



**FFLIC**

# HOW DO I CHANGE WHAT'S HAPPENING?

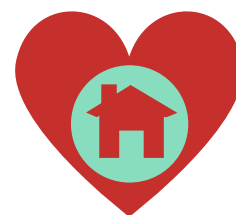


Parents are the solution to creating safe and effective schools, as they are the experts on what children and communities need. These unjust systems continue to grow when people don't act; they want you to stay uninformed so that they can stay in power. But you have some powerful tools to help your child. The next step is helping to defend ALL children. We know that when children make mistakes, consequences should be just and fair. Children should be nurtured and educated, not locked behind bars. We also know that these systems extend outside of the school. When we use our rights and our power to advocate for justice, we create more opportunity for justice to thrive everywhere. We can and must spread knowledge, use our voice, and fight for our children as individuals, families, and communities so that we can transform the system to uphold justice for all. You are the one you have been waiting for and we're so glad you're here. We can't do this without you and your wisdom, experience, and voice. We need you to defend ALL children. But how do you do this? First, you begin by realizing you have all the knowledge, support, and power you need.

## **Who is a leader?**

As a parent or guardian, you are already a leader. Your child looks up to you as a role model and example. As leaders, we can energize and uplift our community to show that children are worth fighting for.

When we use your voice and power to fight for children, the loudest message those children hear is "you're deserving and loved," instead of the story they hear when they're punished for being themselves. If the schools continue to give them the idea they're bad, children will begin to believe it. As leaders we have to create a louder message that reminds schools and students alike that our children are capable, expressive, unique, and deserving of the best possible education. So look no further than yourself for the leadership you need. What are some other qualities that you believe a leader has? How are you already demonstrating those qualities?



## **Leadership starts at home**

The messages children hear have a huge impact on them, and they are getting them everywhere. Most often though, they get them at home. We can start to advocate for the best possible outcome for our children at home. You can do this by reviewing the Whole Child Check-In on a monthly basis with your child. Ask them questions about their school to help them to see that you value their opinion and that they have a say in their education.