of progress in our community, our state and our nation by removing School Resource Officers and funding evidence-based practices. Thank you."

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2020/06/24 4:47:28 PM AST

**Jennifer Post Hervey**

1515 Pinecrest Road  
Durham, NC 27705

"As a healthcare essential employee and a concerned parent, I would ask that a compromise be made for high school students. High school students can socially isolate and should be allowed to attend school but masks should be made mandatory. I think the virtual learning that DPS had this spring was not implemented well at all and our students need to be learning."

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2020/06/24 5:01:31 PM AST

**Abby Bartel**

1611 Ruffin St  
27701

"DPS students do *\*not\** need policing; they want teaching. Remove SROs from all DPS buildings and use the funds for counselors, psychologists, nurses, and teachers. Even a "good" relationship with a militarized police force is bad for our learners' wellness."

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2020/06/24 5:10:20 PM AST

**Oluoma Chukwu**

3743 SW Durham Dr  
durham, nc 27707

"I would like to express my request that you reduce Durham County Police Department presence in the Durham County Schools and instead re-distribute those funds to provide appropriate social services for our children. Included but not limited to engages psychiatrists, family therapists, social workers, as well as invest in training for teachers and administrative to be empowered to discipline students in more effective and non violent ways that do not include the police. We have a responsibility to protect and foster environment for all children to grow and flourish. If all students are not protected then we are not doing our jobs well to manage funds in a way that supports the safety and growth of our kids."

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2020/06/24 5:35:40 PM AST

**Dona Aguayo**

4901 Stockton Way  
Durham, NC 27707

Please let our HS kids go back to school. Their mental health is a huge concern.

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2020/06/24 5:36:52 PM AST

**Valerie Thompson**

Hope Valley  
Durham NC 27707

"Listen to the young people when they tell you about the harm that SROs do. See the number of people marching against SROs. As a DPS parent, I've seen it as well. They are a negative presence interested in power—power over children! Imagine!—and they do not stop kids from being beat up and other violence on school grounds. End the MOU with the police. "

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2020/06/24 6:47:50 PM AST

**Susana Ramsey**  
4212 New Bern Place  
Durham NC 27707

Please provide in person teaching options as I have a child who does not perform well with online learning.

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2020/06/24 6:52:17 PM AST

**Janel Burns**  
521 Jerome Rd  
Durham NC 27713

"I believe due to the scientific research showing low transmission among young children and low severity of COVID-19 among youth, schools should be open for all children who want or need to attend. They should also not be required to wear masks. The benefits outweigh the risks. However, attending in person should not be mandatory for families who have other health concerns and cannot comfortably send their children. "

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2020/06/24 7:12:25 PM AST

**Cathy Emrick**  
1341 Clermont Rd  
Durham, NC 27713

"Please keep our kids and our families safe. Learning completely on line is tough but there is an end in sight - once a vaccine is widely available and/or the virus is under control in our community and widespread testing and accessing contact tracing are in place, we will be safe in resuming our normal activities. Until then, please don't provide further fuel for an out-of-control deadly pandemic, endangering both our families and our community! Thank you."

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2020/06/24 7:40:33 PM AST

**Eric Chapman**

2418 Perkins Rd  
27705

"Education and learning occurs in and out of the classroom. Although virtual education can be effective, it cannot replace social and interpersonal communication and skills.

Please work to strike a balance and allow our high school students to grow in both academic and interpersonal skills."

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2020/06/24 7:42:03 PM AST

**Amanda Sublett**

3009 Quincemoor Road  
Durham NC 27712

My son is an engineering student and both of his parents work full time. I want my child in school... he can wear a mask and be screened- but IN SCHOOL

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2020/06/24 7:44:54 PM AST

**Roger Reed**

1010 Chancellors Ridge Drive  
Durham, NC, 27713

Please please please not 100% remote learning for high school. My ADHD rising senior will not survive this. School is already a massive challenge. Remote learning this year was a challenge to put it politely. He will not survive a year of remote learning.

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2020/06/24 7:47:51 PM AST

**Vanessa Woodward**

200 Maywood way  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

"Lord NOOO! Half time face to face, half time online would be better for everyone involved. My kids attend DPS school although I live in CH."

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2020/06/24 8:17:56 PM AST

**karsyn roberts**

5430 reese road  
durham, nc 27712

"for starters i have no wifi at home so all the work that i have to do from home now, i have to use my hot spot on my phone to do, and my hot spot has limited data so when i'm doing my summer work now i either have to sit outside the public library or outside the high school to use wifi so that i can do work and it's really hard to do that. i'm not equipped to learn from home because i need face to face learning. i'm currently taking summer classes at durham tech which are all online atm and my grades have never been so bad in my life. i would like to have in class learning if possible because not only will it be my senior year but it will help me and my grades more. the contact through email and websites is not as easy as face to face contact. so by any means necessary i would love to be able to come back on campus for this upcoming school year. it would help me and so many others out a ton!"

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2020/06/24 8:21:59 PM AST

**Erica Laceu**

6201 treyburn point dr  
27712

"I am a rising high school student. I am also a social and hands on learner. I know personally that online schooling will not allow me to have the full and proper education that I need to move on to college next year. These past three years in high school I've learned that without the environment of a classroom, the presence of my peers and a teacher, and the availability of hands-on learning that I would not have been able to get all A's and succeed as well as I currently am in high school. after March 13 when we got out of school because of the coronavirus, I didn't do any online learning. My school didn't have the equipment needed for all students to get a proper education. With that being said, I did have review materials to review for my AP exams and in I learned that solely reviewing was so hard to do on my own at my house rather than in the classroom. with all this being said, I hope that a solution can be found for all students to go back to school and learn in a classroom so we can all get a proper education. "

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2020/06/24 8:26:02 PM AST

**Ameryss**

3136 Genlee drive Durham nc 27704  
Durham NC 27704

We rising seniors need to be in school to experience a great last year of high school

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2020/06/24 8:29:53 PM AST

**Savannah Gallis**

2823 Fox Drive  
Durham. NC, 27712

"Remote learning makes sense and seems doable with certain class material, but what about elective classes like yearbook, chorus, art, etc...? The yearbook is student run and produced and has early deadlines meaning it couldn't be started later than usual. The book is filled with pictures taken at school by students, of students. There are so many other classes like this that cannot be made into online courses. What happens to these courses? Would seniors not have a senior yearbook? What about students who rely on having leadership roles in these courses when applying to college?

There are also traditional classes that if made to be online, would be setting up students for failure and a lack of an actual education on the subject. I personally took AP Calculus AB/BC this year. We already had a flipped classroom where we took notes at home through videos then did practice in the classroom where we could get proper help. Without that classroom time, I never would have been able to grasp anything we were taught. These difficult courses have to have personal, in person instruction time. Has anything been considered where we're online half the week and then in the classroom the other half? Having half capacity and making schedule changes to limit exposure to different students during the day? Fully being online for so many courses would be undoubtedly setting up students for failure, and I say this as a student in the top 4% of my class. I value my education and understand the seriousness of this pandemic, but we have to be open to more options than to go straight to remote learning, which is simply going to do more harm than help. "

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2020/06/24 8:34:09 PM AST

**Rebecca Lewis**

15 Durbin place  
Durham, NC 27705

"1- find a different way for students to submit work as google classroom is not 100%.  
2- ideal way for online learning would be 4-5 hours of class time- core classes one day, electives the next day.  
3- I'm in favor of hs students attending online but there has to be better communication between teachers, students and parents in regards to work. "

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2020/06/24 8:53:51 PM AST

**Jen Martin**

418 Spring Garden Drive  
Durham, NC 27713

"My rising senior is very bright and motivated but had a very hard time with remote learning. If she is required to take her senior year online she will struggle to keep her grades up, causing her to most likely lose her chance to get into the college she has been working towards her entire high school career. Please make sure the plan for this fall includes in-person instructional time for high schoolers. I know my child is not the only one who would have tremendous issues trying to learn new content strictly online. "

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2020/06/24 8:55:47 PM AST

**Camille Cooper**

511 Cleveland St  
Durham, NC 27702

"I urge DPS to terminate its MOU with the Durham Sheriff's Department and remove School Resource Officers from all Durham public schools, instead utilizing the funding for additional staff support such as guidance counselors, nurses, mental health and child life specialists. We owe our children more than fear. We owe them a future."

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2020/06/24 9:27:22 PM AST

**Carrie Meade**

5112 Copper Ridge Dr Apt 101  
Durham, NC 27707

I would prefer high school students go back into the classroom for half of the week and then online learning the other half.

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2020/06/24 9:42:59 PM AST

**Sevan Abashian**

2921 Hope Valley Rd

Durham, NC, 27707

"Please reconsider continuing the usage of School Resource Officers in Durham Public Schools. The funding used for these SROs can be much better used to care for and advance the educational and societal needs of your students. These students need the availability of counselors and mentors. SROs will always treat misbehavior as a criminal act, instead of school employees treating these as mistakes and missteps. Please take SROs out of schools and use the money for the students, instead of against the students. "

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2020/06/24 9:44:50 PM AST

**Rebecca Ives**

8021 Sundance Circle

Durham, NC 27713

"Please consider opening DPS in the fall to include in person learning along with extra curricular activities. As the parent of two high schoolers, I fear that the decision to continue keeping children at home will have long term impacts realized over the course of applying to college, jobs, etc.  
"

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2020/06/24 9:47:27 PM AST

**Jessica Woller**

7704 Guess rd

Hillsborough, NC, 27278

"Speaking personally, I am not going to be able obtain the knowledge I am going to need to carry me on to college, and in life by learning online. My brain does not take in information like that. I need to have someone in-front of me, speaking to me, in order for me to fully learn and understand something. I need to have able to ask questions, however "dumb" they may sound. I'm perfectly comfortable wearing a mask IN SCHOOL if it means I get to be IN SCHOOL. I am not

concerned about seeing my friends, because I already see my best friends anyways. I'm concerned about my education, and I know what I need in order to succeed. An online class, IS NOT it. "

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2020/06/24 9:51:19 PM AST

**Mandella Younge**

511 Cleveland ave  
Durham, NC

SROs endanger students and implicitly create a hostile learning environment. They have no place in DPS

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2020/06/24 10:22:32 PM AST

**Kelly Spiers**

5 Spring Water Lane  
Durham, NC 27712

Please resume in person classes and please limit the rules for Kindergartners. This is their first school experience and I'd hate for them to be afraid to be friends and play together.

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2020/06/24 10:24:21 PM AST

**Abby Barte**

1611 Ruffin St  
27701

"

In looking toward a new school year, my teacher heart is desperate to return to my students in our classroom. I long to continue to grow learners in the respectful, welcoming community that we will create.

However, I have fears, many of them. Will my students be safe? Will my children be safe? Will I be safe? Will I be able to return home and have my husband be safe?

As I was looking through the documents shared in anticipation of this meeting, I was not comforted. A task force with, as far as I can tell, only 3 classroom teachers (one from each level). Only three voices from the the trusted educators who moved instruction online for their

students over the 5-days of Spring Break? Only three voices representing those who cobbled together a community of learners and provided a multitude of supports from emotional wellness to passing out food to delivering learning supplies to students?

These trusted educators are the ones who will be on the frontlines placing their lives and their families' lives at risk by returning to the classroom. These educators are the ones who understand just how difficult enforcing social distancing will be with 6 year olds (a line 3 bus lengths long) and the different challenges of social distancing with 12 year olds who are desperate to socialize with their friends.

Yet, the task force that's been created has only 3 of those voices and none of the parents who would send their hearts off to school during a growing pandemic.

It seems that our task force has missed the mark in excluding the voices of those that are directly affected by these decisions. DPS should do better by their community. DPS can do better. We are waiting.

Abby Bartel  
Club Blvd Teacher of the Year 2020  
Parent of two DPS students"

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2020/06/24 10:39:57 PM AST

**Erica Laceu**  
6201 treyburn point dr  
27712

"I am a rising high school student. I am also a social and hands on learner. I know personally that online schooling will not allow me to have the full and proper education that I need to move on to college next year. These past three years in high school I've learned that without the environment of a classroom, the presence of my peers and a teacher, and the availability of hands-on learning that I would not have been able to get all A's and succeed as well as I currently am in high school. after March 13 when we got out of school because of the coronavirus, I didn't do any online learning. My school didn't have the equipment needed for all students to get a proper education. With that being said, I did have review materials to review for my AP exams and in I learned that solely reviewing was so hard to do on my own at my house rather than in the classroom. with all this being said, I hope that a solution can be found for all students to go back to school and learn in a classroom so we can all get a proper education. "

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2020/06/24 11:00:32 PM AST

**Ethan Prindle**

2508 Yorkdale Ct  
27707

"Remove SROs from DPS. SROs only contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline, and take away from the budget that the teachers of DPS need for their job. It is unacceptable."

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2020/06/24 11:23:43 PM AST

**Gabriel Massengale**

6933 Calais Dr.  
Durham, NC 27712

"Having kids miss their high school experiences would be a travesty. Our daughter is HIGHLY looking forward to her first year of HS. Not being able to actually attend would be emotionally, and mentally depleting for her and others. This goes the same for rising seniors who have earned their status as seniors. We definitely do not need to strip them of their rights-of - passage like we sadly did this past year with our recent graduates. "

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2020/06/24 11:55:17 PM AST

**Andrea Hoff**

6 Governors Place, Durham  
27705

"I do not believe that having HS students do 100% remote learning, and moving younger children from environments that are familiar to them serves either group well. Yes, in theory HS students should be more capable of online learning independently, but the socialization (even with social distancing) is paramount in their learning to be citizens and young adults, preparing for the next phase of life. In person feedback and learning from teachers is also just as critical for HS students as PreK-8. Finding a solution that would allow all students an opportunity to have some in-person learning, in my opinion, would be better than relegating all 9-12 grade students to 100% remote learning. Wouldn't having alternating weeks in person/online be feasible? Half of the students in person one week and online the next, and the other half just the opposite? Even if deep cleaning was needed before switching, having M-Th classes and Friday for cleaning would be a solution. Class sizes are automatically 1/2, solving the issues of social distancing and class sizes mandated by the State, as well as keeping bussing numbers down. I have one rising 5th grader and 1 rising 9th grader, and neither thrives with 100% online learning. I think very few students thrive with 100%online learning. I know you

are all working to set up all of our students for the best success possible given these impossible circumstances. I just disagree that HS students 100% online is a good solution.

"

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2020/06/25 12:00:50 AM AST

**Caroline Sangal**

1146 Scholastic Circle  
Durham, NC 27713

My child is a risking freshman and is in the high risk category for covid complications as am I. Our family wholeheartedly supports 100% remote learning. We do not want to risk our lives during this pandemic and have been quarantined since mid March. I do hope the board ensures that if students are remote online that they do not lose their magnet school placement for further years. My child has been at DSA since 6th grade and we were happy to not have to worry about high schools. Please do the right thing for health and safety and also ensure my child will not have to go to another school in the coming academic years because of remote learning this year. Thank you for your leadership and understanding.

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2020/06/25 1:02:37 AM AST

**Myca JETER**

318 Kinnakeet Dr  
Durham

"Good evening, My name is Myca Jeter, I am a parent of a rising 6th grader. Today I am commenting as a member of Parents of African American Children (PAAC) Durham where our core values include equitable education; eliminating the opportunity gap; empowerment of parents of African American children; and student-directed ownership of success.

We were encouraged to hear that the Board of Education approved the purchase of 20,016 Chromebooks to support our Durham Public Schools moving to 1:1. The current plan addresses the technology needs of all DPS students once they return to school in the fall.

The board may recall that PAAC Durham wrote a letter on May 28, 2020 to articulate our concerns about the existing digital divide among those in our community and the need to actively plan to close the divide with appropriate devices and access to internet services.

PAAC Durham made three (3) specific requests at that time :

1. By June 30, 2020, develop a district-wide plan to keep summer programming in place to help all students avoid summer slide in addition to learning loss experienced since March. 2020 (COVID-19 Closures).
2. By June 30, 2020, introduce a phased approach to provide access to technology to any student who does not have it due to a lack of resources in the form of available Chromebooks and procured hot spots. (Those already in DPS possession)
3. By July 30, 2020, develop a bridge-building plan to use technology to increase student self-efficacy to succeed. (Access to well-being opportunities such as tele-health, virtual medical appointments, art or music classes online, etc.)

This is an Urgent Call for Action on behalf of all our children at DPS!!!

We started an online petition and over 450 parents stand in solidarity in support of this call for action.

1. Immediately distribute Current DPS chromebooks and mifi devices to those in need (providing technical assistance).
2. Develop and distribute summer programming for all students. (Suggestions already provided to Board member Umstead)
3. Develop and share a plan for ongoing distribution of new devices as they are received.

Thank you for responding to this urgent matter for our DPS students and families.

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2020/06/25 6:36:07 AM AST

**Amanda McGuire**

101 Rother Ln  
Durham, NC 27707

"I have heard that the recommended approach for returning to school if the COVID-19 crisis has not subsided is to have all elementary and middle school students attend school in person full-time, and all high school students have 100% remote learning. My strong preference would be a blended model for all students, possibly using a block schedule where each student is able to attend school in person 2-3 days per week, with the remainder of their week spent in remote learning. This would allow all students (regardless of age) to have a balanced learning experience and in-person attention from their teachers. 100% remote learning is not a sustainable long-term solution for any DPS students at this time."

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2020/06/25 6:50:19 AM AST

**Jennifer Krantz**

132 Timber Ridge Dr.  
Durham NC 27713

"My high schooler needs in person structured classes to learn at her optimal ability. She needs at least 3 days per week in person classes with 2 days virtual learning classes to succeed. She is very bright but lacks the initiative to work on her own if left to virtual classes all the time.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

"

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2020/06/25 7:03:34 AM AST

**Theresa Jones**

4325 Beechnut Lane  
Durham, NC 27707

"I request that 100% remote learning be offered for elementary school students for the entirety of the 20/21 school year. My daughter (a rising 1st grader) is zoned for Creekside, an elementary school with almost 1,000 students. It is impossible to ensure that the students and staff will be appropriately distanced and masked which I believe will remain necessary as we enter the fall/winter season when the virus will flare up again (as per medical experts). Until there is a vaccine and/or we know more about how this virus can be contained our community remains at risk. Lastly, please consider the impact that this virus can have on the households of the children. We share a household with my 71 year old mother, an African American brain cancer survivor, who continues to struggle with cognitive and physical disabilities. Her doctors have told us that if she contracts COVID-19 she will die. Thank you for your consideration. "

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2020/06/25 7:08:50 AM AST

**Theresa Jones**

4325 Beechnut Lane  
Durham, NC 27707

This is an addendum to my earlier submitted comment in which I requested 100% remote learning. I further request that DPS make every effort to finalize its decision as soon as possible. Thank you.

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2020/06/25 7:17:51 AM AST

**Kimberly Paulson**

422 Pintail Court  
Durham, NC 27704

"Good evening. If HS is done entirely through remote learning I worry about access to teacher instruction. My child has an IEP for autism spectrum disorder and ADHD. I can not imagine how to implement his IEP accommodations if everything is done virtually. For instance, the quantity of work and extra time to complete work. If the technology system is a universal program/one size fits all, how will students with IEP plans fit into that scenario? My child completed 2 online classes when he was home sick, but there were no provisions that left room for his accommodations.

Further, 12th grade math is so out of scope for me I can't imagine how he will complete that course without a math teacher and his EC teacher who comes into the classroom for both math and English. "

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2020/06/25 8:19:36 AM AST

**Amelia Schirmer**

1316 Carroll Street  
Durham, NC, 27707

I am endorsing the efforts to remove SROs from the Durham public school system. I believe the march organized by student as well as the petition signed by thousands speaks to the community's feelings on this as well. I add my voice. Remove SROs from the schools and end the school to prison pipeline. Thank you for your time.

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2020/06/25 9:21:52 AM AST

**Audrey Hartye**

1101 Exchange Pl  
Durham, NC, 27713

"I want to see all partnerships with the Durham PD eliminated and the funding to go towards social services like more counselors, school psychologists, and social workers "

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2020/06/25 9:23:01 AM AST

**Veronica Dress**

900 Iredell st  
Durham, NC, 27705

"As a concerned community member, health educator, and social worker, I urge you to heed the demands of DPS students--break your contract with SROs and invest that money in the preventative care that is shown statistically to reduce the incidence of violence at school. With more counselors, nurses, and resources for educators to practice trauma-informed teaching, DPS has the opportunity to be creative and offer all students a safe haven for their school day. Thank you."

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2020/06/25 9:23:47 AM AST

**Sofia McCarthy**

622 Morningside drive  
27713

I am calling for Durham public schools to end their partnership with Durham police. There is evidence that police presence in schools harms students rather than keeps them safe. Durham needs to invest in more counselors in schools in place of police officers.

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2020/06/25 9:25:41 AM AST

**Elizabeth Bryan**

1801 White Pine Dr.  
Durham, NC, 27705

Defund the police and fund more school counselors! Support the demands of the DPS students and graduates by terminating their memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department. THIS IS THE TIME FOR CHANGE. LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE.

---

2020/06/25 9:27:10 AM AST

**Natalie Russell**

2707 Winton Road  
Durham, NC, 27707

Our DPS students do not deserve the trauma created and enforced through the constant presence of armed SRO's in schools. We need better funded counselors to protect our students wellbeing!!!

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2020/06/25 9:28:46 AM AST

**Kate Behrenshausen**

1216 Exchange Place  
Durham, NC 27713

"So many "discipline" issues are cries for help. They're preventable and with holistic, empathetic, individualized interventions, they don't have to happen. Our students need emotional and mental health help more than they need punishment and control. If we treat people like prisoners and communicate an expectation that they're going to act like criminals, that's what they'll do. But if we communicate that students matter and that we care about their well-being, that love will spread to the school community and beyond. Children and teenagers are amazing people - our future leaders - and they deserve dignity, safety, and respect. No more police in schools! "

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2020/06/25 9:29:51 AM AST

**Claire Castleman**

2625 Chapel Hill Rd  
Durham, NC 27707

I urge the school board to support the demands of DPS students and graduates by terminating their MOA and any partnership with the Durham County Sherrif's Dept Immediately.

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2020/06/25 9:31:20 AM AST

**Anne Sider**

3703 Sunningdale Way  
Durham

I am a Durham resident and teacher in the Durham Public Schools. I ask that the school board end their partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department. There is no reason we need police in our school buildings. They are not keeping us safe. We need to invest in the programs and professionals that do keep our students safe. If we redirect this funding to pay for an appropriate number of counselors and other professionals in our schools we have the

opportunity to make our school communities better for our students.

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2020/06/25 9:31:47 AM AST

**Tricia Smar**  
513 Valleymede Dr  
Durham, NC 27713

Fund counselors not cops. I ask that DPS cut ties with Durham County Sheriff's Office and shift that funding from SROs to more counselors and other services supportive of mental and emotional health and wellness for students.

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2020/06/25 9:33:37 AM AST

**Sydney Simpson-Vos**  
7 Huntscroft Court  
Durham, NC, 27713

"Students are not going to give up on insisting that we replace SROs with counselors and social workers. If SROs remain in our schools, the same cycle of violence and discriminatory suspension practices will still be in place. SROs simply are not fit to handle the majority of situations that take place in our schools, and the majority of students actually do not feel as though they are any safer with SROs present. "

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2020/06/25 9:33:58 AM AST

**Bailey Ryan**  
920 Onslow St  
Durham, NC 27705

"I'd like to urge the School Board to end their contract with the Durham Police and remove all police officers from DPS schools. There's no evidence that cops in schools keep students safer - only that they arrest children for normal teen conflicts, and create a hostile learning environment for Black children who are treated like potential criminals in their own schools. Kids who act out should get support, not a criminal record - that money would be better spent on programs like school counseling, which actually help students recover after conflict."

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2020/06/25 9:34:07 AM AST

**Rylee Ennis**  
904 Park Ridge Rd  
Durham, NC 27713

I urge you to support the demands of DPS students and graduates by terminating your Memorandum of Understanding and any partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Office immediately. Do what's best for students.

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2020/06/25 9:39:01 AM AST

**Linda Chamiec-case**  
2936 chapel hill rd  
Durham nc 27707

"I urge you to answer the calls of DPS students and Durham residents to terminate the SRO contract with durham pd and reallocate these funds to counselors and social workers. SROs fuel the school to prison pipeline. Students need holistic support, NOT policing and criminalization. Support Black students, disabled students, students with disabilities, LGBTQ+ students, Latinx students, students with trauma histories, low income students, and students of all marginalized identities by removing police from DPS and investing in supportive staff and services!"

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2020/06/25 9:39:03 AM AST

**Kali Miles-Wagner**  
814 Foster st, unit a  
Durham, nc, 27701

"It's time to sever ties with the police department and replace SROs with mental and behavioral health professionals. Students should be supported, not policed. "

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2020/06/25 9:40:54 AM AST

**Maryam Kanna**  
2211 Hillsborough Rd, Apt 3108  
Durham, NC 27705

"I am a resident and voter in Durham and I am urging you to sever ties with the Durham Police Department and end the presence of police in Durham's public schools. Policing in schools has been shown to produce marked racially disparate negative outcomes. Policing in schools is one element of this country's deeply entrenched racism. As a Board, you can make a major difference in the lives of so many Black and Brown children and families and in the name of justice by ending partnerships with police."

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2020/06/25 9:42:28 AM AST

**John Cheadle**

1 Thorne Ridge Drive  
Durham, NC 27713

"Consider ending the memorandum of understanding with Durham PD to free up funds for services which would be more effective for the success and support of minors, such as mental health counseling "

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2020/06/25 9:43:18 AM AST

**Katherine LeVigne**

103 East Club Blvd  
Durham, NC, 27704

Respect the demands of current students and graduates who are asking for an end to Durham Public Schools partnerships with the police and sheriffs departments. Fund counselors and nurses to take the place of police officers/SROs/sheriffs. Cops don't belong at schools.

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2020/06/25 9:47:02 AM AST

**Sarah Pai**

10 Dubarry Ct  
Durham NC 27705

"I am a Durham County Resident and Taxpayer and I am demanding that the School Board discontinue any partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Dept. As a community, we have an obligation to provide students with the resources they need. It is not fair that the majority of funding goes to SROs, who escalate instead of deescalate, situations; and have ZERO training on how to handle behavioral issues. These are not the resources that students need. Former DPS students tell stories of only having a nurse at the school only one day a week. Or not

having access to a guidance counselor because one counselor is assigned to 400 students. Yet classrooms are armed with SROs, sending a clear message to students that they are to be feared. This is unacceptable and goes against everything that Durham, as a community, stands for. Students need to come out of high school with coping skills, not a legal record and it is up to to set them up for success. I commend Aissa Dearing for bringing this issue to the forefront. The students have spoken and we are listening and holding you accountable. "

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2020/06/25 9:48:41 AM AST

**Annie Peterson**  
1408 Vickers Ave  
Durham, NC 27707

I support the demands of DPS students in their request to terminate DPS's MOU and any partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. I support shifting funding from police in schools to counselors in schools to provide support for students.

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2020/06/25 9:49:08 AM AST

**Elaine Busillo**  
5049 McKittrick Lane  
Durham, NC 27712

"I am curious what will happen with electives, especially in HS? Our son takes very hands on classes (culinary, P.E, mechanics, etc) and we were hoping that through these classes he would get closer to figuring out a career pathway. What will happen to those classes and teachers? Will they also be doing virtual learning or will the focus just be on the core classes? Will the HS students be able to utilize the tech schools for some of these electives if the HS can't offer them at this time? He will only be a sophomore but he really enjoyed his electives and was really getting interested in certain things he had never thought about pursuing. I also have a middle schooler and while his teachers did a great job with virtual learning in the beginning, it became very monotonous for him not engaging in person with the teachers and other students and just looking at a screen. We realize these are different & difficult times, we want everyone to be safe and we appreciate all that DPS is doing. "

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2020/06/25 9:49:10 AM AST

**Jennifer Mahoney**  
3408 Middlebrook Dr

Durham NC 27705

"Please discontinue the presence of police in Durham County Schools. In addition, we would love to see more school counselors in place of law enforcement officers. "

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2020/06/25 9:49:56 AM AST

**Melinda Vaughn**

3010 Glenwood Dr

Durham NC 27705

"I respectfully ask that funds currently dedicated to SROs in schools be diverted toward hiring more on-campus counselors. Counselors are trained to safely de-escalate children in crisis and can provide aid in both emergency situations and in the day-to-day effort of helping children who struggle with trauma, mental illness, and difficulties at home and in the classroom. Schools must be a safe place for children to receive help, kindness, support. Police officers provide an important service in life-or-death situations — and they can do so from off campus. Schools need more counselors to help children, not law enforcement officers walking around with guns and handcuffs. Thank you."

---

2020/06/25 9:52:22 AM AST

**Sarah Niegelsky**

4320 Pin Oak Dr

Durham, NC 27707

Please listen to the demands of students and educators and end the relationship between Durham Public Schools and the Sheriff's Office. This relationship does not keep students safe and only strengthens the school to prison pipeline. In addition it creates further inequality between students as black students are not treated the same by law enforcement and the should not have to be uncomfortable or afraid in their own schools. Please take cops out of schools and instead focus on making nurses and counselors more readily available.

---

2020/06/25 9:53:47 AM AST

**Marie Caiola**

508 Colony Woods Dr

Chapel Hill, NC 27517

"Durham needs to defund the police & refund social services (in this case, counseling at DPS schools)."

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2020/06/25 9:55:02 AM AST

**Ava Lane**

104 Barbee Ct  
Carrboro, NC 27510

We demand that DPS cut ties with with the Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. Police do not belong in schools or around children in any capacity. Any funding currently going to police should be used to fund counselors for students instead.

---

2020/06/25 9:56:37 AM AST

**Alani Rouse**

207 Spring Flower Ln  
Durham, NC,27703

"Schools are severely underfunded as it is but continuing to allow police presence in schools is harmful. Students don't have counselors, safe spaces to be within their schools but they have police officers at every corner. It's time to let them go and to divest from them completely. You cannot be invested in the safety and well being of your students while employing some of the most violent folks in this country. It doesn't make sense."

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2020/06/25 9:58:28 AM AST

**Cameo Hartz**

2604 Vineyard Street  
Durham NC 27707

"I write to amplify the voices of Durham's students and our community. It's outrageous to fund resource officers to the extent we do when there are valuable and "essential" employees who do not yet make a living wage. It's also outrageous and harmful that SROs are funded generously when there aren't enough dollars for employees, like counselors and social workers, who have the proper education and training it is to care for and uplift our children. How can we justify this? Just like my neighbors, I want safe schools for all and we're going about it the wrong way. "

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2020/06/25 9:58:46 AM AST

**Zachary Gossett**

1616 Kilmer Ter  
Durham, NC, 27703

Police have no place in a school.

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2020/06/25 9:59:13 AM AST

**Olivia August**

920 W Markham Ave  
Durham, NC 27701

"Children need support. They need guidance to grow and flourish. They do not need police. Police in schools make schools unsafe. Police in schools means that children are not getting the precious resources they need. I really don't understand how this is not a no-brained. Cops are not trained to help kids they are trained to assess which of them are "criminals" and to put those students into the criminal justice system without intervention. Kids need support. How could you be so callous that you would put a cop where a counselor should be?"

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2020/06/25 9:59:51 AM AST

**Casey O'Hara**

404 Blandwood Avenue  
Greensboro, NC, 27401

"I am a counselor in training in UNCG's CED department. I urge the board to remove SROs from Durham schools and invest in the mental health of students by employing more mental health counselors in schools. Research shows that SROs do not keep children safe, and in fact, that their presence guarantees more children will be arrested. The wellness of our children must be our absolute priority. Especially as we consider the impacts of coronavirus and uprisings across the United States on kids of all ages, there *\*will\** be an increased need for mental health care. This increase is added to an already existing and immense need that for too long has not been addressed. Children need and deserve less punitive force and more community invested in their healing and wellness--we all do. "

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2020/06/25 10:00:32 AM AST

**Elizabeth Meynardie**

511 Cleveland St  
Durham, NC

"We have heard you say that you are open to a conversation about SROs in schools. When you refused to read even one of the the hundreds of comments you received prior to the previous meeting, you proved with your actions that you are not actually willing to have that conversation.

Students and teachers continue to share personal stories of traumas they have experienced through the presence of SROs in our schools. I have yet to hear an example of SROs actually increasing student safety. The only argument for keeping SROs in schools is a monetary one, and considering the trauma they inflict on students with their presence it is past time for them to be removed. "

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2020/06/25 10:04:32 AM AST

**Olivia Rostagni**

918 carolina ave  
Durham, NC 27705

"As a former DPS student for K-12 and daughter of a DPS teacher, I urge DPS to remove the presence of cops from schools and instead invest these resources in programs to actually help our community, like school counselors and social workers. "

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2020/06/25 10:06:37 AM AST

**Katy Murphy**

1111 Haventree Road  
Durham, NC, 27713

"I am a counselor in training in UNCG's CED department. I urge the board to support the demands of DPS students and graduates: remove SROs from Durham schools and invest in the mental health of students by employing more mental health counselors in schools. Research shows that SROs do not keep children safe, and in fact, that their presence guarantees more children will be arrested. The wellness of our children must be our absolute priority. Especially as we consider the impacts of coronavirus and uprisings across the United States on kids of all ages, there *\*will\** be an increased need for mental health care. This increase is added to an already existing and immense need that for too long has not been addressed. Children need

and deserve less punitive force and more community invested in their healing and wellness--we all do. "

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2020/06/25 10:08:55 AM AST

**Lindsay Maggioncalda**

420 Chapel Drive  
Durham, NC, 27708

Get the police out of Durham schools. They are doing more harm than good. Use that money to fund counselors instead.

---

2020/06/25 10:10:21 AM AST

**Alexandra Pfeffer**

2607 chapel hill rd  
Durham 27707

"

Support the demands of DPS students and graduates by terminating the memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham county sheriff's office immediately. "

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2020/06/25 10:10:54 AM AST

**Lena Angrist**

2701 Old Sugar Road  
Durham NC 27707

"We must take SROs out of our schools. The United States is the only country in the world to put police officers on public school campuses. They don't keep students safe, instead they enforce the school to prison pipeline and make students feel threatened, especially our black and brown students. We need to be allocating the time and money that is spent on SROs to actually important services like counselors and nurses that help and serve students. "

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2020/06/25 10:11:23 AM AST

**Kyle Cornish**

920 West Markham Avenue  
Durham, NC, 27701

"I am writing to state that I strongly oppose any collaboration between Durham public schools and the Durham County sheriffs department. In my view, it is wholly unacceptable to invest any funds in police when so many school teachers are still forced to buy some of their own supplies. It is wholly unacceptable to invest any funds in police when so many students have said that police presence makes them feel unsafe. This money should be diverted to education efforts that support and affirm students rather than criminalize and punish them. Spending precious funds on policing is not in line with the values of the people of Durham. As our school board, I ask that you support the demands of DPS students and graduates by terminating the memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham County sheriffs department immediately. Thank you for reading."

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2020/06/25 10:11:44 AM AST

**Andrea Smith**  
8621 Millers Bend  
Bahama, NC 27503

I feel it very important for students to be able to engage in class physically. Online learning poses the challenge of parents who aren't able to be home full time to ensure complete accountability resulting in possible poor learning. Implementing social distancing guidelines would still allow students and teachers to teach and learn at school. Those who choose not to attend could do their work at home.

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2020/06/25 10:17:08 AM AST

**Doss Hill**  
207 W Trinity Ave Unit A  
Durham NC 27701

Please terminate your memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. Prioritize counselors and public school educators.

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2020/06/25 10:18:55 AM AST

**Chloe Monson**  
2409 Sparger Road

Durham NC 27705

"For the safety of all marginalized students, please end your deal with the Durham Sheriff's Department. SRO's contribute to overpolicing of schools and criminalization of normal schoolkid behaviors. I have been a DPS student my whole life and never felt safer with an SRO in the room or building."

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2020/06/25 10:20:00 AM AST

**Lydia Kwee**

2908 Alderman Lane

Durham, NC 27705

"I appreciate the chance to share our thoughts and want to begin by acknowledging what we all know - there are no good answers here. No one envies those having to make these decisions, and we are all grateful to the teachers and school staff. My kids have been in DPS since 2008, and my youngest will be in 10th grade this year. I have serious concerns about high school being 100% online. Our kids already missed quite a bit compared to many systems around the country, with an essentially optional 4th quarter, no required synchronous classes (even after a successful fundraiser to purchase devices for all kids in our high school), and multiple weeks missed entirely, both at the start and at the end of the year. I understand prioritizing younger grades for in-person learning, but completely writing off any in-person experience for high schoolers is extreme. These kids also deserve a chance to learn and to prepare for college, and their mental health shouldn't be irrelevant. I don't want to sacrifice one age group, but instead work to find ways to do the best we can for all students, understanding that remote learning isn't ideal for any of them. There have been creative schedules proposed that would acknowledge the needs of high school students, and I'd like to see consideration of those schedules, especially since most parents are woefully unprepared to help homeschool our kids who are taking AP or other advanced classes. Thank you."

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2020/06/25 10:20:02 AM AST

**karsyn roberts**

5430 reese road

durham, nc 27712

"for starters i have no wifi at home so all the work that i have to do from home now, i have to use my hot spot on my phone to do, and my hot spot has limited data so when i'm doing my summer work now i either have to sit outside the public library or outside the high school to use wifi so that i can do work and it's really hard to do that. i'm not equipped to learn from home because i need face to face learning. i'm currently taking summer classes at durham tech

which are all online atm and my grades have never been so bad in my life. i would like to have in class learning if possible because not only will it be my senior year but it will help me and my grades more. the contact through email and websites is not as easy as face to face contact. so by any means necessary i would love to able to come back on campus for this upcoming school year. it would help me and so many others out a ton!"

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2020/06/25 10:20:39 AM AST

**Elijah Rogan-Kelly**

818 Onslow St  
Durham , NC , 27705

"As an alum of DPS since elementary school I speak from personal experience when I say that what our schools need are not cops. We have a critical need for consistent nurses, free and available therapists and more school counselors for students (especially in High school), healthier lunches and family social services. All of these services directly support and protect students in a way that an untrained, armed police officer could never do so. "

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2020/06/25 10:20:40 AM AST

**Joanna Rutter**

1108 Green St  
Durham NC 27701

"Listen to your students and alumni, who are demanding the termination of any partnership or understanding with the Sheriff's office. Cops do not belong in schools. Kids deserve to feel safe and supported while they learn. Militarizing their environment with police presence shows what you think your students deserve. Do better. "

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2020/06/25 10:21:01 AM AST

**Victoria Facelli**

809 shepherd st  
Durham, nc 27701

I am concerned about sending my child to a school that contributes to a school to prison pipeline. Remove police from schools and use that funding for peer leadership training and school counselors. We will not rest as a city until we have better schools for all our kids.

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2020/06/25 10:21:12 AM AST

**Tatiana Hargreaves**  
2309 Stroller Avenue  
Durham, NC 27705

"I urge Durham Public Schools to remove SROs from Durham schools immediately and listen to and follow the demands of current DPS students and graduates. End your support of the school to prison pipeline and your partnerships with the Sheriff's department. Instead, increase funding for in-school counselors and nurses. "

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2020/06/25 10:23:39 AM AST

**Katherine Gonzalez**  
413 E. Geer St.  
Durham, NC 27701

"Please fund more counselors and mental health professionals in public schools. Please directly take that funding from having police officers in schools. I believe, from a trauma-informed perspective, this is a better use of resources. Thank you. "

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2020/06/25 10:25:04 AM AST

**Reah Siegel**  
308 Gresham Ave.  
27704

"I am urging you to remove SROs from the Durham Public Schools. I attended a march of over 500 people with inspiring and dedicated black high school students leading the way. They are calling for you to remove SROs from their schools, and you should listen to them and the other teachers and community members who showed up in support of this effort. We elected you to listen to us and do what we believe is right for our community. We are saying the right thing to do at this time is remove SROs and use that funding for guidance counselors, social workers, and nurses who actually have the skills to support the children in our school system. "

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2020/06/25 10:26:46 AM AST

**Sarah Jacobson Cohen**  
6116 Chesden Drive  
27713

"Please listen to the demands of DPS students and graduates by funding counselors, not cops. Please terminate the MOU with the Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. "

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2020/06/25 10:30:48 AM AST  
**Esperanza Hernandez**  
1112 Raynor St.  
Durham, NC 27703

"My name is Esperanza and I am a concerned K-12 DPS alumna. Current DPS students and teachers have been demanding that our school district cut ties with the sheriff's department yet the school board has not listened to their concerns. Student testimonies demonstrate that school resource officers have no place in schools and only work to perpetuate the school-to-prison pipeline. SROs did not enhance my feeling of safety or actual safety during my time in DPS. The funding given to contract SROs could be better directed to other student services such as counselors, mental health support staff and more bilingual services for ESL students and families. These are services that would've enhanced my DPS experience and I hope the school board listens to past and current student voices. "

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2020/06/25 10:32:43 AM AST  
**Marge Carrice**  
1013 Iredell St.  
Durham, NC, 27705

Support the demands of current DPS students and graduates by terminating any partnership with the Durham County sheriffs department. Let's fund more counselors & mental health resources in schools!

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2020/06/25 10:32:44 AM AST  
**Rebecca Canova**  
2710 Sparger Road  
Durham, NC 27705

"Stop the school to prison pipeline! Students need support and encouragement and essential trauma-informed community resources, NOT POLICING! "

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2020/06/25 10:33:17 AM AST

**MULUBRHAN**

1007 WELLS STREET  
DURHAM, NC, 27707

"As an african american women I do not feel save with cops being in schools. I feel that they target the people that look like me. Please get cops out of schools, and instead invest in therapists. "

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2020/06/25 10:33:53 AM AST

**Lynsey Olson**

4517 Laymans Chapel Road  
Durham, NC 27704

"I am asking the school board to honor the demands of DPS students and graduates to terminate their partnership and memorandum of understanding with the the Durham County Sheriffs Department immediately. In the place of Sheriffs deputies, the school board should provide professionals who are better trained to handle the physical and mental needs and concerns of students. "

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2020/06/25 10:35:00 AM AST

**Gabi Overcast-Hawks**

2705 Bexley Avenue  
Durham Nc 27707

"Fund counselors not cops. Allocate our tax dollars for resources we actually need and stop being complicit in the school to prison pipeline system. You have a choice to be a revolutionary school district. Make Durham proud and do good for the social, mental and emotional wellbeing of your students. You have the choice to remain ignorant and complicit in a time of change but you also have the choice to revolutionize our school district into one of social acceptance and widespread success. Your job is to represent the needs of your school district. DPS is telling you that we NEED more social resources like counselors and mental health

specialists, not more police officers and SROs. "

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2020/06/25 10:35:45 AM AST

**Hope Thomson**

128 Collums Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

"I'm writing as a proud product of Durham Public Schools (Burton Geo World, Rogers Herr MS and CE Jordan High School) to demand that DPS terminates its contract with the Sheriffs Office and removes SROs from schools. Why are we spending money on policing our youth instead of providing them with mental health counselors, social workers, and tutors who can help them work through trauma and towards academic success AND emotional health? The March for Black Students and the calls echoing through our City Council, state government and beyond prove two things -- the people want this and the leadership of our institutions are not listening. Be part of the sea change, DPS. Remove SROs and start working with and for your students, at the root."

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2020/06/25 10:37:46 AM AST

**Marion Johnson**

714 S Buchanan Blvd  
Durham, NC, 27701

"DPS students, graduates, parents, and teachers are not served by this on-going relationship with Durham County police. Terminate the MOU with the Durham County sheriff's department immediately and focus funding on school counselors and nurses. "

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2020/06/25 10:39:21 AM AST

**Danielle Santos**

1030 Amber Shadow Drive  
Durham, NC 27703

Please end the DPS contract with the sheriff's department and direct the funding to resources that better impact students' lives. Adding counselors and increasing educator pay are both a better use of funding.

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2020/06/25 10:41:16 AM AST

**Faye Koenigsmark**  
2702 Fairlawn Road  
Durham

"Hello,

My name is Faye Koenigsmark and I am a resident of Durham, NC. I am writing to you to demand the termination of the DPS memorandum of understanding and all relationships with the Durham County sheriff's department.

Contrary to popular belief, the presence of cops does not make for a safer school (No research has yet to show that they do). Rather, keeping cops in schools results in disproportionate punishment of Black youth, and just magnifies the school to prison pipeline. Kids need empathy and patience; what they don't need is to be traumatized by cops in a place that's supposed to be a safe haven for them.

As leaders, you have the responsibility to the community to stop promoting the policing and mistreatment of our Black youth. This begins by removing School Resource Officers from our schools and redirecting the funds to meet the health and safety needs of our students (i.e. trauma-informed and cultural responsive bilingual counselors, nurses, and social workers).

These kids are our future, and any trauma endured in their public schooling will have HUGE ramifications on their success.

Thank you,  
Faye Koenigsmark"

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2020/06/25 10:41:16 AM AST

**Stephen Sciere**  
311 E Pilot st  
27707

Please end the partnership and keep the police force out of our schools

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2020/06/25 10:41:49 AM AST

**Victoria Facelli**  
809 shepherd st  
Durham, nc 27701

I am concerned about sending my child to a school that contributes to a school to prison pipeline. Remove police from schools and use that funding for peer leadership training and school counselors. We will not rest as a city until we have better schools for all our kids.

