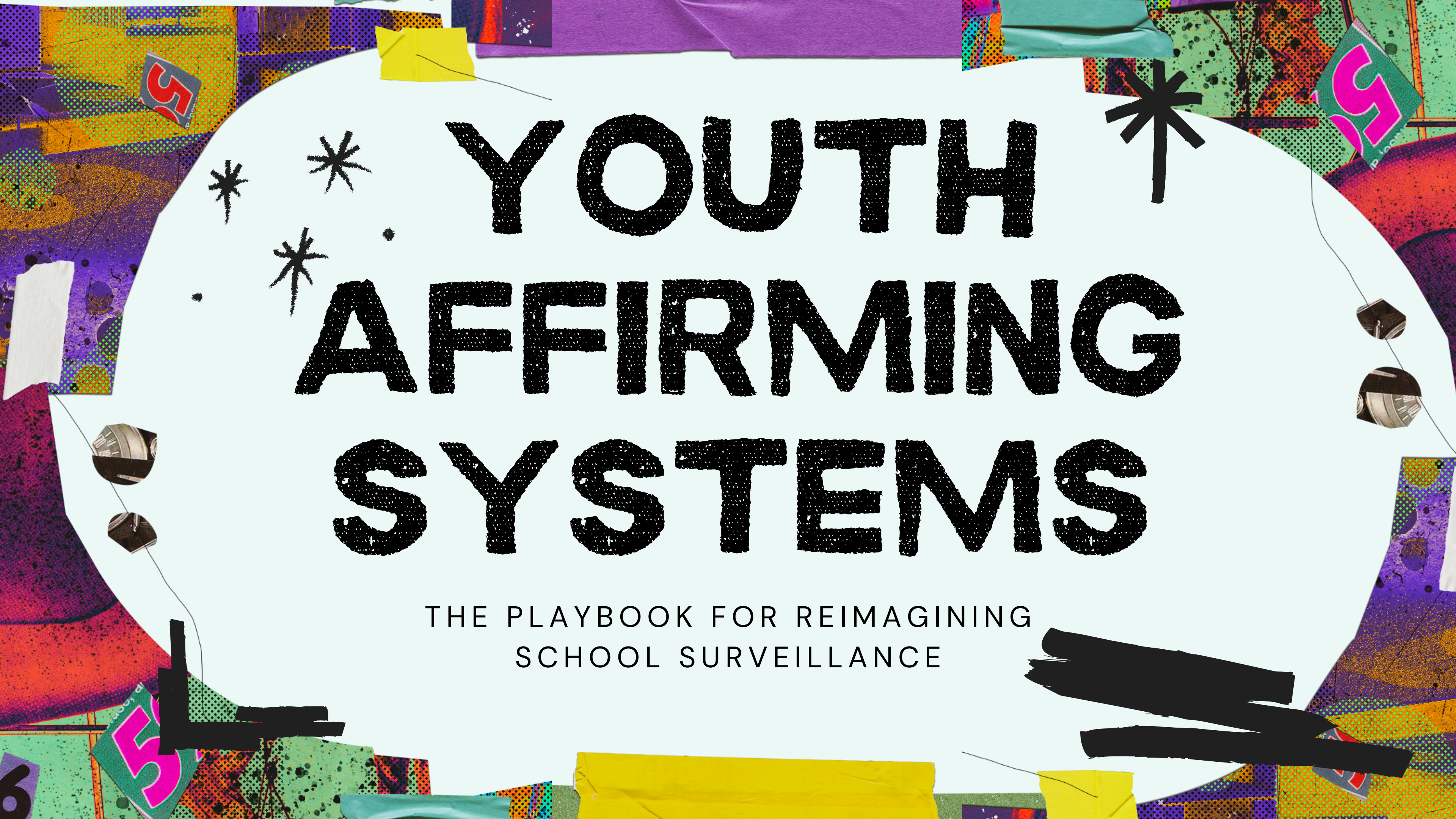




YOUTH AFFIRMING SYSTEMS

THE PLAYBOOK FOR REIMAGINING
SCHOOL SURVEILLANCE

ALIJA BLACKWELL

Alija Blackwell has over 10 years of experience as a foresight strategist, cybersecurity researcher, and creative technologist. As a 2024-25 Center for Digital Thriving Fellow, Blackwell crafted a playbook to help students reclaim their power in digital ecosystems through collective imagination by designing youth-affirming alternatives to school surveillance technologies.

This project builds on their past work with youth-serving institutions, the Aspen Institute, and U.S. Department of Educational Technology on Advancing Students' Digital Rights through public policy, game design, and futuring.



**HOW DO WE BUILD THE
PUBLIC IMAGINATION
FOR YOUTH-
AFFIRMING
ALTERNATIVES TO
SCHOOL
SURVEILLANCE?**

ALIJA
BLACKWELL

SCHOOLS WITH HIGH SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Discipline tracking
increases, growing the
School-to-Prison and
Deportation Pipeline

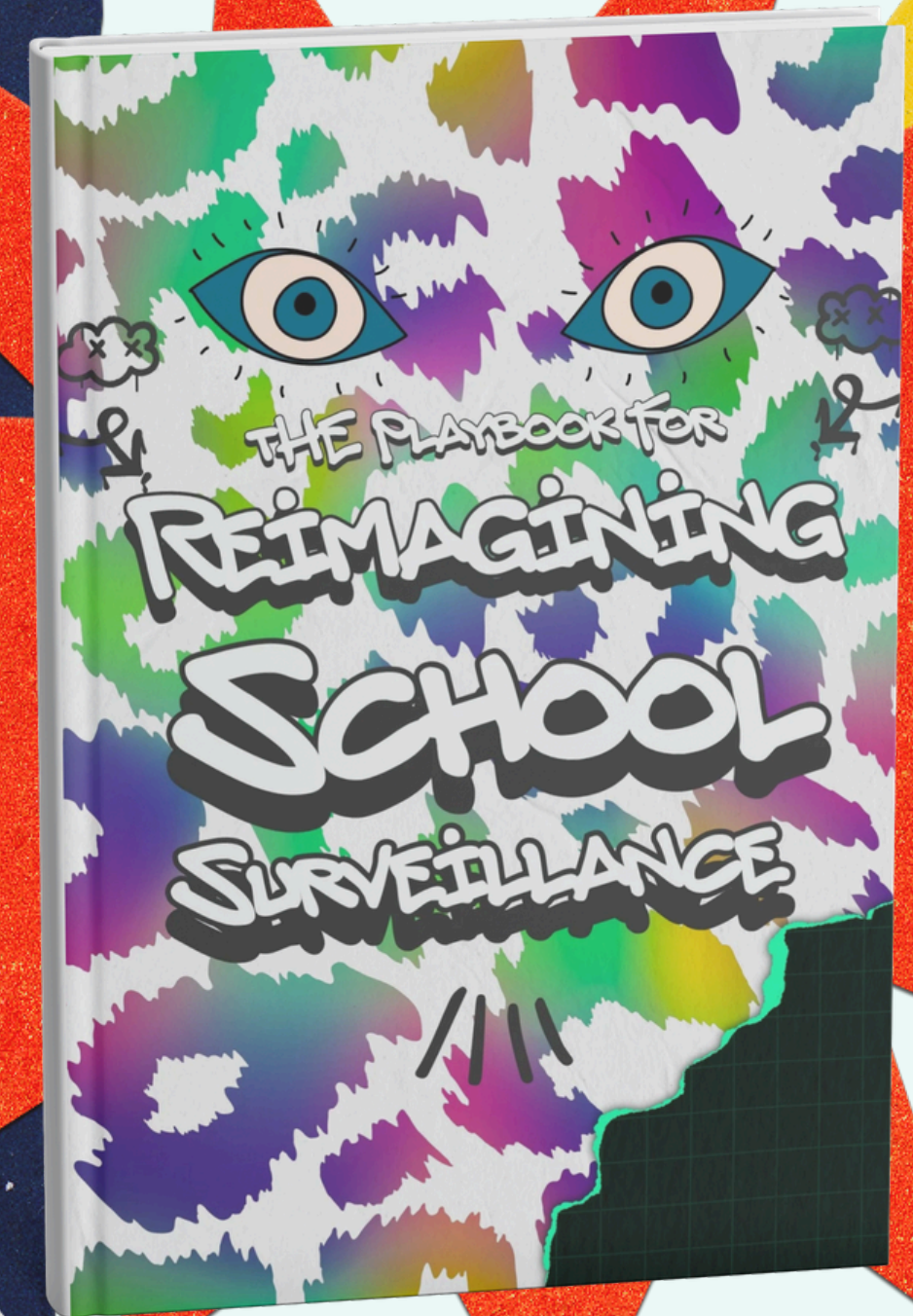
Higher socioemotional
consequences &
academic
underachievement

School-wide impacts
have disproportionate
effects on historically
minoritized youth

BLACK & INDIGENOUS FUTURITIES

The Playbook for Reimagining School Surveillance uses strategic foresight methods like horizon scanning, speculative design, and scenario planning to co-power students' imagination for Youth Affirming Systems across 6 key dimensions.

- Social
- Technological
- Economic
- Environmental
- Political
- Values



SOCIAL & TECHNOLOGICAL

The Playbook includes a landscape analysis of 10 school surveillance technology categories used in over 90% of schools in the U.S.

Speculative fiction stories throughout bring to life the social-emotional impacts of school surveillance technologies on students.



ENVIRONMENTAL & ECONOMIC

The multi-billion dollar school surveillance technology industry impacts students' lives and the planet.

