



## **Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee**

**2020 Recommendations in Brief  
as Adopted on January 16<sup>th</sup> and February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**I. 2020 JJPOC RECOMMENDATIONS IN BRIEF**

<p><b>DIVERSION WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATION 1</b></p>	<p>JJPOC recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Legislation for raising the minimum age of juvenile court jurisdiction from seven years to twelve years on July 1, 2021.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alternative handling for these cases will include, but not be limited to, Children’s Behavioral Health Services System (DCF), Youth Service Bureaus, Juvenile Review Boards, and/or community-based services</li> </ul> </li> <li>B. The development of a plan for ensuring that a child who would have been referred to the juvenile court system will instead be referred to the Children’s Behavioral Health System (DCF), the Community-Based Diversion system, and/or other community-based services.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Diversion workgroup shall develop a plan that outlines a referral process for developmentally appropriate services (screening, assessment, interventions). The plan shall be delivered to the JJPOC by January 6, 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Implementation Strategies</b></p> <p>Legislation</p>
<p><b>DIVERSION WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATION 2</b></p>	<p>JJPOC recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Beginning July 1, 2020, the legislature and the Governor fund implementation of the community-based diversion system.</li> </ul>	<p>Funding</p>
<p><b>DIVERSION WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATION 3</b></p>	<p>JJPOC recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. The development and implementation of a funded statewide data-base system within the Youth Service Bureau System. The data system is necessary for monitoring, tracking, evaluating and for case management purposes. A data system is</li> </ul>	<p>Funding</p>

	<p>critical for evaluation based on the numerous reforms made to the FWSN laws and the implementation of the Community Based Diversion System.</p>	
<p><b>EDUCATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION 1</b></p>	<p>JJPOC recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Current legislation be amended to create a DCF administrative body and authorize it to oversee the education of youth in all juvenile justice out-of-home placements including incarcerated youth.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An implementation team shall be established by JJPOC to assist in the development of an operational plan to establish a DCF administrative body providing oversight for the education of all juvenile justice out-of-home placement as explained in this recommendation. This implementation team will include representatives from state and local agencies, as well as members of the JJPOC Education Committee and the JJPOC, and shall identify the implementation timeline, funding, and other measures necessary to fully implement the recommendation. The implementation team shall provide a report back to the JJPOC by September 2020.</li> <li>2. The DCF administrative body may hire its own personnel, and/or subcontract to private providers and/or other school districts for the provision of services.</li> <li>3. The DCF administrative body will create an advisory board of interested parties including, but not limited to, members from:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Judicial Branch CSSD</li> <li>b. DOC</li> <li>c. SDE</li> <li>d. the community; including, but not limited to, members with expertise in provision of education, mental and behavioral health services,</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Legislation &amp; Funding</p>

	<p>social work services, and advocacy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. DCF will be adequately funded and resourced to accommodate for its expansion.</li><li>5. The DCF administrative body will develop and review quarterly reports on academic performance, school discipline, attendance, etc.</li><li>6. The DCF administrative body will require subcontracted education providers (no less than semi-annually) to provide student performance data to ensure that reporting measures are tailored to experiences of students in short and long-term placements.</li><li>7. The DCF administrative body will require education providers to develop partnerships and programs with local education agencies, non-profit cultural groups, local industries, and businesses.</li><li>8. In all instances where there is a nexus, local LEAs will retain responsibility for the cost of educating their pupils.</li><li>9. The DCF administrative body will be required to report student performance data, attendance, and rates of participation for all education programs. They will also be required to document transition activities and outcomes, collaborations with community service providers, and parents.</li><li>10. The DCF administrative body will ensure that students earn credits toward high school graduation, have access to arts and career and technical education (CTE) courses, statewide and college prep testing, and provide alternative options for HS equivalency certificates for students who are overage and under credits.</li><li>11. The DCF administrative body will enable students to have access to</li></ol>	
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	web-based content including credit recovery programs.	
<p><b>EDUCATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION 2</b></p>	<p><b>JJPOC recommends that:</b></p> <p>A. A newly created administrative body within DCF will <i>employ transition specialists</i> whose primary responsibility is to facilitate the successful transition of youth from secure facilities back to the communities. These transition specialists shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collaborate with receiving schools, youth serving agencies, employers, and other community supports to plan and manage successful transition.</li> <li>2. Manage to track educational credits of youth while in out of home placement and document the success of placements following youths' reentry into their communities.</li> <li>3. Be responsible for communicating with the reentry coordinators. This information will be used in reporting by the receiving district LEA or the district of nexus, if applicable.</li> </ol> <p>B. <i>Reentry coordinators</i> (established per PA 18-31 Sec. 7(q)) shall be responsible for obtaining records of youth in juvenile justice out of home placement and assisting in transfer of the records to the facility.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The list of reentry coordinators shall be distributed to system stakeholders, including DOC, DCF, CSSD and parents of students. This list should also be made public and displayed on the SDE website.</li> <li>2. SDE should implement and maintain a current list of reentry coordinators. This list should be reviewed and updated concurrently with the August 1<sup>st</sup> statutory guideline. In districts under enrollment of 6,000, an alternate</li> </ol>	<p>Legislation</p>