---

2020/06/25 10:46:10 AM AST

**Zoe Tallmadge**

910 Virgie street  
Durham, NC, 27705

"fund counselors and nurses, not cops!!"

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2020/06/25 10:46:32 AM AST

**Anthony Garritano**

103 W Main St  
Durham, NC, 27701

"I stand with DPS students and graduates and believe all standing partnerships with the Sheriff's office should and instead be replaced with councilors and other positions that would be used to assist students, not police them."

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2020/06/25 10:46:43 AM AST

**Melissa Gwynn**

506 N Mangum St. #408  
Durham, NC 27701

"I support the demands of DPS students and graduates and urge the School Board to terminate the memorandum of understanding and any partnerships with the Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. Please fund counselors, nurses, social workers, and other such resources for students, NOT cops in our schools. "

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2020/06/25 10:49:04 AM AST

**Katey Rich**

1805 Glendale Avenue  
Durham NC 27701

"Please terminate your relationship with law enforcement. Kids need counselors, not cops. "

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2020/06/25 10:50:27 AM AST

**Jack Thegen-Crowley**

1408 Sedgefield st.  
Durham, NC, 27705

"Please listen to what your students, parents, community and the nation is saying loudly and unequivocally: Break your contract with the Durham Co. Sheriff's department. If you fail to act now, you will face prolonged protest and resistance that will only intensify and your leadership will only face increasing scrutiny and challenges at the voting booth until this demand is met. I am a parent of a DPS student and as a former DPS highschooler I was choke-slammed into a squad car by an SRO who then lied about it. Will my child be subject to the same violence? Will you wait until someone gets an abuse by SRO on video or until a child injured? It is just a matter of time. This is such a no-brainer. be on the right side of history. "

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2020/06/25 10:50:31 AM AST

**Amy Perlmutter**

1011 Shady Lane  
27712

"I'm concerned about virtual school for exceptional children who have IEPs, especially those who need more directive teaching and resource room help. Please, please consider Small Group, in person sessions, even if just or twice a week, for EC high schoolers under plan B (and all EC for Plan C)."

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2020/06/25 10:51:32 AM AST

**Courtney Eason**

4623 regency dr  
Durham NC 27713

End your partnership with the durham county sheriffs department

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2020/06/25 10:53:29 AM AST

**Kaitlyn Marie Pedde**

1402 Woodburn road  
Durham, NC, 27705

"As a recent DPS graduate, it is very important to me that we eliminate/decrease cops in schools in order to INCREASE counselors at school. I have struggled with severe mental health problems, and many times at school, I was not able to get the help I needed from a counselor because they were all off campus or they were busy. We need more counselors in our schools to ensure that students are getting the mental health care they need. In addition, counselors can better aid in conflicts than police- they will deescalate situations instead of adding extra stress."

---

2020/06/25 10:56:49 AM AST

**Keri Stephens**

2021 Chapel Hill Road  
Durham, NC 27707

"Please pull police from schools and focus funding on preventative and reformative approaches (counseling, educational programs, parenting/family groups, mentoring) rather than penal approaches."

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2020/06/25 10:57:26 AM AST

**Kate Nunke**

311 Cleveland St.  
Durham, NC 27701

"I'm a DPS teacher. I'm writing about the immediate need to listen and respond to our students to keep them safe. At the last board meeting, the 800+ public comments from Durham community members were quickly dismissed and have yet to be addressed further. I am aware that the Durham County Board of Commissioners voted to allocate \$2.7 million to police in DPS. Students and staff have already reached out to you about terminating the memorandum of understanding with the Sheriff to provide SROs. Based on studies and reports completed in 2017, SROs don't necessarily keep schools safe or students safe. For many students, police presence in schools heightens anxiety and fear for those who are often targeted by police. This ultimately promotes the school-to-prison pipeline. In solidarity with fellow DPS employees, DPS

students, BYP100, Durham Beyond Policing Coalition, and other community-based efforts. I call on DPS to listen to its community, specifically its students, and remove SROs from DPS, end all collaboration with the Sheriff's Department, and reallocate the \$2.7 million to student safety practices and resources, such as counselors, nurses, social workers, and restorative justice programs. "

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2020/06/25 10:58:14 AM AST

**Jason Pifer**

710 Adeline Court  
Durham, NC 27713

"As a Durham Public School graduate (Northern High School '06, Chewning Middle School '03), I want to express my full disapproval of DPS's partnership and memorandum of understanding with the Durham County Sheriff's Department. I request that you terminate these, and any other relationship, immediately.

Funds for this should be directed towards better mental health, trained experts in nonviolent de-escalation, and supplemental educational resources for the underprivileged in our county. "

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2020/06/25 11:01:23 AM AST

**Francesca Prince**

814 Berkeley st  
Durham

We KNOW this is the right answer!

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2020/06/25 11:03:03 AM AST

**Ira Mercer**

1007 morning glory ave  
Durham NC 27701

My name is Ira Mercer. I am a Durham resident who believes that we MUST listen to DPS student and staff voices calling for change. We cannot rely on SROs to keep our youth safe. Please answer the call to invest instead in professional counselors for student mental health and healing as they are the ones truly fit to resolve our youths challenges.

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2020/06/25 11:05:48 AM AST

**Mary Kallem**

1408 Sedgefield St  
Durham

"I am lending my voice as a guardian and educator of Durham: in addition to terminating any partnerships with the Durham County Sheriff's Department, DPS should re-allocate SRO funding to counselors. Thank you very much."

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2020/06/25 11:06:04 AM AST

**Kory Urban**

5114 Guess Rd  
Rougemont, NC, 27572

Durham public schools must cut ties with the Durham Police Department. Policing students criminalizes them and enables the school-to-prison pipeline. Contracts with the police should be ended and replaced with physical and mental healthcare.

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2020/06/25 11:06:45 AM AST

**Zach Meredith**

4308 Rivermont Rd  
Durham, NC 27712

Listen to your students and alumni — get SROs out of schools!

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2020/06/25 11:08:03 AM AST

**Caroline Stayer-Brewington**

405 Hugo st  
Durham NC 27704

"I am a Durham resident and have worked as a clinical social worker in our city for the past 5 years. There is abundant research that shows the presence of SRO's in schools is not making them safer for our children. Some of our schools are outrageously under resourced, where only

one counselor is expected to care for 100+ children on their caseload. That is highly ineffective and unethical! I support DPS ending it's contract with the police and removing SROs from all campuses. I implore you to use those funds instead to hire more school counselors and social workers, especially those who are bilingual and to fund more intensive anti racist and conflict resolution trainings for school leaders"

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2020/06/25 11:08:53 AM AST

**Ayla Smart**  
2024 Woodrow Street  
Durham, NC 27705

"I think it's very important that DPS pushes to reallocate funds to go toward counselors and other free mental health resources for students instead of toward filling public schools with cops. As a former Durham Public Schools student, I never benefitted from the presence of cops in my schools. In fact, the presence of the sherif department actually made me and my peers feel substantially more uncomfortable and unsafe. Especially since student-cop relationships have recently become more hostile, I think that it is very important that money resources go toward making sure students have the mental health resources they need instead, as it will ensure students can reach their full potential and be as successful as possible. "

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2020/06/25 11:10:18 AM AST

**Gloria Klaren**  
4922 Stephens Ln  
Durham, NC, 27712

High school kids taking electives that require hands on instruction (automotive/culinary arts etc) should be considered. They also need the social interaction with peers even if with masks and social distancing. Evening or Saturday classes should also be considered to allow for these classes.

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2020/06/25 11:13:34 AM AST

**Kristen Hill**  
1801 Williamsburg Rd.  
Durham

"DPS students are asking for your help- they do not have the resources they need to learn and be themselves. Police presence in schools is a waste of money and time, when that money could go towards teacher supplies, giving teachers and staff raises or maybe even giving the students resources like more school psychologists or social workers and more school nurses. I urge you to support the demands of DPS students and graduates by terminating their memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department (or any kind of law enforcement) immediately."

---

2020/06/25 11:15:14 AM AST

**Tim McGeary**

4504 Sun Valley Dr  
Durham, NC 27707

"In person teaching and learning needs to be a priority to begin and throughout the 2020-2021 academic year. That two of the options planned thus far suggest 100% remote learning for high schools will not suffice and is detrimental to the mental and physical health of our students. If a hybrid model is required due to the status of our pandemic, then ALL students should be given that opportunity.

For any remote learning, it is critical that DPS publish clear expectations for teachers, students, and families so that we can have equal accountability. And any remote learning must be much more involved and detailed than the spring.

Require masks of everyone, reduce or eliminate assemblies, even sporting events if necessary, and focus on essential needs to get our teachers and students safely back into the classrooms.  
"

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2020/06/25 11:15:20 AM AST

**Lauren Phillips**

112 Strangford Ln  
Durham, NC, 27713

"As a product of 13 years in the DPS educational system and as an adult citizen of Durham, I cannot stress enough that it is critical we find positions in our schools that address mental health. SROs are not equipped, trained, and "at the ready" to handle the reasons behind why students act out, and we need resources desperately for our most underserved groups who make up such a large population of students. Kids cannot prioritize their education when they are in need of help and have no one to turn to! Counselors and MENTAL HEALTH professionals

are the only long term solution for these issues, and that comes with appropriate funding. "

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2020/06/25 11:17:07 AM AST

**Sarah Schmader**  
206 N. Briggs Ave.  
Durham, NC 27703

Durham Public Schools needs to their partnership with Durham Police Department immediately and redirect funds to counseling and social services. Get cops out of schools!

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2020/06/25 11:17:59 AM AST

**Gennelle Wilson**  
901 Camden Ave  
Durham

"Thank you for accepting public comments. I want to use this opportunity to encourage the DPS BOE to terminate all formal relationships with the Durham Sheriff's Office. The DPS BOE needs to listen to the voices of its students and alumni, who are unilaterally asking for the discontinuing of police officers (school resource officers) in the Durham public schools. Resources previously allocated to SROs should be redirected to school counselors, social workers, and psychologists to properly de-escalate in-school situations. "

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2020/06/25 11:18:45 AM AST

**Kyle Francis**  
4806 Garrett Rd Unit 102  
Durham, NC, 27707

"I am a teacher at Jordan High School. On any given day, there are three or four SROs (Student Resource Officers), but only one Social Worker. The issues that my students have, come from the lack of Social Workers, Psychologists, and Counselors. When the presence of SROs is stronger than that of support staff our students see suspensions more than Restorative Practices.

From Schiff, January, 2013: Dignity, Disparity and Desistance: Effective Restorative Justice Strategies to Plug the "School-to-Prison Pipeline"

Restorative justice is an evidence-based practice effectively used to reduce suspensions, expulsions and disciplinary referrals. Restorative responses to misbehavior can take a variety of forms that are centered on several core principles:

- 1) focus on relationships first and rules second;
- 2) give voice to the person harmed and the person who caused the harm;
- 3) engage in collaborative problem-solving;
- 4) enhance personal responsibility;
- 5) empower change and growth;
- and 6) include strategic plans for restoration/reparation (Amstutz & Mullet, 2005).

The cumulative effect of these strategies is to offer students, teachers and administrators the possibility of a dignified response to misbehavior and a way to make amends and repair the harm caused."

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2020/06/25 11:19:18 AM AST

**Patrick Phelps-McKeown**

1819 Northgate St  
Durham, NC, 27704

"I am a Durham native and DSA class of 2004 alum and attended Durham Public Schools from K-12. Not once did I feel safer for having cops roaming the halls. There is no good reason to have police officers in schools. We need better teacher pay, school nurses, guidance counselors and resources for students, not cops in schools. We need to support educators and students and families, not provide another way for young black people and people of color to be criminalized and brutalized and terrorized. The memorandum of understanding and partnership between DPS and the Sherrif's Department must be terminated immediately."

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2020/06/25 11:20:51 AM AST

**Ellie Robert**

N/A  
Durham, NC, 27707

"As a resident of Durham, I have been a part of the Durham Public Schools community for 13 years. I am now a rising senior and being a part of DPS for so long has allowed me to recognize the highs and lows of DPS and the education system nationwide. This is why I'm pleading to the school board to focus on funding and promoting guidance counselors, mental health outlets, and other related resources as they promote the success of students at DPS, while the presence of police officers has shown to hurt the school's climate. The presence of police in school

systems is shown to detrimentally affect non-white students and fosters the so-called "school to prison pipeline". We, the students of DPS, are asking to terminate the DPS partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department and focus attention to mental health staff, nurses, guidance counselors, and school psychologists as these are understaffed yet greatly important to the health of DPS students. "

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2020/06/25 11:21:36 AM AST

**Zosia DeWitt**

2961 Welcome Drive  
Durham NC 27705

Please terminate connections with the police department and reallocate funds to mental health counseling services!

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2020/06/25 11:21:49 AM AST

**Katie Moore**

1314 Hill St Apt D  
Durham, NC, 27707

I am a Durham resident and a former DPS student. I am commenting to support the demands of other DPS students and calling for the termination of the memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham county sheriffs office immediately. I think there are better ways to ensure safety in DPS and encourage y'all to work with current students to identify and implement those strategies.

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2020/06/25 11:25:04 AM AST

**Cici**

3017 Weymouth st  
Durham NC, 27707

"Take police out of schools and use that money to fund safer and more extensive opportunities like D.A.R.E programs! Durham Police need to go through major reform, I don't trust that they can truly protect our black and brown children, nor make them feel safe. Instead of continuing to pour money into a poor police system, why not use that money to give our children a better education and more opportunities to grow. Don't continue to feed into the school to prison pipelines, let's show our kids that we care about their safety, their education and that we

support the changes they want to see in our community. "

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2020/06/25 11:26:06 AM AST

**Emilie Luse**  
mimi.luse@gmail.com  
Durham, nc 27704

"Fewer cops, more counselors"

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2020/06/25 11:27:16 AM AST

**Amelia Meath**  
308 Edward street  
Durham, NC, 27701

Schools should be the safest place for children to be. They should not have to fear legal repercussions every time they get in a argument with a classmate-or disagree with a teacher. These are children. Get police out of schools. We need councilors and better teacher training in anti-racism and conflict de-escalation.

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2020/06/25 11:27:34 AM AST

**Briana Dearing**  
706 Colonial st  
Durham nc 27701

"Please consider the request of many DPS students, teachers and parents to end the memorandum of understanding with the SRO program. As the parent of a recent DPS graduate, I support the Board's desire to keep all of DPS safe. However, the SRO program does not guarantee physical safety for all of DPS students. Many students feel intimidated by SRO presence. There is evidence that their presence has resulted in an increase in the criminalization of student behavior. As a parent and a taxpayer, i would strongly prefer a budget increase for services that will actually support students, such as guidance counselors, nurses and social workers."

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2020/06/25 11:27:47 AM AST

**Kim Lee**

5002 valley ridge drive  
Durham, North Carolina, 27713

"Research done in 2012 suggests that school counselors do have a positive effect on classroom attendance, discipline, and overall achievement. Intervention from counselors has also been shown to close the achievement gap between different student groups. I support the demands of DPS students because I know funding school counselors will help DPS students succeed in and out of school."

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2020/06/25 11:27:50 AM AST

**Carley Mattern**

1213 MERRICK ST  
DURHAM, NC, 27701

"I am a Durham resident, writing in support of students and alumni who are asking the Board to center student safety by terminating any and all partnership with the Sheriff's Department, immediately. Our students deserve the best educational opportunities, and the presence of law enforcement in schools does not foster a positive learning environment, but endangers students who need us to step up and provide care, not policing. Please listen to our young people, they know what they need. Thank you."

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2020/06/25 11:28:39 AM AST

**Megan Raley**

1406 W Markham Ave  
Durham NC 27705

"I am a Durham resident. I do not have children. But I am actively listening to the youth and educators in our city. They know what resources they need. Listen to the youth and listen to your teachers. If Durham schools are sorely lacking counselors, nurses, and other quality of life resources while still allocating funds towards policing in schools, I hope that you will put forth efforts to change this. Counseling and support go so much further than a violent heavy hand, suspensions, and expulsions. "

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2020/06/25 11:28:39 AM AST

**Caitlin Georgas**  
619 Bon Air Ave  
Durham NC 27704

"Please terminate the MOU with the Sheriff's Department and put the money towards social workers, counselors, teachers, and supplies. The racial disparity in suspensions and arrests is unacceptable. Kids need care, support, and education NOT policing. "

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2020/06/25 11:29:25 AM AST

**Kate Roberts**  
507 E Trinity Ave  
Durham

"As a social worker who has worked in community mental health with justice involved youth and foster care adolescents, I request the police be pulled from the schools. They continue to reify trauma and perpetuate racialized stereotypes of "problem behaviors" among Black youth. Likewise, please fund stronger supports for adolescent and youth mental health through paying social workers a more sustainable wage, paying for supports for teachers, and increasing the presence of licensed mental health professionals in the schools. "

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2020/06/25 11:30:09 AM AST

**Katherine Gottsegen**  
1101 HILLSBOROUGH ST  
RALEIGH

Please support the demands of the DPS students and graduates by terminating their memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham Country Sheriff's Department immediately.

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2020/06/25 11:32:55 AM AST

**Gray Gerald**  
1111 Haventree Road  
27713

"I urge the board to support the demands of DPS students and graduates: remove SROs from Durham schools and invest in the mental health of students by employing more mental health

counselors in schools. Research shows that SROs do not keep children safe, and, in fact, that their presence guarantees more children will be arrested. The wellness of our children must be our absolute priority. Especially as we consider the impacts of coronavirus and uprisings across the United States on kids of all ages, there *\*will\** be an increased need for mental health care. This increase is added to an already existing and immense need that for too long has not been addressed. Children need and deserve less punitive force and more community invested in their healing and wellness--we all do. "

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2020/06/25 11:33:11 AM AST

**Alaire hughey**

106 Bennett Ct  
Durham NC 27701

"DPS should end all relationship with the durham county sheriff dept (including any MOUS) for the safety and protection of all students. There is clear evidence that cops do not keep all children safe, and actually have a long and well documented history of traumatizing and institutionalizing black and brown children at much higher rates than white children. To continue to have cops in our schools is to continue to expose our youth to unmitigated and fully armed white supremacist violence. "

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2020/06/25 11:33:34 AM AST

**Alexander Markiewicz**

111 Roberson St.  
Durham, NC, 27703

"More mental health resources in schools, not cops"

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2020/06/25 11:34:32 AM AST

**Betsy Kelly**

518 Wildwood Drive  
Durham, NC 27712

"Law enforcement is not necessary for creating a safe public school atmosphere. Issues like poverty, food insecurity, and mental health **MUST** be addressed by people other than police. "

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2020/06/25 11:37:17 AM AST

**Faith Montgomery**

3981 River Pointe Place

High Point, NC 27265

Support the demands of DPS students and graduates by terminating their memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately.

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2020/06/25 11:39:55 AM AST

**karsyn roberts**

5430 reese road

durham, nc 27712

"for starters i have no wifi at home so all the work that i have to do from home now, i have to use my hot spot on my phone to do, and my hot spot has limited data so when i'm doing my summer work now i either have to sit outside the public library or outside the high school to use wifi so that i can do work and it's really hard to do that. i'm not equipped to learn from home because i need face to face learning. i'm currently taking summer classes at durham tech which are all online atm and my grades have never been so bad in my life. i would like to have in class learning if possible because not only will it be my senior year but it will help me and my grades more. the contact through email and websites is not as easy as face to face contact. so by any means necessary i would love to able to come back on campus for this upcoming school year. it would help me and so many others out a ton!"

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2020/06/25 11:40:15 AM AST

**William Loftis Weaver**

1611 West Club Blvd

Durham NC 27705

Please remove all police presence from Durham Public Schools.

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2020/06/25 11:41:11 AM AST

**Lauren Devine**

1505 Glendale Avenue

Durham, North Carolina. 27701

"Please terminate your relationship with the Durham Police Department. Kids need funding for counselors in their school, not police. "

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2020/06/25 11:41:34 AM AST

**Savannah Drum**

2830 Herring Boulevard

Durham, NC, 27704

"I am commenting to urge the Board of Education to prioritize both the physical and mental wellbeing of DPS students, particularly Black students, by removing the heavy resource officer presence in Durham schools. I ask you to instead prioritize funding and positions for mental health professionals that can aid students in times of crisis. The presence of the police force in schools is inherently racist. According to the ACLU, in North Carolina Black girls are 8 times as likely as white girls to be arrested in school. I ask DPS to make schools a more safe and equitable space for children by removing police and instilling more mental health resources. "

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2020/06/25 11:41:46 AM AST

**Hannah Burke**

3710 Exchange Glenwood Place

Raleigh, NC 27612

"As a 5 year teacher at Jordan High School, I have seen SROs in action. Rather than fostering safety, they leave my students and I feeling anxious. Seeing students in handcuffs is traumatic enough for me, so I cannot imagine being the child in handcuffs. Studies show that cops in schools merely feed the school to prison pipeline and foster more student dropouts, both of course disproportionately apply to students of color. Imagine we could take the money DPS currently pays the sheriff's department and instead use it to hire more nurses (Jordan only has one once a week), more social workers (Jordan has one for over 1,900 students, mental health specialists (we have lost that position in the past few years), and/or more teachers to keep class sizes smaller which is shown to boost student learning and reduce student behavior issues. Please consider breaking ties with the sheriff's department for the well-being and success of our children. "

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2020/06/25 11:42:14 AM AST

**Jessica Coons**  
1023 Berkeley St Apt B  
Durham NC 27705

"Decriminalize our public schools by removing officers from our places of learning. Students are asking for more care and support, not armed officers escalating situations. "

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2020/06/25 11:42:35 AM AST  
**Michelle Weaver**  
1611 W Club Blvd  
Durham, NC 27705

Please end the relationship between the shariffs department and the public schools.

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2020/06/25 11:43:40 AM AST  
**Elizabeth Brandli**  
1021 Iredell street, apartment #1  
Durham, NC, 27705

I urge you to listen to the students of Durham. Please end all contracts with the Durham County Sheriff's office. Students deserve to feel safe at school and the presence of police only increases anxiety and fear. This does not promote learning! Help our kids succeed by funding educational services and not police in schools.

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2020/06/25 11:45:37 AM AST  
**Jaime Simmons**  
1212 Ward St.  
Durham

"As a Durham resident and parent, I urge you to terminate the MOU and any partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. I have heard the testimony of children who have been traumatized by the actions of police in their schools, and by the presence of police alone. We are responsible for providing kids with a safe space to nurture their learning experience, and the presence of police in that space is intimidating, threatening, and irresponsible. The school board needs to strip the Sheriff's Department of this funding, and reallocate to increasing nurses, counselors and other professionals that facilitate a healthy and

safe learning environment. "

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2020/06/25 11:47:53 AM AST

**Jordan Little**  
222 Dunhill Drive  
Durham, NC 27713

You need to commit to ending any partnerships with the Durham sheriff's department. Keep cops out of schools. Invest instead in counselors and other resources that keep your students (especially your students of color) safe.