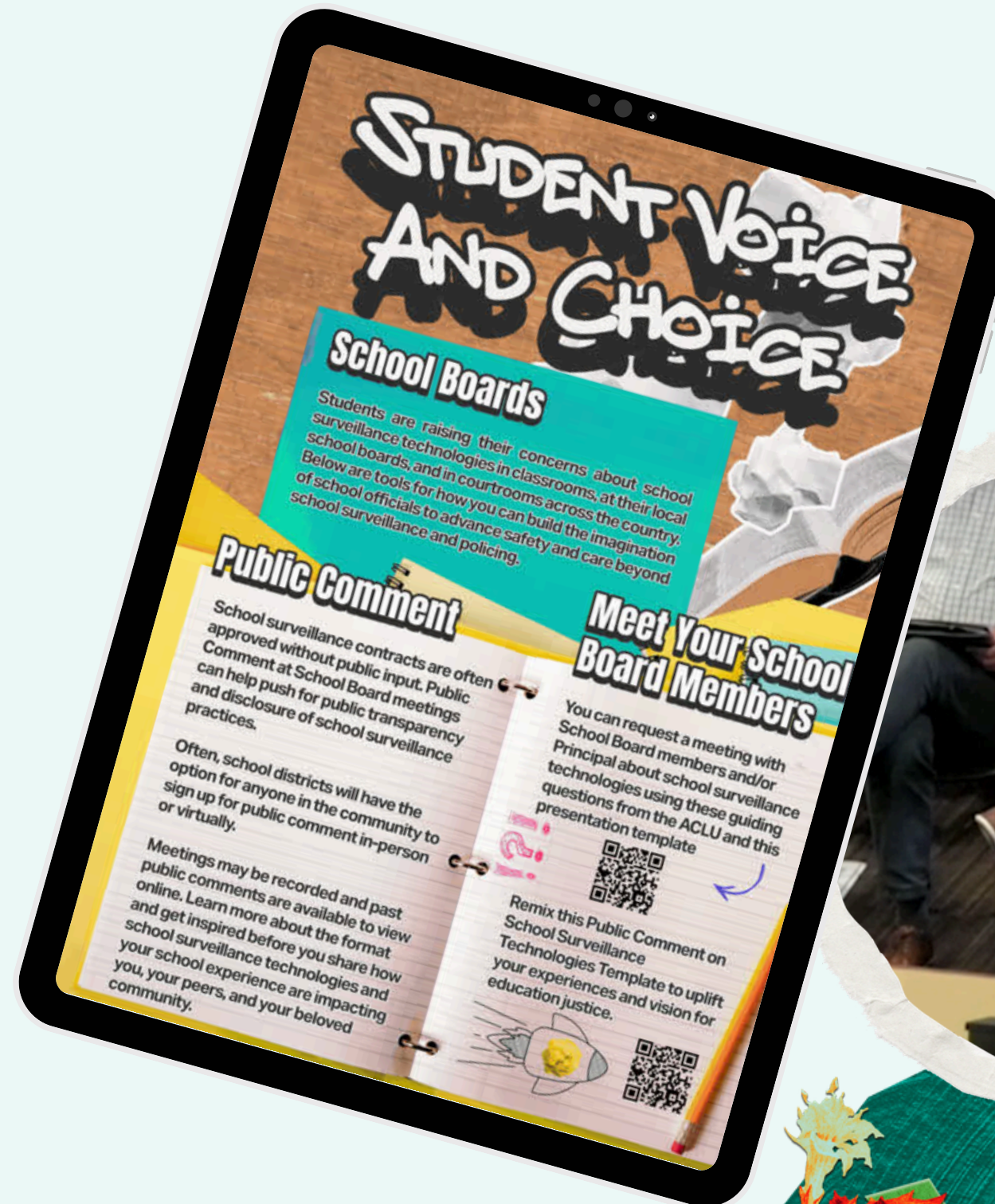
The Playbook surfaces the climate-straining data centers that host students' information, while exploring how surveillance capitalism, power, and profits shape school procurement.



POLITICAL & VALUES

By uplifting students' digital, civil, and international rights, this Playbook illuminates pathways for youth to influence education policy.

Activities throughout support youth in identifying how school surveillance technologies impact them, explore informed consent, and case studies showing how students are influencing the conversation on school surveillance by centering their values to design Youth Affirming Systems.



BUILDING THE COLLECTIVE IMAGINATION

Seeding emergent research on school surveillance technologies and Youth Affirming Systems with communities of practice across the ICC National Convening at UCLA, Access Now's RightsCon in Taiwan, and the Futures Basecamp in Joshua Tree hosted by PopShift & Omidyar.



International Human
Rights Practitioners



Academics,
Technologists,
Artists



TV Writers,
Filmmakers,
Game Designers

ON THE HORIZON

Exploring the intersection of technology and human rights by using game design and speculative toolkits to co-power the collective imagination on Youth Affirming Systems.



Speculative
Toolkits



Game
Design



THANK YOU!

Let's stay connected



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