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The Evolution of Zero-Tolerance Policies

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Oral Presentation O8.2

THE EVOLUTION OF ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICIES

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Zero-tolerance policies generally have a negative image in general society in the United States. These policies have undergone several revisions since they were first implemented in the late 1980s. Originally, zero-tolerance policies were created to punish offenses including firearms brought to school, but now have been extended to include disobedience and obscene language. This article explains why zero-tolerance policies have altered so drastically in recent history. The Columbine shootings in 1999 created a wide spread fear that place pressure on school administration to alter school anti-violence policies and procedures. These new codes had the intention of creating positive and safe learning environments, but actually limited students' rights in schools and pushed many students into the school-to-prison-pipeline.