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2020/06/25 11:48:20 AM AST

**Georgia**  
1030 Lamont Street Nw  
Washington, DC 20016

"Please end the memorandum and any partnership with the police department. We need more counselors in schools, not police officers. It is proven that rehabilitative services make better people/citizens, not overcriminalization or police presence. This is fact-based research. Please listen to the community when we say counselors are more useful in schools and police are a hindrance. "

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2020/06/25 11:49:24 AM AST

**James McKinnell**  
2019 Bivins Street  
Durham, NC 27707

As a Durham resident I urge you to listen to the voices of DPS students and graduates as they ask you to terminate the memorandum of understanding and any partnership with Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. Please invest in the safety of our students by making access to bilingual mental health professionals more available in Durham schools. Stop policing our students!

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2020/06/25 11:51:29 AM AST

**Nina Pande**

1000 N Duke St  
Durham NC

"Good evening. I am a teacher at Neal Middle School and would like to speak in support of removing SRO's from our schools. I do not feel safer with an armed police officer at school; in fact, I feel less safe and worry about officers using excessive force against our students. In practice, teachers, counselors and social workers are most effective at de-escalating conflicts with students, not SRO's. In addition, SROs have not prevented a single school shooting in the past 15 years. The evidence is clear that their main function is increasing the likelihood that kids will have contact with the criminal justice system at an age far too young. As stakeholders in our public schools and our children's futures, we bear the responsibility for ending the school-to-prison pipeline by removing SRO's from our schools and redirecting that funding into hiring more school counselors and school social workers."

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2020/06/25 11:53:35 AM AST

**Theresa stone**

3703 Rivermont Road  
Durham NC 27712

"Please remove Durham police from our schools and reinvest in school counselors, health services, & food services for those in need. "

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2020/06/25 11:55:02 AM AST

**Jacqueline M Allain**

906 W Trinity Ave  
Durham

"Students need smaller class sizes, well-trained and well-paid teachers, guidance counselors, remedial reading and writing instructors, and support staff. Instead of criminalizing youth, spend money on making schools better, more supportive environments where every child can reach their potential. "

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2020/06/25 11:55:18 AM AST

**Amelia Mulder**

829 Gerard St  
Durham, NC 27701

I am asking you to support the demands of DPS students and terminate their memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham County sheriff's department immediately. Funding should be used for counselors instead of a police presence in schools.

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2020/06/25 11:55:34 AM AST

**Kate Mester**

110 N. Guthrie Ave.  
Durham, NC 27703

"Please reconsider your stance on keeping the MOU between DPD & DPS next year and into the future. Please listen to the students, your most valuable stakeholders, who have led a movement requesting that these funds go to positions that they actually need, like full time nurses and more social workers and counselors. At Riverside HS we are only funded for 1 Social Worker and a 2-day-a-week Nurse for 1750 students, yet we have 2 SROs. Funding SROs over needed support services is in direct opposition to DPS' Priority 2: Providing a Safe School Environment that Supports the Whole Child. Please actively and actually fund your own priorities by cancelling the MOU and moving the funds to student support positions. Thank you for working to give our students the safe schools they truly deserve."

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2020/06/25 11:57:05 AM AST

**Isabel Seed**

622 S. Mineral Springs Rd.  
Durham, NC, 27703

"I went to DPS schools for the entirety of my high school education, and I was witness to occasions in which an SRO was pulled in and ended up escalating the situation unnecessarily. I, and many other students, had a positive relationship with our SRO, but the times I saw him in action, there were many ways to diffuse the situation and they weren't taken. It often fell on the upset child to try to deescalate, instead of the adults in the situation. Many of my black and brown classmates felt very anxious around him, even if they had done nothing wrong. We also only had a nurse two days of the week-- I feel like having a full time nurse in the building could be a better use of funding. The presence of an SRO threatens violence, even if they're the nicest person in the world, and I hope that the decision will be made to end our contract with SROs and invest in more school councilors or nurses instead. Schools are a place for learning, and I don't think SROs create an environment where students-- especially black and brown students-- feel safe to learn. I don't have all of the answers on how schools would respond to issues they

would traditionally use an SRO for, but we owe it to students to try a better way. "

---

2020/06/25 11:57:33 AM AST

**Dona Elizabeth Aguayo**

4901 Stockton Way

Durham

"I am really concerned about the mental health of our high school students and fear an only online learning platform will be very detrimental.

"No graduations. No sports. No time with friends. Lonely teenagers are more likely to become depressed, obese, and unhealthy adults. Social isolation in childhood is linked to poor health, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and obesity in adulthood. Even in good times, about 8% of American teens try to kill themselves each year and about 70% suffer from loneliness. In 2020, these numbers will likely be higher".

<https://www.statnews.com/2020/04/27/adolescents-young-adults-paying-high-price-covid-19-prevention/>

According to JAMA ..there is reason to be concerned.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/fullarticle/2764584>

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2020/06/25 11:59:30 AM AST

**Robert W Clough**

815 B West Markham Avenue

Durham, NC 27701

"To the hard-working members of the Durham School Board,

It's time to terminate the partnership between DPS and the Durham County Sheriff's department. Their presence serves no useful purpose and only further adds the specter of policing into young people's lives--especially Black people.

School is not a prison, run by armed guards. It should be a welcoming and safe space, where at-risk students can seek other resources. More counselors and more before & after-school resources are needed.

Please listen to the voices of students and alumni who are crying out with regard to their needs.

As a parent of a child in a public charter school, I ask you to consider removing police from our schools once and for all.

Sincerely,

Robert Clough"

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2020/06/25 11:59:34 AM AST

**Dana McCraw**

811 Oxfordshire Lane  
Chapel Hill NC 27517

"Please act on the demands of students, staff, and Durham families by ending DPS's partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's department. The money used to support SRO's can and should be used elsewhere in the already less than adequate educational budget. particularly, this money should be reserved for counselors, social workers, and other services that actually work to help students and serve to further their ambitions, safety, and well-being. In my 13 years of experience as a DPS student, I can attest that this change is both meaningful and overdue. Thank you. "

---

2020/06/25 12:03:44 PM AST

**Isabel Shapiro**

1600 Anderson Street  
Durham, NC 27707

"Please get cops out of school. Children need more guidance, therapy, and support. Stop creating the context in which children are criminalized and traumatized for life. They are learning something about their subjection to the criminal justice system just from the very presence of police in schools, especially kids coming from neighborhoods where they are educated from a young age about the threat that police pose. No more cops in schools!!!"

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2020/06/25 12:06:09 PM AST

**Brent Darden**

513 Valleymede Dr  
Durham, NC, 27713

"Fund counselors not cops. End the DPS partnership with Durham County Sheriff's Dept and put that funding toward more school counselors, social workers, and other services supporting student mental and emotional health and wellness."

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2020/06/25 12:06:44 PM AST

**jenny lor**

Commonwealth Street  
durham, nc 27703

"Hello Durham School Board,

Thank you for all you do for our communities and for our children and youth. Your roles are important and I appreciate that you've chosen to take on the responsibility of ensuring that our children and youth have quality schooling. You have powerful positions and I am asking that you use this power to prioritize the wellness and safety of our youth. I am writing to ask that you terminate the relationship with the Sheriff's Department. Our schools need more trauma-informed counselors, not cops nor School Resource Officers in schools. I stand with the students and graduates of DPS who are demanding the termination of the MOU with the Durham County Sheriff's department and I hope that you will too.  
thank you. "

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2020/06/25 12:07:59 PM AST

**Ethan Sleeman**

200 W WOODCROFT PKWY  
Durham, NC, 27713

"I am writing to urge the Durham Public School System to end any arrangements with the Durham County Sheriffs office and Durham Police, and to cease any and all School Resource Officer programs moving forward. Spending money and resources on programs that increase young students' contact with policing is NOT supporting students. Instead, those resources could be committed to retaining trained mental health professionals on staff, investing more heavily in student support services, counseling, and actual educational efforts. I stand with the students and teachers of Durham Public Schools who are demanding that their voices be heard and their safety protected. Safety that means helping students grow, not arresting them and creating atmospheres of fear for BIPOC students. "

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2020/06/25 12:08:03 PM AST

**Charlotte Aspinwall**

3210 Haddon Rd.  
Durham, NC, 27705

"As a DPS student of 11 years, I have witnessed many instances of SROs being used unnecessarily. When a fight breaks out, they often escalate violence. I have even observed situations where a fight may have not become physical, but the appearance of the officers made it so. From my experience, the officers do not have a personal relationship with the students, which makes them ill-equipped to prevent violence. I feel that we need to have a stronger presence of counselors in our schools, unless somehow SROs could be radically retrained."

---

2020/06/25 12:09:56 PM AST

**Jonathan Guerrero**

4517 Laymans Chapel Rd  
Durham, NC, 27704

"Howdy,

I ask that you please support the demands of DPS students and graduates by terminating your memorandum of understanding, and any other partnership you may have with the Durham County Sheriff's department immediately. Having access to such force increases the probability of mislabeling your students as with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder "ADHD" or oppositional defiant disorder "ODD". This mislabeling displaces your students and affects them for the rest of their lives, socially and economically. Please support the demands of DPS students and graduates by terminating your memorandum of understanding, and any other partnership you may have with the Durham County Sheriff's department immediately.

kind regards,  
Jonathan G."

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2020/06/25 12:10:58 PM AST

**Lorin Leake**

2402 Barrymore Ave  
Durham, NC 27705

As a former public school teacher and an advocate for education I am aware that prioritizing the presence of police in our schools rather than counselors results in further criminalization of our Black and Brown students and contributes to the school to prison pipeline. We have a choice in this moment to fund the resources that make the biggest positive impact on students' education and well-being or to stick with the status quo and continue to prioritize police. I support the demands of DPS students and graduates and urge you to terminate your Memorandum of Understanding and partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department and invest in counselors in our schools rather than school resource officers/police officers.

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2020/06/25 12:14:03 PM AST

**Cameron Callahan, MD**

309 Broad St. B

Carrboro, NC 27510

Get police out of Durham county schools. The police system in itself is traumatizing to those who come into contact with it and it is disproportionately affecting folks of color. Help kids grow up in a supportive environment and use this money to increase education funding and mental health services in schools!

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2020/06/25 12:22:57 PM AST

**Shannon Potter**

3401 Old Chapel Hill Road

Durham, NC 27797

"Having served as an educator in Durham Public Schools for the past five years, I do not believe that the presence of SRO's in school buildings is a primary source of safety for myself or my students. Although I have benefitted from collegial relationships with individual SRO's for whom I hold deep respect and esteem, I firmly believe that their professional support of students and schools does not necessitate belonging to an armed, uniformed force. Our students need investment in social workers, nurses, counselors, and therapists who are skilled in providing preventative care and skill-building that empowers our students and educators to ensure safety for one another. I call upon the Durham Board of Education to end its MOU with Durham police forces and instead advocate for city funds to be allocated back to schools to provide the kinds of wraparound community services that we know allow our students and their families to live full, safe, joyful lives. "

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2020/06/25 12:27:00 PM AST

**Melody Peters**

105 Spring Rd.  
Durham, NC 27703

"

According to slide 246 of your agenda for this evening, high schools will be all online in the coming school year. I am writing to express my utter disappointment that this is the only option you are presenting at this point. Our schools are essential businesses and we must find a way to open them safely for all to use even if part time. Our students need to reconnect with their communities for their mental health. High School students should not be punished for their age and for the assumption they can handle a full online experience better than the other younger-aged students. Why can't high schools go half days? Half the classes go 8:30-11:30 and the other half 1:30-4:30? Teachers would have two hours for lunch and a planning hour. All food could be a grab and go option when you arrive and when you leave since no one will be going to the cafeteria for meals.

Parents and community members must come together and support each other and work together to help all students have some sort of in-school experience this year. Wearing masks and physical distancing can be done and must be done to support the public health of our staff and students. We must reconnect our high school students with their school communities. Please go back to your drawing board and consider other options for our high school students.

"

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2020/06/25 12:27:46 PM AST

**Julia Springer**

2101 Ward Street, Apt A  
Durham NC 27707

"As a Durham community member and social worker, I am writing to demand the Durham School Board cut ties with the Sheriffs Department. We know that young people need support, safety, respect and warmth to thrive. The police provide none of that. Young people have made themselves clear on what they want and need - it is our job as adults to meet them there. Please be a leader in our community and country by taking the urgent and brave step of getting cops out of our schools!"

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2020/06/25 12:33:04 PM AST

**Savannah Bowman**  
3204 Coachmans Way  
Durham, NC 27705

"DEFUND THE POLICE, FUND COUNSELORS AND FUND SCHOOLS. Stop criminalizing BIPOC disproportionately for simply trying to make a living. It is NOT A CRIME to be black, indigenous, or a person of color so why are they being killed and incarcerated?? Make a smart decision to INVEST IN YOUR PEOPLE FIRST."

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2020/06/25 12:33:13 PM AST

**Daniel Bagnell**  
2006 Wa Wa ave.  
Durham, NC 27707

As a DPS parent I would like to add my voice to those of the students and others who are calling for the removal of Resource Officers from our schools. Our schools are not prisons. They are not war zones. Funding should go toward more positive solutions for the needs of our students.

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2020/06/25 12:33:31 PM AST

**Jessica Graham**  
112 Pinecrest Rd  
Durham, NC, 27701

"I would like to voice my support for DPS students demanding the removal of SRO's from schools in favor of funding better support staff for students, such as counselors and nurses. Thank you for your consideration."

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2020/06/25 12:33:38 PM AST

**Kate Burdekin**  
202 Stinhurst Drive  
27713

We need to prioritize supporting the students by identifying issues that are impacting their ability to succeed that might go beyond the classroom and give trained counselors resources to help them. We do not need to make kids feel unsafe with police presence. Please fund

counselors and mental health providers to get to help where it's most needed.

---

2020/06/25 12:33:49 PM AST

**Mike Page**

30 Kimberly Dr  
Durham, NC 27707

"Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the various options that DPS is considering for the 2020 school year. I'm primarily concerned about the Plan B option that would require all of high school instruction to be online. I understand the burden than online school and staggered schedules puts on families with younger children. However, in an environment where there is not going to be a single solution that works for everyone, the Plan B proposal requires the high school population to shoulder an unfair burden within DPS in terms of the sacrifices required through the interruption of traditional instruction. Although their relative maturity level equips them better to handle independent instruction relative to younger students, it appears to be clear that virtual learning is not as effective as in-person teaching. This will put all of our high school students, especially the upperclassmen, at a distinct disadvantage in terms of preparation for life after graduation, as they will have the least amount of time to recover from the impact on their test scores, grades, and preparation for college. Furthermore, a 100% online experience will have a severe impact on social development and mental health for this vulnerable community. Please strongly consider any options that would allow the high school students to have some level of in-person instruction to augment virtual options. For instance - in-person core classes mixed with online electives, on/off school days/weeks, block scheduling, longer school days, etc."

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2020/06/25 12:36:20 PM AST

**Hope Allen**

1112 M St NW  
Washington, DC 20005

"Please terminate your contract with the sheriff's department and move funding into resources that will actually help DPS students. I attended Hope Valley ES, Githens MS, and Jordan HS (class of 2014). In middle and high school it was abundantly clear that the police officers at the school treated Black students differently in situations such as when monitoring the hallways, parking lots, and cafeteria. The cops often "assumed the worst" for BIPOC students while allowing white students to get off easy. This is only one example of how officers treated students differently based on the color of their skin. Please reallocate funding into people who help students develop in a caring environment. Counselors, social workers, school

psychologists, and healthcare providers are incredibly valuable resources that all students should have access to. I remember some of these workers were only in my schools once or twice a week, if that, while many officers roamed the grounds all day everyday. School Resource Officers (SROs) are defined on the DPS website as workers who "enforce the law, act as a resource with respect to delinquency prevention, provide guidance on law-related issues, provide individual counseling to students, and explain to students the role of law enforcement in society" ([www.dpsnc.net/domain/120](http://www.dpsnc.net/domain/120)). There are many things troubling about this statement and it should be carefully reflected upon. To start, could you please inform the public why SROs are paid to counsel students while there are not enough trained counselors available in schools? Students need to be cared for, nurtured, and shown opportunities for growth, rather than treated like future criminals by "law enforcement". Investing in counselors, social workers, school psychologists, and healthcare providers is investing in your students' future. "

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2020/06/25 12:39:08 PM AST

**Natalie Sutton**

931 St Marys Street  
Raleigh NC 27605

"Get cops out of our school system! To best support DPS students, we need to invest in resources that actually support and lift up our students—like counselors, nurses, and social workers. Terminate any relationship with the Durham county sheriff's department immediately to create a truly safe space for all in our school systems. Fund counselors, not cops! "

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2020/06/25 12:39:50 PM AST

**Kacey Liebes**

1812 Rosetta Drive  
Durham

I ask that you please end any and all partnerships with the Durham County Sheriff's Department.

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2020/06/25 12:42:44 PM AST

**Cara Shih**

1216 Gilbert Street  
DURHAM

Please end the partnership between DPS and the Police. We can find better ways to protect our students. We must do what's right for our community and more than that be able to show other NC counties that we can be leaders who aren't afraid of change for the good of their people.

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2020/06/25 12:43:34 PM AST

**Tiara Weiner**

106 Bart St.

Raleigh NC 27610

"I do not have kids and I live in Raleigh, yet I'm writing as a concerned friend, family member and business owner who serves many families in the DPS. I believe that many of the problems happening in schools are often related to home life and other personal struggles. I feel that these concerns should never be met by a cop. Children are already nervous about getting in trouble, especially Black kids and other kids of color. If the DPS provides trained counselors to help break down the root of issues and outbreaks in the classroom to help provide solutions, resources and action steps for the kids, teachers, admin, and families, then we would have safer schools. By no means should a cop be in charge of handling disciplinary measures on school grounds unless that was the very last option at which point the admin or teachers could call 9-1-1 if lives were in danger. Funding police to be in the schools, when they are not needed is taking away from other valuable resources that should be used to help at risk youth and families that need the outside help and guidance.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I know you will do the right thing and choose a solution based approach.

- Tiara Weiner "

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2020/06/25 12:44:29 PM AST

**Adam zavala**

1627 mason road

Durham NC 27712

"Students respond better to compassion not aggression, most students are dealing with a lot, and need counseling More then anything. "

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2020/06/25 12:44:55 PM AST

**Lucia Constantine**  
1114 Gurley Street  
Durham, NC, 27701

"Please terminate your MOU and any partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department. There is substantial evidence that SROs do not make schools safer, and in fact cause serious harm to young people, especially Black children. We do not need sheriff's deputies in our schools. Instead of continuing to pay for cops in schools, dedicate that money toward more counselors."

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2020/06/25 12:47:25 PM AST

**Devon Check**  
913 Monmouth Ave  
Durham, NC, 27701

Please support the demands of DPS students and graduates by ending the MOU and any partnership with Durham County Sheriff's Office and investing in students' well-being.

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2020/06/25 12:49:06 PM AST

**Alma Rostagni**  
918 carolina ave  
Durham, NC, 27705

Replace cops in schools with counselors

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2020/06/25 12:49:14 PM AST

**Madeline Miller**  
2012 Jersey Ave.  
Durham, NC, 27707

"Hi. For context, I'm a childcare provider. I've lived in Durham for 6 years. Before that, I attended school in Durham from 1997-2009 while mostly living in rural Orange County. Currently, I work in people's homes, with children who attend school in the DPS system. I have previously worked as an educator in a private Durham school. I have survived my own family's

housing insecurity. Working with young people on a daily basis and struggling with my own oppressions, I understand that our sense of ease and community comes from having our needs met and trusting each other, not from domination by authority. Durham students, especially those in our highschools, contend with domination authority that is armed, immune, and inclined to use physical violence against them...every day that SROs are present in their schools- surveilling, accusing, punishing. There are so many reasons why it is unjust for our children and teenagers to be exposed to an arm of the state who can bring state sanctioned violence against them - whether in the form of physical violence or violence via records in the criminal justice system. WE'VE LOST THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHY THEY WERE IN DPS CUSTODY. Niecey Fennell, rest in power. Jesus Huerta, rest in power. Stop brutalizing our young people and use that money to address the systemic stresses in their, our lives. And I'll say what you can't yet - we all know the children aren't going to be in the buildings in the Fall - there won't be any schools to police. Do something about the children who are struggling for food, clothes, rent right now. Just this past week a couple of DPS students, 7 and 10 years old, told me they're cleaning houses for money for clothes. Our young people do not need discipline. They need to eat. They need to live. They need medicine for their parents. They need counseling because there is so much fighting at home because there is so much stress. Getting the rent paid and for-seeing it paid in the future, getting good food everyday and not doubting that that'll continue- that makes us safe. The insecurity of our lives is rapidly increasing. Do something. "

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2020/06/25 12:49:24 PM AST

**Kevin Choy**

123 Forest Oaks Drive  
Durham, NC, 27705

"I am writing to discuss with the Board the issue of the school-to-prison pipeline which exists in North Carolina as well as in Durham County, and one concrete and actionable step the board can take to combat it. I believe you are familiar with the school-to-prison pipeline, a term for the series of factors which taken together have the effect of removing students prematurely from the education system and leading them into incarceration. This has a tragic effect on our communities and on our youth.

In particular I want to discuss one facet of the school-to-prison pipeline: School Resource Officers (SROs).

- SROs are not trained to seek out and address the underlying needs behind students' misbehavior in an equitable way. They often have little or no training in child and adolescent development and mental health, safe restraint techniques, recognizing signs of trauma or how to work effectively with students with disabilities.
- Studies have found that SROs in schools have not increased the safety of schools, and does not deter students from misbehavior.
- Conversely, the presence of SROs causes harm to our school communities. In particular, school-based arrests increase: the Southern Poverty Law Center points out that students in

schools where SROs are stationed are five times as likely to be arrested than students in schools without SROs- even when controlling for socioeconomic factors- and that these arrests frequently occur for minor infractions.

- Misbehavior in school is often indicative of underlying problems that these children face, which could include stress in their homelife or family, bullying at school, trauma, or other external factors. Misbehavior is often a child's way of crying out for help and guidance, and by equipping schools with SROs instead of individuals trained in child development, we are failing our youth who need us most. Youth who act out in schools are not bad people, and they are not criminal adults. They are youth who need care, understanding, empathy and guidance.

Imagine that instead of an SRO, a trauma-informed therapist was employed to have conversations with students to understand the underlying causes of their behavior and identify confounding factors such as poverty, stress at home, or socioeconomic factors that can be addressed. Now that student, instead of being removed from school and deposited into the criminal justice system, can be connected with appropriate resources, can continue learning along with their peers, and experience personal growth into adulthood as all children should.

For these reasons I ask that the Board cease to allocate funding for School Resource Officers in Durham County and refuse to add funding for any more SRO positions in the future. I do not say that because I think SROs are bad people doing a bad job, I say that because that funding could be more effectively used when allocated to specialists in childhood education and behavior. Removing SROs from our schools and reallocating that funding is an actionable way to dismantle the insidious school-to-prison pipeline. Again, data shows that SROs do not necessarily make schools safer, so let's allocate funding to strategies that can. This is a concrete move which can help our towns stop failing our children and start nurturing safer, happier, healthier communities.

Thank you again for all the work that you do, and I appreciate your time. "

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2020/06/25 12:50:00 PM AST

**Eric Bost**

448 Northside Drive  
Chapel Hill, NC, 27516

"I believe that we need to be focusing on the things which keep kids out of trouble and help them refocus. School counselors, hands on trades and activities, emotional/behavioral support etc. Not more policing which is part of creating the "school to prison" pipeline. Move the funding away from policing!"

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2020/06/25 12:50:13 PM AST

**Eric Ginsburg**

530 Foster Street  
Durham, NC 27701

"As a Durham resident, I implore you to end DPS's relationship with the sheriff's office. Our schools don't need cops, they need counselors and other sorely needed resources. When our schools are so under resourced, it is even more egregious and unacceptable that we spend so much money criminalizing youth of color in particular. Please give this issue the urgent attention it deserves!"

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2020/06/25 12:51:53 PM AST

**Mia Foglesong**

6 Hazen ct  
Durham, NC, 27712

"After all these protests, after all these petitions, after all these years of injustice you still increased the police budget. Can you not see this is not what the people want or need. Everyone says I love Durham. Well I will love Durham when it starts doing what the people want. We aren't "woke" if it means we're still red lining, if SRO's are still in schools, if we don't put in the money to our education systems. Why don't teachers get paid more? When they require more education for the job than police officers. Police have no idea how to de-escalate situations. No amount of money will fix that unless you fix the laws.

This is a hard issue, but start with listening to what the people want. DEFUND THE POLICE AND PUT THAT MONEY INTO COMMUNITIES. "

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2020/06/25 12:54:36 PM AST

**Lucinda Rosen**

12 Greystone Ct  
Durham, NC, 27713

As a student at Jordan high I know from my experiences with 100s of fellow students that the best way to keep high school students safe is to give them as much access to counseling and therapy as possible. Schools already have counselors but they have to support 100+ students per counselor and therefore aren't able to provide every student with truly accessible support that they need. Serious mental health problems in high school are far more common than fights and cause harm to so many more students every day. Furthermore most students that get in

fighters have issues that they aren't able to get help for. DPS students can rarely afford to get psychological help outside of school. Instead of continuing to bring police who are undertrained in de-escalation into schools to punish vulnerable students I propose that DPS expand access to counseling to truly support the needs of its student body.

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2020/06/25 12:54:50 PM AST

**Jay Rahim**

1808 Shiva Ct  
Durham NC 27703

"School Resource Officers should be funded 2.7 million dollars within DPS. This money can be used for more and better counselors and social workers, along with guaranteed college advisors for all schools within DPS."

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2020/06/25 12:57:05 PM AST

**Quynh-Chi Vo**

4703 Carlton Crossing Dr  
27713

Please support the demands of DPS students and graduates by terminating their memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. Thank you.

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2020/06/25 12:58:06 PM AST

**Graham High**

1213 John Jones Rd  
Bahama, NC 27503

"I hope that the school board will do more than pay lip service to the idea of examining the impact of its School Resource Officers and the relationship between DPS and Durham County Office of the Sheriff as it did in the "STATEMENT REGARDING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM AT DPS." I believe that whatever positive impact SROs may have would be easily doubled or tripled by replacing them with counselors and other social service professionals. I am a product of North Carolina public schools, and never once did I feel safer knowing that an SRO was stationed at my school. In my high school of 1,100 students, we had only three guidance counselors, and I'm sure the SRO role could have been eliminated and replaced with

another counselor, even a part-time one, who would have had a greater positive impact on students than a uniformed, armed officer patrolling the halls between classes. I believe it is in the best interest of DPS students that all SROs be removed from Durham Public Schools."

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2020/06/25 12:58:26 PM AST

**Danielle Callahan**

3701 Highgate Drive, Apt F  
Durham, NC 27713

"I'm writing in support of the demands of DPS students and graduates for the termination of the MOU and any further partnerships with the Durham County Sheriff's Department. Public education should be nurtured and funded, not policed. "

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2020/06/25 12:58:38 PM AST

**Béa Mahjoub**

Walnut st  
Cary NC 27511

I support the demands of DPS students and graduates by terminating their memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham country sheriff's department immediately.

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2020/06/25 12:59:08 PM AST

**Noah Byck Mlyn**

1004 W Forest Hills Blvd.  
Durham, NC 27707

"I am a lifelong Durham resident and a graduate of Durham Public Schools. In high school, I hardly noticed the School Resource Officers in the hallways and never directly interacted with them. From that perspective, the idea that SROs are necessary because they may protect students from school shootings may be convincing. But that is only because the presence of SROs came at no cost to me as a white student with class privilege. For Black students, immigrant students, poor or struggling DPS students, the presence of cops in the hallways of school makes what should be a safe place into a place filled with fear, arbitrary hierarchy, and the enduring prospect of state violence and incarceration. The well-being of these DPS students is too important to sacrifice for the sake of a purely theoretical defense against school shooters, especially when there is no evidence that SROs actually make school shootings less likely. The

Board of Education needs to listen to its most vulnerable students and make sure Durham Public Schools truly serves all of Durham by immediately ending its SRO program and any contracts or agreements with the Durham Sheriff Department. "

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2020/06/25 1:00:49 PM AST

**Emma Dunlap**

417 Edward St  
Durham, NC 27701

"I strongly encourage DPS to listen to the voices of their students who are calling for the removal of the police in schools. I am an educator and human would has been upset, sad, confused and angry. I was most helped by having resources to support me like a school counselor, someone who will listen, someone who will check in on me. I was NEVER helped by being punished and yelled at or arrested. Police do NOT KEEP OUR SCHOOLS SAFE. In the way they are set up, police target Black children and students of color. This has got to stop. "

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2020/06/25 1:01:08 PM AST

**Brian Marsh**

Durham NC - 27707  
Durham NC 27707

"Please remove all SRO staff, and all other police presence, from the Durham Public School system. There are enough qualified resources in our county to provide trained and appropriate responses to student needs.

How serious are you, as elected Durham officials, to provide safe educational environments for our children and Durham's future? Remove SRO staff and all police presence from Durham Public Schools, we are serious as voting citizens.

Thanks!  
Brian"

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2020/06/25 1:03:43 PM AST

**Stacy Davis**

360 Allister Dr.  
RALEIGH

Fund counselors and other professionals that will help students instead of hurting them. Police presence in schools disproportionately negatively affects black students and other students of color. Please terminate the memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately.

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2020/06/25 1:04:01 PM AST

**Anna Morris**

10 Running Brook Court  
Durham NC 27713

"Now is the time to listen to the hundreds of voices who are begging for change. We have marched, petitioned, commented, and continually pressed for this small measure, asking you all to recognize the ideological shift of 2020. By continuing to fund oppressive security forces like SROs in public schools, you are sending the outdated message that you have no better ideas for ways to support our students. That you won't vote to remove these officers simply because you have no plan in place if they are not present is lazy and short-sighted. Meanwhile there is data supporting the argument that these officers do nothing to deescalate scenarios in which students in fact need support and intervention from mental health counselors, substance abuse counselors, health and human services advocates, full-time nurses and nutritionists. Imagine if instead of weapons-toting uniformed officers, schools employed a well-rounded fleet of resource interventionists that made students feel supported and cared for rather than threatened and at risk for perpetuating the school to prison pipeline. This is a small step toward dismantling the distrust we have shown students. Your job is to envision a school system in which we can best serve, instruct, and nurture ALL of our students. Do not stay entrenched in the old ways of doing things because you are too frightened, unimaginative, lazy, or tired to reimagine what school support systems look like. SROs in schools send the wrong message. They do not make students feel safer. They make students feel as though you are afraid of them, and that you would rather employ armed officers to intervene and subdue them, than counselors and specialists to support them. Don't have the funds? Discontinue contracts with the sherriff's department and private security. Hire counselors. Start there. Force yourselves to keep this issue at the forefront of your meetings, and keep talking about ways to better serve our students. Do your jobs. "

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2020/06/25 1:07:12 PM AST

**beth Brockman**

1407 Pennsylvania Ave  
Durham

"PLEASE FUND opportunities for ANYTHING OTHER THAN SROs in Durham Public Schools! Both my kids went through DPS, and they benefited greatly from the attention and tending they received from school counselors, school nurses, PE teachers, and other teachers and staff. They also had opportunities to learn about mediation and participate in field days and service projects and after school clubs. PLEASE PLEASE continue to invest in opportunities that REALLY keep our kids safe and to divest from SROs who only help to strengthen to school to prison pipeline. Thank you for your attention to this very important matter!"

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2020/06/25 1:08:13 PM AST

**Meg Chambard**

1800 Country Lane  
Durham, NC 27713

"As a resident of Durham county, I'd like to raise my children in a school district that treats children like the vulnerable gifts that they are. I demand that you, as my representatives listen to the overwhelming requests to remove SRO's from Durham's public schools. Our children don't need police, they need mental health resources and mentors. Invest the money from SROs in programs that actually work!! SROs have got to go!"

---

2020/06/25 1:08:23 PM AST

**Maura Lucy Partrick**

1412 Ruffin st  
Durham, NC, 27701

"With the unjust killings of black and brown people that have taken place not only recently, but since the foundation of this country, I believe it is important for DPS to reassess their partnerships with the Durham county police department. As a 2015 graduate of Jordan high school and a Durham native, I urge DPS to reconsider the role police play in our schools. Instead of providing protection and being a source of safety, they are often responsible for intimidating and abusing students, especially black and hispanic students. Anyone under the age of 18 is a child, a majority of the students in DPS are under 18 and as such deserve to be treated with respect and dignity in a safe and productive way. Regardless of a student's age, school for many can be a safe haven, and allowing officers to continue to intimidate students undermines the essential goals of education which are to prepare children to go into the world and confidently represent themselves and those around them in an accurate and knowledgeable way. I propose that the budget given to the police department be reassessed and the funds put towards more productive and engaging outlets, such as textbooks which were often in poor shape and

outdated, and new methods of technology that allow every student to receive the best education they can possibly receive, regardless of their backgrounds and identities. "

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2020/06/25 1:10:53 PM AST

**Christina Yoo**

5204 Grandhaven Dr

Durham, NC, 27713

Cut down on SRO funding and instead put it towards more important areas such as more mental health counselors and actual nurses that are available during all school hours.

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2020/06/25 1:12:00 PM AST

**Elizabeth (Annie) Maynard**

806 N. Gregson St.

Durham

"I challenge you all to think critically about what real benefits are reaped from having police in schools. The first time I saw someone get tackled by police, it was an SRO in my middle school in Forsyth County. The victim was a black male, only 12 years old. What benefit is there for arresting children? Children whose brains are not fully developed, who often come from broken homes, whose bad behavior can be attributed to a number of things that better funding can help solve—hunger, lack of resources at home, emotional and behavioral issues that could benefit from counseling and/or therapy. What if, instead of investing in police presence in schools, where there is absolutely no benefit to the students they are meant to protect, we invested in counselors, therapists, food programs, after school services, our TEACHERS, any number of things that will be 100x more likely to allow students to see their potential than a police officer will. Who are the police keeping safe? Certainly not the literal children that they are arresting/reprimanding/handcuffing/tackling/traumatizing and forcing into a system that is systemically built against people that lack racial and financial privilege. If you want to create a safer space and a safer world, consider investing in children in a way that doesn't involve policing their behavior. If you actually care about students and their future, consider the infinite ways you could fund them that doesn't involve criminalizing things they often have little control over. Remove SROs from schools and turn your focus on how you can enrich the lives of Durham students, rather than potentially ruin them."

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2020/06/25 1:13:35 PM AST

**Carina L Block**

100 Stratford lakes Dr. 130  
Durham, NC 27713

"Thank you to the task force for working on a plan that will help those most vulnerable. For plan B, since there are likely going to be some students that do not return for either health reasons or reducing risk, is it possible to think of a scenario where HS students with IEP's or unique challenges may have the option for in-school instruction? "

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2020/06/25 1:15:16 PM AST

**Cara Wagner**

1208 Open Air Camp Rd.  
Durham, NC 27712

"Good afternoon. I have been a Durham resident for three years, and I am writing to ask the Board of Education to support the demands of DPS students and graduates by terminating the MOU and any other current or future partnerships with the Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. "

We know that the presence of SROs disproportionately affects Black and Brown students and directs them into the school to prison pipeline. We know that Black and Brown students are more likely to be suspended or expelled. Durham's students deserve better. They deserve to feel safe at school. They deserve to feel supported at school. They deserve not to have a visible reminder of institutional racism in education in their schools every day. They deserve to have counsellors who understand the issues they face in their lives, and mental health resources, and healthy meals, and access to technology, and every one of these things is a better use of the BOE's money than cops in schools.

The students of your community are telling you that DPS's relationship with the police is harming them. Are you listening? Will you do better? Will you show them that you hear them and that you value their lives and success? It is essential that you listen to their demands. "

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2020/06/25 1:15:32 PM AST

**Mike**

123 SomwhereInSouthDurham  
Durham, NC, 27713

"NC is making national news for how poorly our state is handling the pandemic. Limit the spread and keep \*everyone\* at home. Any in-person instruction is safety theater. If half the

kids are in one day and half the next, what's the common denominator? The teacher is present for all of it getting total exposure (and exposing the kids right back). Same for bus drivers and any other faculty. Everyone is indoors in confined space. Kids will take off their masks (if they're even wearing them). What does all of this needless exposure accomplish? Stay home until this is actually under control. No meaningful education (in-person or remote) will take place if the school collectively succumbs to the virus. Senseless optimism and superman thinking is why we are no further along through this now in June than we were back in March."

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2020/06/25 1:15:53 PM AST

**Valerie Soon**

2403 Prince St  
Durham, NC 27707

I support DPS students and alumni in their push to remove police officers from schools. Please terminate any partnership between DPS and the Durham County Sheriff's department.

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2020/06/25 1:16:24 PM AST

**Anthony Board**

3 Hopewell Drive  
Durham, NC, 27705

"As a former DPS student, I doubted the effectiveness of school counselors due to the extremely limited time available to meet with them resulting from the under-resourced student service department. Instead, to make up for the guidance not being provided by the school, my friends and I turned to each other for support. While attempting to have conversations on topics such as drug abuse, our spaces would be invaded by the constantly patrolling resource officers who would require that we change our subject as it related to illegal activity. The constant presence of the sheriff department's resource officers and the lack of access to trained student health professionals lead to these problems going completely unmanaged, and for this reason I demand that DPS terminate its partnership with the sheriff's department and direct more funding towards counselors and student services."

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2020/06/25 1:18:08 PM AST

**James Smith**

6 Brunswick cct  
27705

Please ban school resource officers

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2020/06/25 1:18:59 PM AST

**Damon Williams**

1600 Anderson St, Apt c9  
Durham, NC 27707

"DPS students, residents of Durham and the county are clear: we don't want cops in our schools. Divest and reinvest in much needed supports that don't amount to policing of any kind. "

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2020/06/25 1:20:32 PM AST

**Jacob D Baldrige**

8 Heath Pl  
Durham

"Please vote to cancel DPS' contract with the Durham Sheriff's Department for SROs. There is ample evidence that SROs do not increase school safety, and make school less safe for students of color. "

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2020/06/25 1:21:30 PM AST

**Mary Chapman**

2418 Perkins Rd.  
Durham

"Dear School Board Members,  
I have a rising 10th grader who attends Jordan High School. I am concerned about the possibility of having all high school students be taught via remote learning only. While my son is capable and performs well academically via remote/virtual learning, he misses the social component of school terribly. The social learning and relationships that form and develop during this developmental stage is as important as academics. Please don't relegate all of our high schoolers to on-line learning only. Thank you. "

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2020/06/25 1:21:57 PM AST

**Rose Feinberg**

1018 Virgie St  
Durham, NC 27705

"I am writing to urge you to terminate your MOU with the Durham County Sheriff's Office. Our students - our children - do not need policing. They do not need law enforcement in their places of learning. They need counselors, mental health providers, nurses, and social workers. THIS is where our resources and funding should be directed - and not the police. I urge you to redirect funding accordingly. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment. "

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2020/06/25 1:22:10 PM AST

**Zora deberry**

14 swallows ridge court  
Durham NC 27713

"SROs do absolutely nothing but instill fear into the hearts and minds of those marginalized in this country and in this city, they are completely useless, get rid of them if you care anything for DPS students at. All. "

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2020/06/25 1:23:42 PM AST

**Mitchel J King**

7583 happy hill rd  
Kernersville, NC, 27284

"We should not be providing so much funding to cops. We should be allocating funds elsewhere, mental health professionals such as counselors could benefit. Teachers. Social workers these are some areas that could benefit from a shift in the allocation of funds and would be much more appropriate."

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2020/06/25 1:25:11 PM AST

**Brant Wilkerson-New**

2015 Woodview Drive  
Durham, NC 27704

"As a graduate of DPS who attended Holt, Carrington and Northern, I can say through my experiences that having greater access to counselors and other qualified resources would benefit students far more than law enforcement officers."

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2020/06/25 1:26:08 PM AST

**Leigh Furman**

3817 Chippenham Rd  
Durham NC 27707

"There are no easy answers for Plan B but as the mother of a DPS graduate and 2 current high schoolers, I feel that going 100% virtual for high schoolers will be detrimental for many. From our experience, virtual learning was only successful in the classes where teachers went above and beyond. Established relationships between teachers/students and peers in the classroom were key to those successes. To expect that high schoolers will stay motivated and independently manage their time with academics from home is unrealistic. The percentage of students that drop out of school will almost certainly increase. DPS must shoulder accountability for students by recognizing that for many high schoolers, completing a school year from home is not a remotely viable alternative. This decision will disproportionately affect low-income students and anyone without an adequate space to attend class or complete work. This is a critical time in students' lives where they are making decisions that impact their future and they need support from positive role models and peers. It is our hope that under plan B, high schoolers would return on a modified schedule with a combination of in person classes and virtual learning. "

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2020/06/25 1:28:58 PM AST

**Benjamin Thomas Throckmorton**

4205 Hulon Dr.  
Durham, NC, 27705

"From my time at Jordan High School I can say with certainty that having SROs roam the hallways made me and my peers feel less safe (with the exception of deputy Costa who fostered community support and trust). It adds to the idea that JHS staff & admin do not trust their students, something that I know is fueled in part by prejudice towards black students and students of color. I have never witnessed a white student be approached or apprehended by an SRO, which confirms my belief that the SROs at Jordan disproportionately target, suspect, and instigate black students and students of color (this belief is shared by many of my peers). My counselor on the other hand, Mrs. Rebecca Sullivan, has done a great job of being a student resource for myself and many other students on her roster. Unfortunately, not all counselors

share the same level of respect, trust, and empathy as Mrs. Sullivan- so there are countless students who will continue to be unsupported in the coming years. That can change if student counselors receive the time and support they require, to be better versions of student counselors who view their students as equals instead of belittling them to student ID numbers. If DPS wants students to feel supported, efforts must be made to hire student counselors who are motivated and passionate, and then actually give them the time and resources they require to do their jobs well. SROs are not a part of this equation in providing students with support. Thank You"

---

2020/06/25 1:29:26 PM AST

**Lesly Gonzalez**

511 Cleveland st  
Durham Nc

"we know it is not just  
we don't want the same for us  
but we're willing to let them suffer  
while we sit back nd chase our bucks \$\$  
this is our reality and  
oppression means control  
since our hands are not made of gold  
you'll use them until we fold  
until our heart is only cold  
until our lungs are left with mold  
until our mouth can never hold  
a single word  
could you imagine  
because  
it is  
Black lives  
getting kneeled on by police  
rioting in the streets  
just begging for peace  
I dont want this to be my reality  
but unfortunately it is  
and DPS thinks cops should be in schools with kids  
I mean resource officers  
because that's what we call them right?  
thats what it is  
well when we try to unite and  
lift our voices with pride

Aissa even sent a letter but  
the School Board didn't bat an eye  
Wendy Jacob's wants to leave the movement to die  
so I really hope you hear me  
because We can't breathe  
- Lesly G"

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2020/06/25 1:29:28 PM AST

**Anna wallin**

604 n hyde park ave  
Durham NC 27703

"Please do not use any school funding for police or school resource officers. We need that limited money to provide counseling, special education services, improved nutrition and enriched activities that protect the health of our children and communities. SROs have been documented harming students and escalating conflict similarly to police in public spaces. So many basic needs like teacher supplies still go unfunded or come out of teacher's pockets. This is completely unacceptable. NO more funding police in schools."

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2020/06/25 1:30:02 PM AST

**Lauren Nichols**

15 Spreading Oak Ct  
Durham, NC 27713

"Durham Public Schools needs to terminate their MOU with the Sheriffs Office and remove SROs from our schools, and replace them with social workers, counselors, therapists, and nurses. I participated in the march for black students, along with over 500 other people who share my beliefs, after signing Aissa Dearing's letter which was brushed off and ignored by the school board. Durham Public Schools needs to listen to its community of students, parents, and teachers on this topic and devote themselves to amending school faculties by removing SROs and increasing social workers, counselors, therapists, and nurses, if they truly care for and want the best for their students, as they so claim. These faculty members would have the potential to be more beneficial and helpful to students than any SRO ever could. "

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2020/06/25 1:31:45 PM AST

**Kristina Baldridge**

8 Heath Place  
Durham

"I have recently learned about our DPS' partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department and feel compelled to speak out. I request that you terminate your memorandum of understanding and any partnership with Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. As a mother of a rising first grader in Forest View Elementary, I personally see how strapped our own school is for full-time health and mental health professionals. We do not need sheriff's deputies in any of our schools. There is substantial evidence that SROs do not make schools safer, and in fact cause serious harm to young people, especially Black children. Instead of funding cops in schools, fund more counselors. Thank you."

