

STOP STUDENT SURVEILLANCE

Pass **A 6787 (Wallace)/S 5140 (Kavanagh)** to keep facial recognition and other biometric surveillance technology out of schools and require a study of the privacy implications, reliability, and risks.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH BIOMETRIC SURVEILLANCE IN SCHOOLS?

PRIVACY AND TRANSPARENCY

A person's biometric identifying information (e.g., facial characteristics, fingerprints, voice) is highly sensitive and **cannot be changed** if there is a security breach. Collecting this data from children, parents, and teachers raises the risk that personally identifiable information may be hacked, shared, or sold. **School districts are ill equipped to safeguard this data.** The lack of transparency and regulation around collection, storage, and use of this data—and the invasive, dragnet nature of biometric surveillance—**puts our children in danger.**

RACIAL BIAS

Facial recognition technology is **notoriously inaccurate, especially for people of color, women, and children.** False identifications and accusations of misbehavior can result in traumatic interactions with law enforcement, loss of class time, disciplinary action, and potentially a criminal record. These systems often rely on biased data (e.g., mugshots) and, thus, **perpetuate the racial biases existing within the criminal justice system.** The use of this technology will disproportionately **hurt students of color.**

SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

Pervasive monitoring and collection of students' most sensitive information **treats them as perpetual suspects.** This technology should not be used to track with whom students associate or enforce minor code of conduct violations. **It creates a school climate where law enforcement is the norm** and punishment is a value, rather than an environment where kids can make mistakes and learn from them. **More students will be pushed out of the classroom** for childish behavior and into the criminal justice system.

Harmful technology will not make schools safer. To do that we need to invest in teachers, mental health professionals, and support staff who can build deep relationships with students, pay attention to when things are going wrong, and create a culture of trust and accountability. **Biometric surveillance is not a quick technological fix to the hard work of building safe and supportive schools.**

As groups that focus on racial justice, education, and privacy and technology, we support this legislation:

