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She's Not Forgotten: School Counselors in the pursuit of ending the school push out of Black Girls

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Key Definition

Adultification: A social or cultural stereotype that is based on how adults perceive children “in the absence of knowledge of children's behavior and verbalizations.

Introduction

School counselors are advocates, leaders, collaborators and consultants who create systemic change by providing equitable educational access (ASCA, 2016).

Girlhood Interrupted, the report published by Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality, found that **Black girls** are perceived as more adult-ish than their white counterparts and therefore more likely to receive **harsher punishment** for the same offenses.

School counselors are essential in the fight to end the school pushout of Black girls through a comprehensive school counseling program.



Image via LA Johnson/NPR

Method

A systematic literature search of books, articles, and reports on the school pushout of Black girls, and solutions for educational practitioners.

Research Questions

RQ1: What are the systemic barriers for Black girls to receive equitable access to education in a safe and inclusive school environment?

RQ2: How can school counselors advocate for Black girls, and disrupt harmful systems through a comprehensive school counseling program?

Results

The adultification of Black Girls may be a potential contributing factor to the disproportionate rates of punitive treatment in the education system.

Compared to white girls of the same age, survey participants perceive that

- Black girls need **less nurturing**
- Black girls need **less protection**
- Black girls need to be **supported less**
- Black girls need to be **comforted less**
- Black girls are more **independent**
- Black girls know **more about adult topics**
- Black girls know **more about sex**

Girlhood Interrupted

Conclusion

Additional research is needed to confirm the relationship between the adultification of Black girls and school pushout. However, history and lived experiences of Black girls demonstrates the importance of fighting school pushout.

Implications

School Counselors are school leaders and advocates for our most vulnerable students including Black girls.

- Staff Training on Implicit Bias
- Critical Analysis of School and District Policies
- Implementation of Restorative Practices
- Increased Academic and Social/Emotional Supports
- Creating Safe Spaces

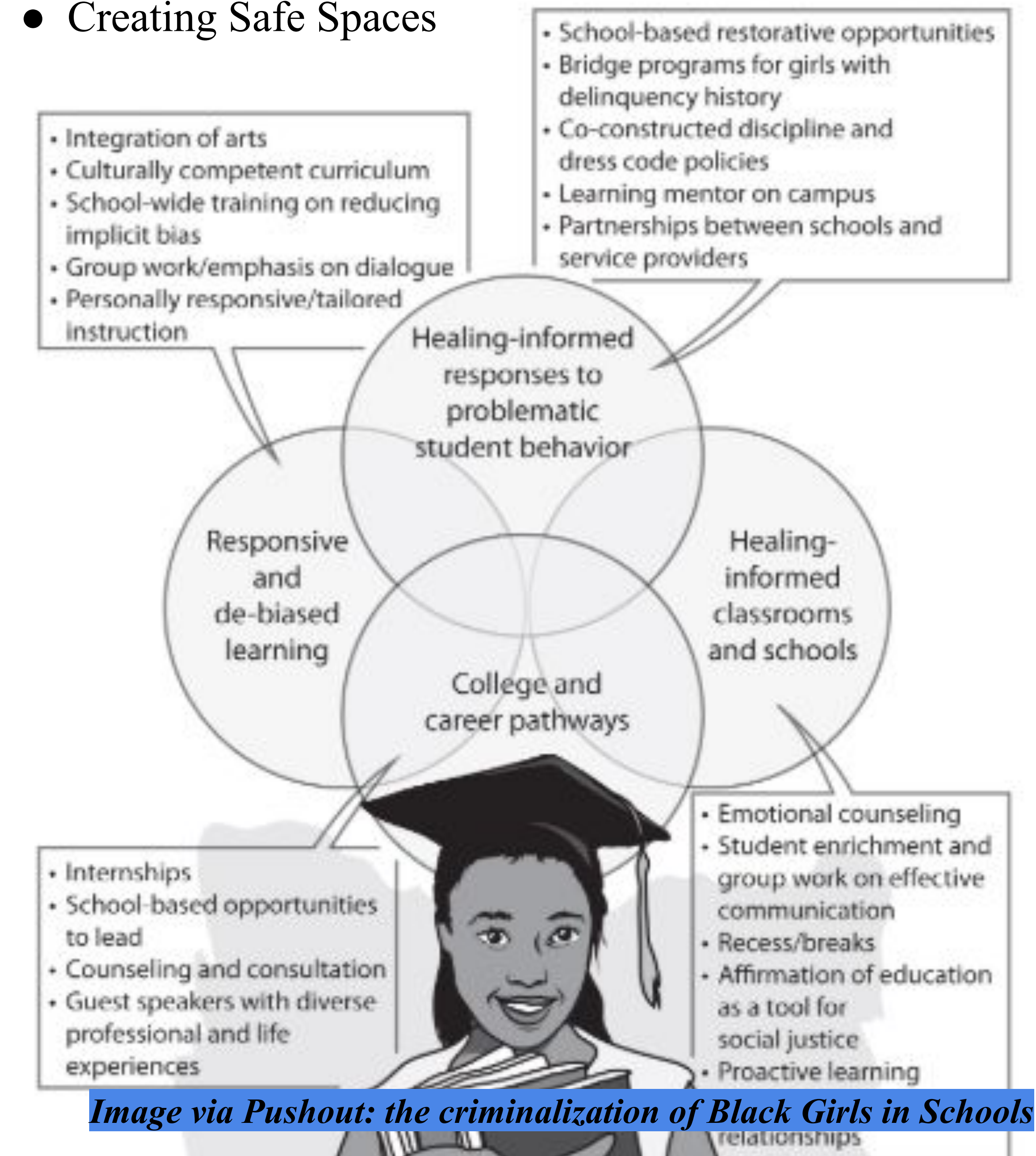


Image via Pushout: the criminalization of Black Girls in Schools

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Acknowledgments

For all the Black girls thriving against oppressive systems.