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2020/06/25 1:33:18 PM AST

**Isabel Young**  
1010 W. Knox St.  
Durham, NC 27701

"Please please please put more money towards our school counselors, nurses, and teachers INSTEAD of funding more cops in our schools!! "

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2020/06/25 1:33:38 PM AST

**Kevin O'Neill**  
1102 N Elizabeth St  
Durham, NC 27701

"I demand that DPS terminates their memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. Having police officers in schools does not significantly reduce behavior problems in students, and in fact can be massively detrimental to the mental health and psychological wellbeing of students, especially Black and brown students that are disproportionately affected by police brutality. Instead, providing counseling and therapy services for students would guide students to develop emotionally and mentally, removing the conditions that make it seem like police officers are necessary. "

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2020/06/25 1:34:11 PM AST

**Patrick Turner**  
20 Cedar Hill Dr

Durham, NC, 27713

I support the termination of agreement between the schools and sheriff. Use the finding for counselors and social workers!

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2020/06/25 1:35:12 PM AST

**Manisha Dubey**

801 East Woodcroft Parkway, 2003

Durham, NC 27713

"I strongly urge the removal of all police presence from DPS. They have a history of unfairly targeting black students for discipline over white students for the same actions. They facilitate the school to prison pipeline. Existing funding for police should be put toward more counselors, mental health professionals, college readiness programs, etc. "

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2020/06/25 1:35:25 PM AST

**Rachel Chapla**

1011 Green Street

27701

"Counselors contribute to students' safety, personal growth and development, preparation for their futures, and ability to learn and thrive at school. Cops at schools target Black and Brown students, escalate situations, and don't keep anyone safe. Terminate your partnership with the Durham sheriff's department. "

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2020/06/25 1:37:58 PM AST

**America Juarez Maldonado**

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"I grew up attending Durham Public Schools and noticed that there is a lack of resources schools around my neighborhood did not receive. I, as a student, had to take extra steps to better my education. For example, I attended Neal Middle School (2012-2015) and remembered going to school and seeing sheriffs walking around; I felt like I wasn't in school and didn't feel safe. Middle school is where students are starting to develop more and are mainly going through puberty, they are only students who need psychologists, nurses, and resources

to help them, not making them fear their education. Taking them out of the school will only do good to students who want an education and using the money to better our public school system, especially now, more than ever, students fear them, they are afraid, so do the right thing, and make use of your positions to help the students. "

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2020/06/25 1:38:31 PM AST

**Sophie Lowry**

1301 Watts St.

Durham, NC 27701

"I recently graduated from Durham School of the Arts, and I have attended Durham Public Schools since Pre-K. In my experience, counselors were always overwhelmed, responsible for far too many students. On occasions when I wanted to see the school nurse, it was always on the wrong days, as the nurse was only at my schools once or twice a week. Resources need to be reallocated from funding Student Resources Officers(SROs) to support counselors, social workers, nurses, and other important roles in schools that can de-escalate student issues. I believe this is how we can make our schools a safer, healthier place where more students can thrive. "

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2020/06/25 1:38:53 PM AST

**Sally Stark-Dreifus**

1501 Alabama Ave

Durham, NC, 27705

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"Please terminate your memorandum of understanding and any partnership with Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. We do not need sheriff's deputies in our schools. There is substantial evidence that SROs do not make schools safer, and in fact cause serious harm to young people, especially Black children. Instead of funding cops in schools, fund more counselors.""

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2020/06/25 1:39:03 PM AST

**Sara Mason**

2813 Dogwood Rd

Durham, NC

"As a Durham resident, I am writing in support of the current proposals to reduce police presence in the form of SROs from DPS and instead invest those resources in nurses, councilors, and social workers who are trained in deescalation and could better serve the needs of our students. Keeping students out of the criminal justice system and guiding them to deal with difficult issues in a more constructive way is so important, and aligns much better with Durham's values than the current system of criminalizing students. "

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2020/06/25 1:39:18 PM AST

**Alexandra Ferrari**  
1608 Glendale Ave  
Durham, NC, 27701

"Please terminate your memorandum of understanding and any partnership with Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. We do not need sheriff's deputies in our schools. There is substantial evidence that SROs do not make schools safer, and in fact cause serious harm to young people, especially Black children. Instead of funding cops in schools, fund more counselors."

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2020/06/25 1:43:38 PM AST

**Madison N. Garcia**  
632 Glen Hollow Drive  
Durham, NC 27705

"I wish to strongly encourage you to heed the demands of DPS students and graduates by terminating your MOU and any semblance of partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately.

We have reached a long overdue moment of national reckoning w/ sustained police brutality towards Black and Brown bodies, and are waking up to the state/city/county-sanctioned violence that is the policing arm of white supremacy.

Collectively, we will be remembered in this moment for our silence, our hesitancy, or resistance to the action that is demanded of us as we work towards liberation.

I trust that you will act in the best interest of Durham's citizens—specifically, its youngest citizens—and those who've been harmed and/or silenced by a system that has been designed to provide everything but protection and service to them and their families.

This is what's required of this moment. The time for incremental progress is no longer. If the Board of a metropolis like Minneapolis (while embroiled in flames) can terminate its contract with police, Durham can surely summon the same courage.

Your move. Our students, their families, teachers, administrators, and staff are hanging in the balance.

Sincerely,  
Madison N. Garcia  
Proud Durham Resident  
"

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2020/06/25 1:43:49 PM AST

**Suzie Dollar**  
3517 Sheridan Drive  
Durham

"All students need at least a day or two at a school building where they can interact with other humans. It is unhealthy for their social development to have no face to face contact. All of this to be done safely as possible, distancing and mask wearing. Also, please consider setting up temporary trailers for overflow space so that more students can be on campus at one time. I'm thinking about the sort they use at schools when they are overcrowded."

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2020/06/25 1:46:59 PM AST

**Colleen Pesci**  
1119 Iredell St apt 5  
Durham, NC 27705

"Please please take police out of schools. Fill those spots with social workers, nurses and counselors. It's hard being a kid. Don't make it impossible. "

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2020/06/25 1:48:20 PM AST

**Jen Hubbard**  
304 Newsom Street  
Durham, NC 27704

"Please divert funds from police officers in schools to providing more counselors and nurses to students! Students need access to mental health resources, not police!"

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2020/06/25 1:50:21 PM AST

**Bethany Bash**

4 Osage Place  
Durham, NC, 27712

"Listen to your students and your graduates! I am the mother of a DPS student and do not want SRO's in Durham Public Schools. It causes harm. Please terminate your memorandum of understanding, and any other partnerships, with the Durham County Sheriff's department. Money needs to be allocated to counselors, not cops."

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2020/06/25 1:51:05 PM AST

**Mary Beth Brandt**

121 W Trinity Ave  
Durham, NC. 27701

"Please terminate your memorandum of understanding and any partnership with Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. We do not need sheriff's deputies in our schools. There is substantial evidence that SROs do not make schools safer, and in fact cause serious harm to young people, especially Black children. Instead of funding cops in schools, fund more counselors."

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2020/06/25 1:51:49 PM AST

**Khalif Hakim Stsallah Ruebin**

1636 Greenbriar Road  
Durham, NC 27701

Stop Having Police in Public Schools

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2020/06/25 1:52:32 PM AST

**Elizabeth Figgie**

1003 Berkeley St.  
Durham, NC 27705

"Please listen to your students, who are not only asking for different resources and a safer environment, but who are also showing clearly how to make those changes happen. Give them the access to the mental and health care professionals they are asking for and get rid of the SROs they have identified as a hindrance. Time to make changes. "

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2020/06/25 1:57:33 PM AST

**Samuel**

1018 gloria ave  
Durham, NC, 27701

Let's take the insane police funding and allow the arts to exist!

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2020/06/25 1:58:32 PM AST

**Adam Pyburn**

1608 Glendale Ave 27701  
Durham

"Please terminate your memorandum of understanding and any partnership with Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. Instead of funding cops in schools, fund more counselors, teachers, and school nurses."

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2020/06/25 2:01:16 PM AST

**Brian Vannah**

801 E Woodcroft Pkwy  
Durham, NC, 27713

"We should be putting our money towards counselors, not police. Durham students do not benefit from police in and around schools, but they would benefit greatly from increased counseling and support. We ought to terminate the memorandum of understanding and any partnerships between DPS and the Durham County Sheriff's Department, immediately. "

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2020/06/25 2:03:15 PM AST

**Benton wise**

2317 Englewood Avenue  
Durham NC 27705

"Keep SROs in school while giving schools more funds for counselors. Over a three year period, wean the support from SROs to counselors. "

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2020/06/25 2:05:43 PM AST

**Beau borek**

1811 Northgate St  
Durham NC 27704

"As a resident of Durham and an employee of Durham public schools, I urge the Board of Education to eliminate SROs from all schools and end the relationship between DPS and DPD. Direct those funds toward more social workers, counselors, and better wages for DPS employees. The health and safety for students is only preserved through restorative practices, not through punitive measures, force, and criminalization. Remove SROs. Defund police. "

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2020/06/25 2:07:26 PM AST

**Meghna Mahadevan**

211, House FF, Few Quad, 420 Chapel Drive  
Durham, NC 27708

Support mental health and social work in schools.

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2020/06/25 2:08:27 PM AST

**Jessica Williams**

1600 Anderson Street, Apt. C9  
27707

"I support the demands of DPS students and graduates in regards to terminating any relationship with the Durham County Sherrif's department. We need to get cops OUT OF SCHOOLS. They must be replaced with counselors and other support staff who can actually work effectively with CHILDREN. As an educator, I have personally witnessed the destructive

impact of a police presence in a school. Enough is enough. "

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2020/06/25 2:08:54 PM AST

**Jordan Diamond**

101 Wannamaker Drive  
Durham, NC 27708

"I urge you to support the demands of DPS students and graduates by terminating any relationships with the Durham County Sheriff's Department and Durham Police immediately. Policing in public schools only enforces the school-to-prison pipeline, and doesn't allow for the safe and comfortable education of Durham students."

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2020/06/25 2:09:41 PM AST

**Jessica Williams**

1600 Anderson Street, Apt. C9  
27707

"I support the demands of DPS students and graduates in regards to terminating any relationship with the Durham County Sherrif's department. We need to get cops OUT OF SCHOOLS. They must be replaced with counselors and other support staff who can actually work effectively with CHILDREN. As an educator, I have personally witnessed the destructive impact of a police presence in a school. Enough is enough. "

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2020/06/25 2:10:56 PM AST

**Shealah Cocherell**

323 W Main St  
Durham, NC, 27701

Fund counselors not cops

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2020/06/25 2:11:21 PM AST

**Lisa Miller**

PO Box 1189

Durham NC 27702

Please take policing out of schools - invest in students and their mental health.

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2020/06/25 2:11:55 PM AST

**Matt Trower**

1753 Morehead Ave  
Durham NC 27707

"DPS students have spoken. Listen to them! The presence of policing at our schools in the form of SROs directly causes harm to our students, most acutely for black youth. Please terminate the contract with the police and instead fund the services our students are pleading for: counselors! Help our youth thrive instead of subjecting them to terror and the threat of violence from police in their place of learning. This is your chance to do the right thing. "

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2020/06/25 2:13:33 PM AST

**Caroline Moseley**

509 Soaring St  
Mcleansville NC 27301

"Cops were placed in schools as a way to prevent school shootings after columbine, but since their placement have stopped 0 school shootings and instead are tools used to criminalize black and brown youth creating a school to prison pipeline. There are people who are more highly qualified to work with children and teens like guidance counselors and social workers or people in community trained roles "

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2020/06/25 2:14:02 PM AST

**Béa Mahjoub**

Walnut st  
Cary NC 27511

I support the demands of DPS students and graduates by terminating their memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham country sheriff's department immediately.

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2020/06/25 2:15:14 PM AST

**Samara Airy Perez Labra**

511 Cleveland St  
Durham, NC

"instead of having SRO's in school, put in more counselors!!!"

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2020/06/25 2:15:41 PM AST

**Jennifer Salomé**

3308 Swansea St  
Durham NC 27707

Support the demands of DPS students and grads by terminating their memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham County Sheriffs department immediately!!

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2020/06/25 2:16:14 PM AST

**Kimberly O'Brien**

216 Pennsylvania Ave  
Asheville NC 28806

"I Am a 25 year old white Durham native who went to DPS K-12, as did my siblings, my dad, his parents, etc. My mom was a DPS teacher for 18 years. The need for SRO in schools does not exist. The damage that officers have on schooling is severe. Only 12 out of 50 states mandate using SROs in public schools so clearly they are not necessary, but instead a choice. Cops are not trained to work with kids / youth. We should move towards something that aligns with the defund/ abolish police movement, which would mean we funnel money into actual education / school resources, and use community leaders / guidance counselors who are trained in deescalation. Cops do the opposite of providing safety in schools, and actually make life far more dangerous for minorities by propelling the classroom to courtroom track, which disproportionately affects POC. Officers were put in schools after Columbine to prevent school shootings, which are occurring at a larger rate than ever before, and instead of having any positive effect on school shootings, they have become a tool to criminalize black and brown children in the school to prison pipeline. Officers would also follow students off school campus, then use the activity as something punishable within school line, like suspension. Following kids out of school for leaving school to prevent them from coming back by getting them in trouble.... circus moves. The decision making MUST improve. Do not allow a racist Institution that is taking the largest chunk of money out of any other budgeting sector and taking money

from education inside of our schools. Thank you. "

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2020/06/25 2:17:02 PM AST

**Nicole Pires**

4325 lazyriver drive  
Durham nc 27712

My concerns on phase B is.. How are students in high school with IEP's and 504's going to be learning? What are they doing with electives? My daughter's pathway is Vet Tech at Northern.

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2020/06/25 2:17:31 PM AST

**Hannah Ferrell**

5031 Lansdowne Drive  
Durham, NC 27712

Take sheriffs out of schools. A school is no place for law enforcement. Fund counselors in schools not police.

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2020/06/25 2:18:15 PM AST

**Megan Bowser**

122 Hillside Ave  
Durham, NC 27707

"My name is Megan Bowser. I am a resident of Durham and parent of a DPS student.

The School Board must end the partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's department immediately. Redirect your efforts toward supporting our children's education and wellbeing by funding school counselors. It is your responsibility to improve the learning environments for our students and teachers.

As Angela Davis said, "Safety, safe guarded by violence, is not really safety." Policing in schools does not create safety for Black children. Children can't learn and thrive if they are not in safe environments where their needs, physically and emotionally, are met.

Now is the time to build structures of community care, safety, and racial equity. You must do that work within the School Board.

Act now to build a school system that works for all children and protects the safety of Black children. End your partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's department."

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2020/06/25 2:19:43 PM AST

**Grace Lumpkin**

506 Mare Court  
Bahama, NC 27503

"After 13 years in the Durham Public School system, I believe funding counselors and support systems for students should be the most important goal DPS has. Having law enforcement on campus makes many students feel less safe than they would otherwise, which makes their presence less effective. I have seen this fear first hand. I understand that the police are meant to protect students, but that is based on the assumption that all cops protect people. At this time, I strongly encourage DPS to make a real effort to find alternative safety strategies. Ones that make kids feel less like criminals and more like human beings. "

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2020/06/25 2:19:53 PM AST

**Piper King**

2901 Gretmar Drive  
Durham, NC 27705

"The motto on the North Carolina SRO Survey is "Police. Teach. Support." The fact that these are law enforcement officers means they are only truly trained and designed to do that first thing: police. When students and people think of the word police they do not think safety, they do not think life, they do not think of education or support. We are perpetuating the school to prison pipeline for young people in Durham County with the continued presence of SROs in schools. Social workers, nurses, teachers and fellow students are the ones who take on teaching and supporting. Put money into the communities, the classrooms and schools, and actual support systems designed for children. Brave students and former students have expressed their feelings clearly and I support them. The message: If we want children in Durham to feel and be safe and supported then SROs have got to go. "

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2020/06/25 2:20:10 PM AST

**Kelly Adams**

106 Wendover Lane

Durham, NC 27713

"I encourage you to develop a modified Plan B using more precautions that other countries use, like plexiglass separations at individual desks, to allow high school students to return to at least a blend of in-person and online instruction. Although it seems counterintuitive, the data so far do not support schools as hot spots or children being primarily responsible for transmission, when looking at data from child care centers that were kept open this spring in New York and at schools around the world that have re-opened. The consequences of 100% online learning for high schoolers will be profound, and particularly devastating for the performing arts. Speaking as a parent of a college-bound student with unrestricted device access and a strong internet connection, online learning just did not work. "

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2020/06/25 2:21:19 PM AST

**Isabel Bors**  
832 Wilkerson Ave  
27701

"As a resident of Durham, I support the demands of DPS students and alumni to terminate the MoU and any partnership with the Durham Police Department immediately. Instead of allowing more funding and power to go to the police in schools, who ultimately hinder students' ability to flourish in a learning environment, we should invest in mental health resources, arts & music programs, salaries & supplies for teachers, and other programs to support students' well-being and dignity. No student should have to attend a school at which they feel criminalized, surveilled, or afraid. Support Durham students by funding counselors, not cops."

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2020/06/25 2:21:23 PM AST

**Kenny Phelps-McKeown**  
27 Bermouth Ct  
Durham, NC 27705

"The School Board needs to end their partnership with the Sherriff's Office immediately. I spent my entire childhood in Dueham Public Schools. Law enforcement officers do not keep our schools safe. LEOs in schools facilitate the criminalization of young people whose perceived behavioral problems would be much better served by social workers, counselors, and other professionals trained to help instead of police."

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2020/06/25 2:21:42 PM AST

**Jack Eaton leinbach**

1111 North Gregson St  
Durham, NC, 27701

"Get rid of school resource officers. I was a DPS student not 5 years ago, and the fear that they impose upon students is not appropriate for kids of that age. As someone now working in education, I see that SROs are actually not necessary (the district I work in now does not have them) and really only show laziness on the part of Durham public schools. The problems that they deal with are social, not criminal, and these problems should not be treated as such. The fact that DPS schools still employs POLICE OFFICERS to deal with 15- and 16- year old social problems is embarrassing and weak. Thank you. "

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2020/06/25 2:23:22 PM AST

**Lindsay Kivel**

8 Wythebrook Ln  
Durham

Please take SROS out of our schools!

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2020/06/25 2:23:32 PM AST

**Rachel Barron**

1009 N Caldwell St  
Charlotte NC 27713

"As someone that grew up in Durham Public Schools, I was used to interacting with officers at school my entire life. But I witnessed instances of escalation and targeting of black and brown children far more than I witnessed these officers actually helping. Officers have no place in schools because they have no training with children- they simply funnel minority children into the judicial system and instill fear in children in an environment that is supposed to be safe. As an ER nurse, I work with many children and I never call the police to handle them or the situation that they/their families are in. I page social work and ask for a psychiatry consult if needed so that these children can express themselves, receive resources that they need, and receive treatment if needed. Providing social services to these children is far more important than officers that taunt children and escalate situations. These children deserve more guidance counselors, social workers that aren't stretched thin between multiple schools, and nurses that are on site every day of the week because these roles all require extensive training with children and therapeutic communication that can result in better outcomes. I urge you to make a bold move like Denver Public Schools and end officers in our schools. I urge you to use this

budget to provide these kids with trained personnel to help them. Our community needs this move. All eyes on you. Thank you. "

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2020/06/25 2:24:03 PM AST

**Skylar Gudasz**

700 E Ellerbee St  
Durham, NC 27704

"Please listen and take seriously the concerns of students. We don't need police in schools. We need to stop criminalizing children and instead work to get them and teachers the support they need outside of a militarized, armed police force that, systemically, does more harm than good. No police in schools. "

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2020/06/25 2:24:17 PM AST

**Juliana Avery**

511 Cleveland St  
Durham, NC, 27707

"I urge you to rethink how you're investing in Durham students by taking police out of schools and putting that money towards more counselors, social workers, and psychologists who are trained to de-escalate student situations in a safer and more productive way. Please discontinue your involvement with the Durham Sheriff's Department. Policing in schools reinforces racist and classist policies that result in unnecessary suspensions and legal charges. Please prioritize students and their well being by halting policing in schools and investing in professionals like counselors, social workers, and psychologists. Thank you."

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2020/06/25 2:25:16 PM AST

**Nicholas Graber-Grace**

1809 Glendale Ave  
Durham

"Good Evening. As a member of the Durham Association of Educators, I am deeply concerned about the uncertainty and risks that we face as a community entering next school year. Students and parents are rightfully concerned about the implications of social isolation and the difficulties of trying to learn remotely from home. School staff is rightfully concerned both about the risks we would be asked to take on during in person learning, and about the extreme

increase in our workload required as we guide and manage students through online learning. All of us are concerned about the spread of COVID-19, and the risks related to trying to hold school in person on a regular basis for each student.

Strong arguments can be made that Elementary school should be in person. Strong arguments can be made that High School students need face time with each other and with their teachers. Strong arguments can be made that the risks of community spread do not justify the benefits of holding in person school at all. And strong arguments can be made that we simply cannot, as a community, pause the learning and development of our students for so long, and so we have to find the best possible way forward.

In my view whatever this Board decides tonight has to be thought of as an initial proposal, subject to the changing conditions on the ground when we get to August. We cannot lock ourselves into a plan that is rigid and inflexible. We point you to the results of our staff survey on re-entry, which we shared with the Task Force and the Board of Education, as a signal about how educators are thinking about this. The comments in particular are illustrative.

Whatever happens, I ask this Board and DPS Administration put a strong plan in place to take attendance and maintain average daily membership of our enrollment numbers for this school year. State funding and allotment of positions for each school will be determined by how well we do that, and in order to meet student needs in this unique and stressful time, we will need all the human resources we can get, whether to support students in person or remotely. "

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2020/06/25 2:25:27 PM AST

**Elizabeth Teka**

511 Cleveland street  
Durham, NC, 27703

"DPS, please listen to your students when we say we feel unsafe with SROs. I feel like if we can't cover basic needs in our schools, like counselors and psychologists, then in what right does DPS have to keep SROs? When I walk in to school and I see an SRO, I feel unsafe. I feel tense. School should be a place of safety for me, so why is it not?"

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2020/06/25 2:25:50 PM AST

**Nancy Holliman**

119 W. Lynch St.  
Durham NC 27701

"Please terminate your memorandum of understanding and any partnership with Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. We do not need sheriff's deputies in our schools. There is substantial evidence that SROs do not make schools safer, and in fact cause serious harm to young people, especially Black children. Instead of funding cops in schools, fund more counselors. Thank you."

---

2020/06/25 2:25:54 PM AST

**Emily Hill**

125 East Lynch Street  
Durham

"I've been increasingly troubled by the growing number of police officers in schools -- and the coding of those police officers as "resource officers" is sickening. This increase in police officers has been on a parallel track with reduction in counselors, librarians, and teachers of electives that are critical to student well-being and success. Please terminate your partnership with Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. We do not need sheriff's deputies in our schools. There is no substantive evidence that SROs make schools safer. Conversely, they cause serious harm to young people, especially Black children. If DPS, Durham County, and the City of Durham truly believe in equity and racial justice for all citizens, we would remove SROs from our schools and invest that savings in counselors, teachers, and programs that support all students' success!"

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2020/06/25 2:27:49 PM AST

**Peter Cho**

5203 Sweeney Drive  
Durham, NC, 27705

Defund police and fund counselors and mental health advisors.

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2020/06/25 2:28:52 PM AST

**Gabriel Fox-Peck**

500 Watts St  
Durham, NC, 27701

Cut School Resource Police Officers from DPS! They are unnecessary and set a horrible example that the constant threat of violence and surveillance is necessary for a school community to be

safe (from itself).

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2020/06/25 2:28:56 PM AST

**Grayson Harvey**

1016 Burch Ave

Durham

"Dear Superintendent Mubenga, Chairman Lee, and School Board Members,

I'm writing to urge the Durham Public Schools Board of Education to immediately terminate its Memorandum of Understanding and discontinue any partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department. Aissa Dearing raised this issue in early June and thousands of Durham residents signed a letter to express support. Since then many more people have taken to the streets to demonstrate their commitment to students' self-determination, and to continue to encourage DPSBD to end partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department.

The money used to pay SROs could be re-allocated to hiring conflict resolution and emotional skills professionals. Imagine if young people were given the opportunity to learn more about how to best care for their own mental and emotional health. Imagine if young people were given space and tools to manage trauma and process difficult experiences instead of being punished for existing.

There are many useful techniques from disciplines such as Nonviolent Communication, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, mindfulness, Interpersonal Family Systems Therapy, and other skillsets that could greatly benefit young people.

I encourage DPSBD to collaborate further with DPS students. Young people have just as much right to determine their own needs as the adults who claim to serve them. Give students the power to decide for themselves what would be most beneficial to their education and wellness.

Lastly, shout out to the students and young people. I can't wait to live in the world y'all design! Please never forget your unstoppable power, your innate compassion, your endless beauty, your expansive multi-dimensionality, and your infinite ability to transform.

In Gratitude & Solidarity,  
Grayson Harvey"

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2020/06/25 2:29:51 PM AST

**Alec Greenwald**  
1808 Pritchard Place  
Durham, NC, 27707

"After nearly 10 years of being a public school teacher in 3 different states and 2 different countries, I can unequivocally tell you that I've never once needed to call a traditional community resource officer or school administrator into my classroom. I can tell you however, without reservation, that my students experienced challenges squarely connected to racism and poverty every single day in all of my classes. Admittedly I did not teach math, but based on my personal sample size and my loose understanding of economics, the benefits have not outweighed the costs of continuing to fund CRO positions in our schools. Finally, I am a DPS parent and so much of my orientation is informed by that identity. Based on my experiences as an educator, the bold moves that I am seeing from other school districts around the country, and my faith in y'all as a body, I feel really confident that my kids won't have to conflate their school experience with the "crime and punishment" culture that they so often see perpetuated by officers in uniforms. "

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2020/06/25 2:30:33 PM AST

**Tina Hayes**  
1900 Winkler Road  
Durham, NC 27712

"If you want to make Durham better, now is the time to listen. DPS has the responsibility to create opportunities for our young people to learn, grow and become humans that we want to be a part of our society. When there are cops in schools, but no counselors - students are learning the live with fear, frustration of not being heard and understood and not gaining the tools they need to be successful in this life. As members of the School Board, don't you want these students to be equipped with confidence, hope and determination both in themselves and to create change and better our community? I understand the need for police in our city, but our schools should be a place that youth feel safe and cared for. And if you are listening, this is not how they feel. Be PROACTIVE instead of reactive and terminate partnership with the Durham Sheriffs Department. Now is the time. Use your power to give the students what they deserve - social workers, psychologists, and counselors... not cops. "

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2020/06/25 2:32:09 PM AST

**Kade O'Connor**  
1 Vauxhall Pl  
Durham, NC 27517

"Our schools need resources, not school resource officers which largely contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline. Remove SROS and reutilize the funding towards counselors, healthy meals, after-school programs, better teacher pay, and other things students need but aren't getting enough of."

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2020/06/25 2:34:41 PM AST

**Leah Mahony**

101 E. Markham Ave  
Durham, NC 27701

"I am writing to request that Durham Public Schools end their partnership with Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. There is no place for the sheriff's deputies in our schools. In fact, there is substantial evidence that SROs do not make schools safer. Their presence causes serious harm to young people, especially Black children and adolescents. Instead of funding these deputies, I request funding for more counselors, social workers, and teachers who can support students' health and development. As a North Carolina teacher (and former DPS teacher) I found that my school's counselors, social workers, and support teachers provided amazing support to my students but there were not enough of them. Thank you for your consideration."

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2020/06/25 2:35:04 PM AST

**Hayley Bigelow**

2903 Heathcroft Ct  
Charlotte, NC 28269

"As a JHS alumni and teacher in GCS, I want to urge DPS to eliminate police presence in their schools. As a teacher I have witnessed circumstances which we deem essential for student resource officers to handle and I am convinced someone else could do it better. The name student resource officer is misleading. Students do not approach and go to officers for resources. Officers are there to conduct security walks/checks, monitor the conducting of searches, and to offer advice to principals on when and when not to press charges. We could invest heavier in security measures for the school buildings and alert officers when their presence is necessary. We already allow guidance counselors and principals to conduct searches. And we shouldn't be pressing charges on any minor for non violent crimes while they are at school. We should be taking into consideration their home life and how to help them during the most important time in their adolescent developmental time. Officers are not necessary in schools and only escalate situations which need to be de-escalated. Teachers and other staff members are first responders. We have phones and can call for back up. We are

trained multiple times a year on how to handle emergencies of all types. Police need to be removed from schools immediately and funds reallocated to better help our student populations. "

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2020/06/25 2:35:36 PM AST

**Jennifer Weed Sosensky**

1708 Rosedale Ave

Durham, NC 27707

"Please terminate your memorandum of understanding and any partnership with Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. We do not need sheriff's deputies in our schools. There is substantial evidence that SROs do not make schools safer, and in fact cause serious harm to young people, especially Black children. Instead of funding cops in schools, fund more counselors and school social workers."

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2020/06/25 2:35:58 PM AST

**Martha Figuerado**

11 Greystone Ct.

Durham

"In my elementary separate-setting classroom, every adult is at high-risk for contracting COVID-19. Due to the needs of our students, it is impossible for us to implement social distancing protocols. I am requesting a DPS staff-wide survey similar to the staff survey in Wake County. Our district must take into account the needs and concerns of its employees. DPS shows they value employees in many ways. In the midst of this challenging situation, requesting input from staff about their health concerns, family situations, protective measures, and student needs should be part of the district's considerations. Thank you!"

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2020/06/25 2:37:05 PM AST

**Julia Tyler**

19 Indigo Creek Trail

Durham, NC 27712

"I am a full-time working single mom of a toddler. I'm making time in the middle of a pandemic -again, as a single mom of a two year old who is working full time- to write this letter. I hope you will grant me due consideration, as this is a sacrifice financially and emotionally for me to

make time for this sort. I'm doing it because I know 99% of the other parents with young children in a pandemic cannot.

I am writing because I am concerned about the money we are allocating towards youth detention centers and the cost of putting police in DPS. I am also concerned about our whole state's compensation for teachers. Teachers don't need to make a ton of money, but currently, they make so little that many talented teachers cannot afford to live out their vocation in NC. Also, our children, our most vulnerable, are going to grow up with poor public education because of this. What will it be like to live in a society 10 years from now with people who had under-resourced schooling, education, and therefore, opportunities? I'd imagine more crime. So then more police?

I'm sure you already have considered the future in many respects, but I wonder if you'd be willing to again consider the long term impact this year's budget will have. Money like this reflects our priorities and creates our future society. This budget matters so much because it impacts the very lives, careers, homes, children, and jobs that our city will have years from now. This budget is the difference between youth growing up to live in prisons verses growing up to become contributing members of our society.

I'm aware everything is political, and everyone has reasons for doing what they think is best. However, I ask you deciders to make a decision not based in fear. Fear makes us live small lives. In this case, a fearful budget could make others live smaller lives too.

Thank you in advance for your (re)consideration.

"

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2020/06/25 2:37:48 PM AST

**Mailande Moran**

901 N. Mangum St.

Durham NC 27701

"The Durham community is demanding that DPS end its MOU with the Sheriff's office and get police out of our schools. They don't keep kids safe; they just begin the harassment and discrimination that Black people face even earlier than usual. Our city's children, and all children, deserve better."

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2020/06/25 2:38:02 PM AST

**A.yoni Jeffries**

511 Cleveland St  
NC

"Progress is necessary. Growth and expansion are necessary now. Please hear the voices of our youth and understand their perspectives. We are the leaders of today and we deserve to be acknowledged and a part of the transformation we're demanding. In our schools, and in our communities."

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2020/06/25 2:39:04 PM AST

**Sarah Jeffries**  
110 Higbee Street  
Durham, NC 27704

Please please please do what's right for our kids and invest in resources rather than police personnel for schools. Police don't make kids safer. Police don't help children who need support - counselors not cops! Listen to citizens and use our tax dollars for good.

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2020/06/25 2:41:54 PM AST

**Cara August**  
8027 Sundance Cir  
Durham NC 27713

"No cops on our schools! Fund full-time counselors, nurses, and specialists!"

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2020/06/25 2:44:50 PM AST

**Kat Pontion**  
nope  
nope

"As a white cis woman, there was a time when I thought police protected me and my community. Through my own self-led education I have realized that yes, they do protect me and ONLY ME AS A WHITE WOMAN. Police exist to protect property/white wealth and white women. As a white woman - I do not need or want their protection. In my work to dismantle my internalized white supremacy I have learned that I can lean on my COMMUNITY to keep me safe and that the real threat to the safety of my Black and brown loved ones is the police state.

Time is up, y'all! Policing is rooted in slavery and white supremacy and y'all know this! SROs do not keep students safe. Terminate the MOU, redistribute those available funds to invest in programs and services that support the health and wellbeing of students - decided by students! We are watching - you must take decisive action now."

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2020/06/25 2:45:18 PM AST

**Kat Pontus**

nah

nah

terminate the MOU. fuck the police. get SROs out of schools!

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2020/06/25 2:46:06 PM AST

**Kat Shor**

no

no

we are your constituents and we do not want SROs in schools! we demand the immediate termination of ANY AND ALL policing in schools.

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2020/06/25 2:46:27 PM AST

**Hannah Ontiveros**

803 Lancaster St.

Durham NC 27701

"support the demands of dps students and graduates by terminating your memorandum of understanding and any other partnerships with the Durham county sherrif's department immediately. Cops in schools make students feel less safe to the detriment of a productive learning environment. Cops in schools increase the vulnerability of BIPOC students and eat up resources that should go to people who are better qualified and equipped to meet students' needs, like counselors. There should be no cops in Durham public schools. "

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2020/06/25 2:46:47 PM AST

**Stephanie Hughes**

511 Cleveland St

Durham, NC

"My name is Stephanie Hughes and I am a DPS teacher. I stand alongside DPS students like Aissa Dearing and Elijah King in demanding the DPS Board of Education follow in the footsteps of cities like Minneapolis, Portland, OR, Denver, and San Francisco in ending DPS's MOU with the Durham County Sheriff's department. The people in our community want change, over 500 of us marched to demand safer schools for our students.

Cops in our schools don't keep our students safer, but school counselors, social workers, and nurses who are trained specifically in responding to student crises DO. The district has goals and addendums in its Strategic Plan to hire more counselors and to adopt policies that serve to keep students safe. The district is also still paying the Sheriff's department millions of dollars. This is not the type of investment that will truly benefit and support our students. This is not the type of policy and investment that will keep our students safe and help us accomplish the goals laid out in the Strategic Plan.

If we believe, as a district, that we have done our jobs as teachers, administrators, and support staff to properly educate our students, then we **MUST NOW LISTEN TO THEM** when they tell us what they need and want in order to keep themselves safe. They do not feel protected by SROs (because they aren't). These are not the people they need in buildings to support them in times of need. They need school counselors, social workers and nurses in their schools **ALL DAY, EVERYDAY**. We owe it to them to invest our already underfunded budgets in ways that serve them best. You cannot continue to aid and abet the school-to-prison pipeline. You have the power to dismantle it. You have the opportunity to show how valuable and powerful our students' voices really are. "

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2020/06/25 2:48:25 PM AST

**Michelle Durango Lopez**

1035 slateworth drive

Durham, NC 27703

"As a citizen of Durham City and County I demand for the immediate termination of the MOU with Sheriff's Office thereby removing SROs from all DPS schools. I say this on behalf of myself and the other 500+ concerned children and citizens who Marched for Black Students on 6.13.2020.

It is easy to see the mental and physical threat that Black and Brown (BIPoC & LGBTQI+) students are faced with when Resource Officers are present in and around our schools. Once this force of oppression is removed we can then invest the tax dollars into the children by providing better pay and more presence of mental health and guidance resources to students

and other forms of real support. Thank you for listening. "

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2020/06/25 2:48:35 PM AST

**Jeana Routh**

2609 Highland Ave  
Durham, NC 27704

"Looking at the science around groups of any size in indoor spaces for extended periods of time, there seems to be no safe way to conduct school in person, especially given our alarming trends recently. I don't have any good ideas or solutions, but I urge the board to focus on distance learning as if it will be the only viable option for school this fall, so you won't be unprepared if that turns out to be the case. We can't risk the lives of our community if there are alternatives."

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2020/06/25 2:51:02 PM AST

**Jane Leer**

1113 Gurley St. Apt A  
Durham, NC, 27701

"I'm writing to ask that you fund more counselors and nurses in schools, rather than SROs. Please end the memorandum of understanding and any partnership with Durham County Sheriff's Department. Evidence shows that SROs do not make schools safer, and in fact cause serious harm to young people, especially Black children. "

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2020/06/25 2:54:38 PM AST

**Lee Harper**

4325 Denfield St  
Durham, NC 27704

Terminate partnership with the Durham County Sherrif's Department and reallocate funding to school counseling.

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2020/06/25 2:54:52 PM AST

**Lisa Garland**  
1609 Valley Run  
Durham NC 27707

"Please terminate the contract between Durham schools and Durham police. Cops do not belong in schools. Honestly, they don't belong in our communities either but let's start with removing them from schools! Do the right thing! "

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2020/06/25 2:54:53 PM AST

**Tori Carrice**  
Iredell Street  
Durham, NC 27705

"I'd like to add my voice and uplift the voices of students and graduates of Durham Public Schools- these students, and many other community members, are demanding the end of the relationship between DPS and law enforcement. I am a mental health counselor who has worked in a number of schools, two in DPS. What I have seen is severe under resourcing for admin and mental health staff, causing burnout in staff and less preventive and supportive services for students. I demand we put our DPS investments back into the counselors and wellness staff at schools and, if we are so interested in community partnering, we partner with other local community agencies who can better support students during the day (like programs that meet with students before and after school) instead of policing them. PLEASE listen to the demands of students. As a clinician who works with children, this I know to be true- if children feel unsafe at school, they cannot learn or attend to anything but their fears and need for safety. Thank you. "

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2020/06/25 2:55:17 PM AST

**Julie Mitchell**  
303 west Murray ave  
Durham, NC 27704

Police in schools is a danger to our black and brown students. There is so much research and evidence to support this. Pay attention to the world and this moment and see that the way things have been is not right. Make the change

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2020/06/25 2:55:27 PM AST

**Nicholas Brownstein**  
1314 Southpoint Trail  
Durham, NC, 27713

"Our schools would be much safer if the board of education would take steps to ending the school to prison pipeline. One important step that could be taken quickly would be by ending all existing contacts with the Durham police department. The data is clear, they do nothing to prevent school shootings and are ineffective at dealing with other issues of school violence. Cops in our schools do not keep children safe, in fact they make schools more dangerous and are a critical aspect of criminalizing minority and disadvantaged children in Durham. So called 'school resource officers' are an improper job for police and the few good things they do could be better performed by more well funded counselors. "

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2020/06/25 2:56:59 PM AST  
**Maria Khoudary**  
1212 Green Street  
Durham, NC, 27701

"I am writing in support of the demands of DPS students and alumni to terminate the memorandum of and any partnership with the Durham county sheriff's department. Further, I ask you to redirect the funds allocated to this partnership toward hiring of more culturally competent counselors who can help students overcome the challenges that are likely at the root of any behavioral issues you may deem necessary for policing. Why not invest in the mental health and wellbeing of your students instead of terrorizing, traumatizing, and targeting them with police surveillance? "

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2020/06/25 2:58:42 PM AST  
**Briana Dearing**  
706 Colonial st  
Durham nc 27701

"Please consider the request of many DPS students, teachers and parents to end the memorandum of understanding with the SRO program. As the parent of a recent DPS graduate, I support the Board's desire to keep all of DPS safe. However, the SRO program does not guarantee physical safety for all of DPS students. Many students feel intimidated by SRO presence. There is evidence that their presence has resulted in an increase in the criminalization of student behavior. As a parent and a taxpayer, i would strongly prefer a budget increase for services that will actually support students, such as guidance counselors,

nurses and social workers."

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2020/06/25 2:59:53 PM AST

**John Bush**

2410 Shenandoah Ave  
Durham, NC

"Hello, my name is John Bush. I am a resident of Durham and would like to publicly request that DPS defund the presence of Police Resource Officers in Durham schools. This money should be used to fund the positions of guidance and mental health counselors.

We do not need cops in our schools to patrol children. It does not improve their educational attainments and it does not keep them safe.

According to a study by Alerrt of recent school shootings, none were brought to end by armed staff or teachers. In fact, in the case of Parkland, the Resource Officer purposefully hid from the active shooter. Durham is not a rural community and police response time is fast in case of tragedy. Possible School shootings are not a legitimate reason for Resource Officers.

Especially in this year of a global pandemic, why do we need officers physically I n schools? Will the officers conference with children and parents on zoom? Or will they just be another potential host for the virus? Resource Officers are not helping our students.

Rather, the presence of trained guidance counselors has been demonstrated to increase the average academic performance of students. We should invest in them.

Please do not just pay lip service to real change. Please defund the presence of police in our schools and instead fund guidance and mental health counselor positions to provide a better future to Durham children."

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2020/06/25 3:00:25 PM AST

**Shelby Hicks**

807 east main street  
27701

"I am a DPS alumni and I have first hand experience with how the presence of officers on campus changes the environment and over-all mood at school. I felt no safer with an officer present during the school day and often-times was sexually harassed by male officers within

school premise. Situations in which officers would likely be called in to diffuse, often resulted in the opposite-an escalation of the situation and of the consequences. I understand that student safety is paramount but the implications of having officers in close proximity make students feel like they are not trusted and that they are already in an un-safe environment. It is my opinion that officers should be on call and not permanently stationed on campus. Cops/sheriffs do not have the proper training to property deal with children/minors and simple instill fear in an environment that is meant to safe. "

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2020/06/25 3:02:03 PM AST

**Meghana Giri**

723 9th Street

Durham, NC 27705

"Durham students need counselors, psychologist, and social workers in their schools, not police officers. The presence of police officers in schools serves nothing more than exacerbating the school-to-prison pipeline, increasing anxiety in all students, and discriminating against students of color who are unjustly targeted for punishment solely because of skin. We need to protect our students and create an environment that is beneficial to their growth and success instead of punishing them. I demand that the DPS system cuts ties with the Durham Police department and instead utilizes funds to provide necessary services to our students, like counselors and psychologists. "

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2020/06/25 3:02:53 PM AST

**McKenna Vernon**

711 Bellmeade Bay Drive

Durham, NC

"Please issue a response to the March for Black Students and make a public commitment to taking proposals made by a youth summit on school safety under serious consideration. Listen to what students have to say and use it to take action. They rely on you, people with the power to make change, to do so."

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2020/06/25 3:03:29 PM AST

**Bjorn Pedersen**

4800 University Dr Apt 25K

Durham

"I write today to ask you to remove police officers from Durham Public Schools. Children need an environment of trust, support, and understanding in order to thrive. Police have shown that they are incapable of contributing to such an environment and that even their mere presence frequently undermines one.

Children take their cues from those around them and they will embrace the values they are shown. If you put cops in schools to control them, that encourages them to see themselves as criminals. If you punish them when they struggle, they will doubt their own value. But if you support and care for them they will understand their potential and strive to fulfill it. I have no doubt you believe this, and that's why you are on this board. I'm asking you to live up to it and to put your trust not in the violence of the legal system but the children and the people of this city and county.

Thank you."

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2020/06/25 3:03:48 PM AST

**Joanna Brandenburg**

2 Abingdon Way  
Durham, NC, 27713

"SROs must be removed from Durham Public Schools. They are meant to be here for our safety, but how can they make us more safe when they create a threatening environment for our black and brown students? We are unarmed teenagers, and we should be treated as students, not as potential criminals. There are better ways to keep us from harm than placing armed police officers in our schools. "

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2020/06/25 3:04:58 PM AST

**Christina Boxberger**

2609 Chapel Hill Rd  
Durham, NC, 27707

"I was enrolled in Durham Public Schools for 13 years, attending first Pearisontown Elementary and then Durham School of the Arts. In the years that I was enrolled, I never encountered a situation in which a school resource officer could effectively solve a problem I was having. I did, on the other hand, deal with many issues that could have been easily resolved by a nurse, counselor or school psychologist. However, access to these useful services was often limited. Our school nurse was only present 2 days a week. Our incredible counselors were so

overworked that it was difficult for them to meet everyone's needs. But I could always locate a school resource officer standing somewhere in the hall, usually passively, ever-present yet untrained to help with any of the problems my classmates and I were actually dealing with. I used to accept this as a fact of life, but I'm now realizing that it doesn't have to be this way. It is completely within our power to divert the funds used to employ SROs to provide services that our students desperately need. Because I come from a position of privilege, I was able to get along without these services, but not every student can say the same. I implore the Board of Education to examine the real needs of our students and prioritize those needs by funding nurses, counselors, and psychologists instead of ineffective SROs."

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2020/06/25 3:08:50 PM AST

**Jenna Monk**

3620 Dairyland Road  
Hillsborough

Terminate your MOU with the Sheriff's office. Fund Counselors not cops.

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2020/06/25 3:08:58 PM AST

**Sarah Greene**

7936 Haymarket lane  
Raleigh, NC 27615

"As a public school teacher I'd like to see funding for more social workers, more counselors, and support staff in schools in place of SROs."

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2020/06/25 3:10:07 PM AST

**Joanna Parkman**

804 Louise Circle, Apt E  
Durham, NC 27705

"As a concerned Durham resident, I urge the DPS Board of Education to meet the demands of our city's youth activists by immediately terminating the Memorandum of Understanding with Durham County Sheriff's Department. Our public schools need trained psychologists, counselors, and other mental health professionals, not law enforcement. Suspensions and legal charges are not the answer to student behavioral challenges. Instead, restorative justice and de-escalation techniques should be priorities in our schools. Let's reallocate taxpayer funds

away from the school-to-prison pipeline that endangers so many Black students."

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2020/06/25 3:10:08 PM AST

**Tyler Lee**

901 Edith Street

Durham

"Please, support the demands of DPS students and graduates by terminating the memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department Immediately! Instead, we need to fund counselors, mental health professionals, and mentors to support students' wellbeing and success."

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2020/06/25 3:11:29 PM AST

**LeAndre Blakeney**

5010 garrett rd

Durham

"The Department of Justice collected data on the prevalence of threats and acts of violence amongst youth in 2013. The statistics entails historical data that goes as far back as 1989 when a national database was created to assess youth violence. It stated that "though most schools report at least one violent crime per school year, serious violent crimes — including sexual violence, threats or physical attacks involving weapons, and robbery — occur in far fewer schools." The data also showed that overall crime in schools has decreased, with a 70% decline starting in 1992. In addition, the report noted that in less than 3% of the violent acts were homicides. That percentage has stayed constant with the percentage of homicides occurring in 2013 being less than 3% as well.

School safety concerns continue to be a policy issue that is salient amongst some policy makers -- that is certainly a case to be continued to be debated. It is also a concern for parents and school officials. One can observe this by noticing the increase in school safety measures, with the Department of Justice stating that all schools now have some form of security measure — from requirements for signing out a student to monitored hallways (which are monitored by the SRO's). Although some studies point to a correlation to SROs and student safety, increasing funding for additional Security Resource Officers (SROs) is not an adequate solution to make public schools safe in schools. Research shows that improving students' circumstances outside the home as well as improving education outcomes helps with student safety and acts of violence in schools.

A first step is providing more funding to mental health services. First, because half of children experience traumatic events, some of which occurs while they are K-12 students. School Resource Officers are not equipped to handle cases where a student is suffering from mental illness. Second, FEMA recorded 79 national emergencies in 2015. Examples of these emergencies are national disasters and pandemics, all of which having characterized as traumatic experiences for adolescences. "

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2020/06/25 3:11:31 PM AST

**Mercy Whipple**

4210 Peachway Dr  
27705

Support the demands of DPS students and graduates by terminating their memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the durham county sheriffs departKent immediately.

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2020/06/25 3:12:23 PM AST

**Jourdan Fairchild**

3628 Shrewsbury St  
Durham, NC 27707

"Please terminate your memorandum of understanding and any partnership with Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. We do not need sheriff's deputies in our schools. There is substantial evidence that SROs do not make schools safer, and in fact cause serious harm to young people, especially Black children. Instead of funding cops in schools, fund more counselors."

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2020/06/25 3:13:18 PM AST

**Nyssa Collins**

2501 Farthing Street  
Durham NC 27704

"Please remove SRO officers from schools. Treat children in schools like CHILDREN, not like young criminals. Officers in school cause unnecessary intimidation and anxiety. They especially cause damage to children of color, who are disproportionately suspended and entered into the criminal justice system at too young an age. Give children with needs a better solution: nurses,

social workers, counselors, food security, after school activities. NOT MORE POLICING! "

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2020/06/25 3:13:34 PM AST

**Lindsey Crawford**

112 West Maynard Ave  
Durham, NC 27704

"Please cancel your MUA with Durham Police and instead put funds and energy into providing students with counselors, nurses, and classes that support their emotional wellbeing. They need more resources to be able to deal with all of the ups and downs of being a child, in school, among peers and all of the pressure that comes with that. SROs are not the answer! We need a more holistic approach here that supports the overall wellbeing of the students instead of instilling and perpetuating a culture of fear, punishment and intimidation. They are only kids! It's our job to help them grow and develop in a healthy way. "

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2020/06/25 3:14:16 PM AST

**Natalie Izlar**

382 Kimberly Ave  
Asheville, NC, 28804

"SROs are dangerous for schools. The evidence that they prevent school shootings is slim compared to the amount of school shootings. There is way more evidence that SROs target black and brown students, leading to their involvement and entrapment in the legal system for the rest of their lives. The SROs literally endanger more children than they protect. DPS can do better and should do better. There are alternatives to these resource officers"

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2020/06/25 3:15:12 PM AST

**Allory Bors**

832 Wilkerson Ave  
Durham, NC 27701

"I am a current resident of Durham and went to public school in North Carolina. During my time at school, I witnessed how school resource officers were an intimidating presence. I trust in the ability of students, teachers, parents, and mental health counselors to mediate conflict amongst themselves. We should be teaching students to learn these skills, instead of criminalizing Black and Brown children and surrounding them with officers with guns - we are

teaching our kids that violence is solved with more violence. Additionally, statistics show that resource officers do not actually keep students safe from outside violence, and studies actually show that 40% of police officers are perpetrators of domestic violence. Is this the example we want to set for our children? Please use the momentum of this moment to take a bold stance. "

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2020/06/25 3:15:43 PM AST

**Jacob Geller**

1305 Bacon St.

Durham, NC

"As a K-12 DPS student, my first witness to police brutality was in a school. The actions taken by uniformed officers in the school almost universally escalated situations into violence, and they were so commonplace that I eventually stopped even seeing their violence as unusual.

Schools should not be places where children learn that police violence is casual and ubiquitous. Schools shouldn't have visible guns, present on the hips of every officer. Schools shouldn't spend millions hiring state violence when students are crying out for more resources for mental health and well-being. "

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2020/06/25 3:15:56 PM AST

**Jessica Pridgen**

3245 Ivey Wood Lane

Durham, NC 27703

"It is imperative that the DPS BOE support the demands of DPS students and graduates by terminating their memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. As a current DPS parent, I'm both disappointed and outraged to know that the Board has refused to listen to the voices of the students and graduates who are/have been directly negatively affected by the presence of law enforcement in schools, and has instead chosen to double down on support of such a partnership. I implore you to put the well-being of current and future students ahead of any perceived loyalty to county law enforcement, and listen to the demands of these student & community leaders."

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2020/06/25 3:16:10 PM AST

**Anna Tillery**

4130 garrett road

Durham, NC, 27707

"Hi I'm commenting to ask you to support the wishes of current/ former DPS students to strip funding for police inside schools, terminating your agreement with the sheriffs department, and move it towards funding for counselors. Thank you"

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2020/06/25 3:16:39 PM AST

**Kalyn Fowler**

5000 Aventine Dr  
Arden, NC 28704

"As a JHS alum, and current pediatric occupational therapist within the school systems, I want to urge DPS to eliminate police presence in their schools. I was an excellent and respectful student throughout my time in the DPS system, yet still had negative experiences with the police in my high school. One police officer was overly flirty with female students, while another was overly assertive and accusatory of my black friends. What public schools need are social workers. Professionals who are trained to work with children. The increasing prevalence of mental illness throughout our students these days is extremely alarming. Police officers are not trained to handle this. We need to invest in heavier mental health incentives, as well as allowing guidance counselors and teachers provide searches and discipline when necessary. We should never press charges on a minor for non-violent crimes in schools, as the problem and cause goes so much deeper. I urge you to make a bold move like Denver Public Schools and end officers in our schools. I urge you to use this budget to provide these kids with trained personnel to help those who need it most. DPS is a strong system and our community, students, parents, teachers needs this move. All eyes on you. Thank you. "

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2020/06/25 3:16:45 PM AST

**Lionel Nelson**

1016 Park Glen Place  
Durham, NC, 27713

Would rather have money towards competent school counselors than officers

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2020/06/25 3:16:55 PM AST

**Lynn Jaluvka**

5031 Lansdowne Drive

Durham, NC 27712

Please shift emphasis to counseling and support services for DPS students.

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2020/06/25 3:19:31 PM AST

**Ella Fratantuono**

222 Monmouth Ave.  
Durham, NC 27701

"As a Durham resident, I ask that you terminate any partnership with Durham County Sheriff's Department immediately. We do not need sheriff's deputies in our schools. There is substantial evidence that School Resource Officers do not make schools safer, and in fact cause serious harm to young people, especially Black children. Funding more counselors rather than SROs, will make our students safer and healthier."

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2020/06/25 3:21:48 PM AST

**Laura Spencer**

105 N Briggs Ave #C  
Durham, NC 27703

"DPS you are responsible for the wellbeing of every child walking through your doors! Every step should be taken to ensure this is extended to ALL peoples, with care to your most vulnerable population; solely based on the COLOR OF THEIR SKIN. The March for Black Students needs to be addressed and responded to. A public commitment needs to be made with the community to take serious any proposals on school safety submitted by any youth summits or related organizations, the very students & lives you're meant to positively impact. These are the future leaders who will make YOUR LAWS & POLICIES, SHAPING OUR FUTURE WORLD. Treat them with dignity and respect."

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2020/06/25 3:23:49 PM AST

**Emily Meredith Mitchell**

1507 Oakland Avenue  
Durham, NC, 27705-3246

"I am requesting that the Durham Public Schools immediately terminate their contract with the Durham County Sheriff's Department and redirect funding from SROs to school counselors and

nurses. I graduated from Riverside in 2002, and can still remember seeing our SROs all over campus on a daily basis, but I don't even know if we had any sort of counselors available - if so, they were certainly not a visible presence in the way that the SROs were. After RHS, I went on to graduate from Georgetown University and married a member of the District of Columbia's Police Department. I recognize that there is a place for policing, and Durham's Public Schools are not that place. Thank you in advance for voting with the best interest of the next generation of leaders to eliminate the contract with the Sheriff's Department. "

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2020/06/25 3:24:31 PM AST

**Grace Nichols**

918 Gilbert St.

Durham, NC, 27701

I'm writing in support of the students and graduates of the Durham Public Schools and their demands to terminate the memorandum of understanding and any partnership with the Durham county sheriff's dept. immediately. The students deserve support not surveillance. Fund counselors not cops!

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2020/06/25 3:25:46 PM AST

**Lara O'Neil-Dunne**

2325 cheek rd

Durham nc 27704

Please address student concerns about SROs.

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2020/06/25 3:26:57 PM AST

**Katie Starr**

804A onslow st

Durham NC 27705

FUND COUNSELORS NOT COPS

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2020/06/25 3:28:10 PM AST

**Renee Ryberg**  
14 Vanguard Ct  
Durham, NC 27713

"Police do not belong in schools. Not only is there little-to-no evidence of school resource officers making schools safer for students, but they also put our Black and brown children at risk. Just this week, NPR did a great piece on this topic. I recommend a quick read or listen here: <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/23/881608999/why-theres-a-push-to-get-police-out-of-schools>

Please reconsider the relationship between DPS and the Durham Sheriff's Department. The funding that is currently going to SROs could alternatively go to research-based interventions to improve school safety and climate, and/or additional counselors, social workers, and school nurses."

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2020/06/25 3:28:18 PM AST

**Connie Pendergrass**  
120 SHADOWBROOK DR  
HILLSBOROUGH

"I keep hearing that high school kids are going to be expected to spend the next school year online so that the high schools can be used to spread out the younger kids. I hope that's not true. All kids need the opportunity to be in school and learn. Some children learn better in person. My daughter being one of those kids. My daughter is a rising Junior at NHS. Junior year is arguably one the most important years when trying to get your GPA stacked before you start applying to colleges. While my daughter finished strong last year, because of the lock down, she wasn't able to earn her 4th quarter grades and a chance to improve her GPA even more. If any age group needs to be seated in classes next year, it's the high school kids. There are plenty of amazing online sites to help parents teach elementary age kids. It's not as easy for parents to help their kids with chemistry or calculus. If it's space you're needing for the younger kids, why not look into all the empty buildings that are scattered around Durham. There are a ton of empty offices off of Duke Street near the new Durham Tech and Northgate is empty. I feel like the high school age kids are getting the short end of the stick again. It's not right and I hope if what I'm hearing is true, you'll rethink your decision and find a creative way to get all the kids that want to be in class next year a place to sit. NCSU is finding creative ways to make space for the college students. I know it's not an easy position to be in but, as a alumni of NHS and DPS, I have faith that DPS won't overlook what's best for the high school kids. Thank you for your time. Connie "

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2020/06/25 3:28:57 PM AST

**BJ Fusaro**

2018 Sunset Ave.  
Durham, NC 27705

"I believe there is more negotiating and conversation that needs to be happening with the students putting forth this proposal. As an educator and social worker myself I feel that only very trained professionals in youth trauma and deescalation should be handling these conflicts in the schools.

Thank you!"

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2020/06/25 3:30:25 PM AST

**Sophia Oliverio**

2527 wrightwood ave  
Durham, NC 27705

"I am a JHS alum who graduated in the spring of 2013. During my time at Jordan I saw students roughed up, tased and harassed by student resource officers. I saw many instances where scared female students would be surrounded by only male resource officers and I witnessed students be profiled by their outfits, their gender, their developmental disabilities and the color of their skin.

At Jordan so much needs to change. Students need more guidance, more emotional support and to feel safe at school and student resource officers are not the answer. I witnessed fellow 15 year olds that were able to deescalate situations better than SRO's with training and guns. No child deserves to end up in the court system for mistakes they made while in school. In trusting SRO's to make school "safe" JHS and DPS are failing their students.

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2020/06/25 3:30:29 PM AST

**Myca Jeter**

1908 Cedar Street  
Durham, NC 27707

"Good evening, My name is Myca Jeter, I am a parent of a rising 6th grader. Today I am commenting as a member of Parents of African American Children (PAAC) Durham where our core values include equitable education; eliminating the opportunity gap; empowerment of parents of African American children; and student-directed ownership of success.

We were encouraged to hear that the Board of Education approved the purchase of 20,016 Chromebooks to support our Durham Public Schools moving to 1:1. The current plan addresses the technology needs of all DPS students once they return to school in the fall.

The board may recall that PAAC Durham wrote a letter on May 28, 2020 to articulate our concerns about the existing digital divide among those in our community and the need to actively plan to close the divide with appropriate devices and access to internet services.

PAAC Durham made three (3) specific requests at that time :

1. By June 30, 2020, develop a district-wide plan to keep summer programming in place to help all students avoid summer slide in addition to learning loss experienced since March. 2020 (COVID-19 Closures).
2. By June 30, 2020, introduce a phased approach to provide access to technology to any student who does not have it due to a lack of resources in the form of available Chromebooks and procured hot spots. (Those already in DPS possession)
3. By July 30, 2020, develop a bridge-building plan to use technology to increase student self-efficacy to succeed. (Access to well-being opportunities such as tele-health, virtual medical appointments, art or music classes online, etc.)

This is an Urgent Call for Action on behalf of all our children at DPS!!!

We started an online petition and over 500 parents stand in solidarity in support of this call for action.

1. Immediately distribute Current DPS chromebooks and WiFi devices to those in need (providing technical assistance).
2. Develop and distribute summer programming for all students. (Suggestions already provided to Board member Umstead)
3. Develop and share a plan for ongoing distribution of new devices as they are received.

Thank you for responding to this urgent matter for our DPS students and families.

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2020/06/25 3:30:48 PM AST

**Kylie foley**

1717 W Lakewood Ave

Durham, NC 27707

"We should listen to students. We should listen to evidence. We need carers in schools, not cops."

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2020/06/25 3:31:09 PM AST

**Anonymous**

anonymous

Durham, NC

"If we have a modified in-person schedule, how will arts instruction be delivered? For DSA students, the arts comprise half of their school day. I have strong concerns about high school students going to a modified in-person schedule, as I do not believe their varied class schedules and differentiations can be accommodated. Finally, please address magnet student placements and what will happen if parents decide to keep children home due to COVID--will these students lose their magnet placements?"

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2020/06/25 3:32:31 PM AST

**Holly Hardin**

4126 Chaucer Dr.

Durham NC 27705

"I am writing as a teacher and member of the Durham Association of Educators to ask you to vote for an online-only option for ALL students, not just high schoolers. Why are you willing to put my life at risk? Why are you willing to put the lives of bus drivers, teacher assistants, custodial staff, and other school workers?"

Please make sure you look over the survey DAE put out to all workers, showing that at all grade levels, and amongst all workers the top opinion is that online is the only safe option for our students learning, but more importantly for the health and wellbeing of everyone.

The costs to actually attempt to meet standards to make this safe would be so exorbitant that DPS would suffer greatly. For just one example, we would need 9 times the number of busses to actually make this safe. Allowing even 50% capacity is irresponsible and doesn't meet social distancing safeguards. The last week of school, as teachers returned to close down our classrooms, we were asked to sanitize behind us. Yet, we were provided with no sanitation material. This is the norm- I provide all the wipes, hand sanitizer, tissues, and more in my classroom. Nothing in history points to the idea that we will actually have funding given to us by the state to meet these needs. Safety has not been the general assembly's priority before- one

only has to look so far as the crumbling infrastructure of our school buildings (severe mold in high schools, the CO and gas leak that affected my health and relocated Morehead for almost a month). This is not at the fault of DPS, but years of being underfunded by the state. How am I to believe that we will have all things in place to safely drive busses, or feed kids, or teach students?

What will you have in place to ensure that staff who may have been exposed to, self-quarantine? Are you going to promise them paid-leave without using up sick days? Who will step in when they are out? Outside subs seem risky, and methods of splitting classrooms among other classes is no longer a possibility. Not to mention we have a sub shortage. Also, what are you going to do for staff who do not feel safe about returning? Will they lose their jobs?

Furthermore, any hybrid method- where students have A & B days- is both equally unsafe for teachers and adult staff as having all students at once, but also puts an undue burden on those teachers who will then be expected to both online and in class teach, in addition to worrying about our health and safety.

Please stand by the teachers in workers in our district and make the choice to protect workers, students, and families lives, and trust that when it is actually safe for kids to go back the educational community will do everything in our power to make sure kids get the in-person instruction they need, and in the meantime will provide all that we can remotely. That task of getting students on track is going to be a lot easier if we also aren't also having to console school communities about the death of teachers, workers, and students. Let's show our students that we support them.

Thank you,  
Holly Hardin  
4th/5th grade teacher"

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2020/06/25 3:34:17 PM AST

**Holly Hardin**  
4126 Chaucer Dr.  
Durham NC 27705

"As a public school teacher, I feel very strongly that we must address the four demands of Black Lives Matter in Schools Week of Action, which the School Board and Durham Public Schools signed on to last year. (And thank you again for supporting that call by teachers!) For me, signing on to that week means going much deeper than simply lifting the demands up during one week in February, it means taking action. I think we need to still do work on all four of the demands, but in this moment the one demand I want to lift up is "Fund counselors NOT cops."

So, in this moment, I ask you to renew the commitment you made to the Black Lives Matter in School demands. I ask you to follow the lead of our Black student leaders, like Aissa Dearing and thousands of others who are heading up these demands. I ask that you to listen to school workers and community members as well, as we all ask for Durham Public Schools to discontinue its contract with the Sheriff's department for school resource officers (SROs) in favor of trained professionals like trauma-informed and culturally responsive bilingual counselors, nurses, and social workers.

We believe the \$2.74 million allocated by the Board of County Commissioners for SROs is better spent addressing student needs than policing them. If the funds are redistributed to critical student safety practices and resources, we will be more likely to meet national recommended rations for social workers and nurses. This is a crucial part to ensuring our schools are safe for students, especially Black, Indigenous, Students of Color, LGBTQ and disabled students, and especially in this moment where so many are undergoing trauma at the hands of police brutality, systemic racism, and a pandemic. This ability to professionally address chronic stress and trauma is more critical than ever, and must be addressed before academics can be considered.

It is teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, counselors, IA's, and social workers that make a difference in kids lives. We take care of our students. We know their families, we check in with them daily, we plan and observe to make sure their environment is safe and providing our students with what they need. We do that without resources, and know we could do an even better job with more resources- more specific training, more counselors and nurses, more wraparound services. Please stand with your commitment to Black Lives Matter and be a leader in the country, by discontinuing your contract with law enforcement in our schools, investing in the lives of our students instead.

Thank you for all you do."

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2020/06/25 3:47:58 PM AST

**Kyla Briscoe**

6123 Farrington Rd

Chapel Hill, NC 27517

DEFUND THE POLICE. More counselors in SCHOOLS

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2020/06/25 3:48:14 PM AST

**Grace Lumpkin**

506 Mare Court  
Bahama, NC 27503

"After 13 years in the Durham Public School system, I believe funding counselors and support systems for students should be the most important goal DPS has. Having law enforcement on campus makes many students feel less safe than they would otherwise, which makes their presence less effective. I have seen this fear first hand. I understand that the police are meant to protect students, but that is based on the assumption that all cops protect people. At this time, I strongly encourage DPS to make a real effort to find alternative safety strategies. Ones that make kids feel less like criminals and more like human beings. "

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2020/06/25 3:48:36 PM AST

**Cassie Upton**  
3924 St Marks Rd  
Durham

"Hello, I'd love to hear more about the difference in choosing ignite academy vs our enrolled school if learning is 100% remote. Also I have two children enrolled in year round magnet schools, If we were to choose ignite academy will that sacrifice their spot in the magnet school for next year? If we choose ignite will that affect funding for our current school?"

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2020/06/25 3:54:32 PM AST

**Deysi vidal barón**  
1006 leon st apt 3  
Durham

Yo estoy de acuerdo qué hay ga polícias en las escuelas

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2020/06/25 4:00:39 PM AST

**Caroline Moseley**  
509 Soaring St  
Mcleansville NC 27301

"Cops were placed in schools as a way to prevent school shootings after columbine, but since their placement have stopped 0 school shootings and instead are tools used to criminalize black and brown youth creating a school to prison pipeline. There are people who are more highly

qualified to work with children and teens like guidance counselors and social workers or people in community trained roles "

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2020/06/25 4:19:02 PM AST

**Luisa Reyes**

125 E Edgewood Dr  
Durham, NC 27704

"In order to prevent massive spreads of covid19, at schools the facilities must have all the services working for the students to keep hygiene and hand washing properly, and in some of the classrooms the restrooms get out of service, meaning no toilet use neither hand washing for days. How are the spread of covid19 will stop when students/stuff don't have access to those basic needs?? "

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2020/06/25 4:50:04 PM AST

**Jack Eaton leinbach**

1111 North Gregson St  
Durham, NC, 27701

Get rid of school resource officers. I was a DPS student not 5 years ago, and the fear that they impose upon students is not appropriate for kids of that age. As someone now working in education, I see that SROs are actually not necessary (the district I work in now does not have them) and really only show laziness on the part of Durham public schools. The problems that they deal with are social, not criminal, and these problems should not be treated as such. The fact that DPS schools still employs POLICE OFFICERS to deal with 15- and 16- year old social problems is embarrassing and weak. Thank you.

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