	<p>will be identified to coordinate the reentry process.</p> <p>C. An amendment to C.G.S § 10-253 (g)(7) &amp; (g)(8) be made to read, “(7) When a child is not enrolled in a school district at the time of a juvenile justice out-of-home placement, <u>or upon discharge does not return to the same school where the child was previously enrolled.</u>” (8) Upon learning that a child is to be discharged, the educational services provider for the facility shall immediately notify the jurisdiction in which the child will continue his or her education after discharge. <u>A child shall have the right to enroll in such school district immediately upon discharge into the community, as provided in subsection (7).</u>”</p> <p>D. Legislation to require special education students in juvenile justice out-of-home placements, when at all possible, be provided PPT meetings upon entry and in advance of their discharge to plan for their program and placement in their receiving school district.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For youth who are sentenced or given an order of probation supervision with residential placement, a transition PPT meeting should be held 30 days in advance of the youth’s known date of discharge. Both the discharging and receiving school district shall participate in this PPT meeting and a person knowledgeable about the continuum of programmatic offerings available in the receiving district shall participate in the meeting.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>EDUCATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION 3</b></p>	<p>JJPOC recommends that:</p> <p>A. A newly created administrative body within DCF will ensure that sending and receiving schools and programs provide services and supports that maximize student’s success.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use a uniform system of state-wide electronic record transfers (i.e. Powerschool, PSIS) for</li> </ol>	<p>Legislation</p>

	<p>maintaining and sharing educational records for all students, including court-placed youth in educational programs, to be overseen by a Directory Manager and align with the IEP Task Force.</p> <p>B. A student's home district should be mandated to offer home district diplomas earned by students 17 and above graduating while in educational programs for court-placed youth who meet the statutory graduation requirements. If no nexus district can be determined, the DCF administrative body will participate in the determination of credits and facilitate in the issuance of a diploma. There should be flexibility and collaboration in this process with the student's home district and special school districts.</p> <p>C. State-wide expectations should be established for ensuring credit transfers/partial credit transfers.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Classroom hour-to-credit conversion should be standardized.</li> <li>2. Credits should be awarded as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days of the transfer to the home district.</li> <li>3. At intake, it is recommended that a review be done of the student's transcript and attendance records to determine educational requirements up to graduation. Credits should be transferred from the home district within 5 school days of students' placement.</li> </ol> <p>D. A timeframe should be established for updating educational records pre-discharge.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At a minimum, educational records should be up-to-date per marking period, as well as immediately upon discharge.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>INCARCERATION WORKGROUP</b></p>	<p>JJPOC recommends that:</p>	

<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 1</b></p> <p>Submitted in accordance with the requirements of Public Act 19-187(r).</p>	<p>A. The laws on juvenile transfer be amended to limit both the number of cases eligible for mandatory and discretionary transfer in order to decrease the population of youth in the adult criminal justice system.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cases with A felonies remain as automatic transfers</li> <li>2. Cases with B felonies be removed from automatic transfers and, instead, receive a discretionary hearing</li> <li>3. Cases with C, D, E, or unclassified felonies be removed from transfers entirely.</li> <li>4. The criteria for transfers to the criminal justice system be amended to specify the need of presenting an imminent risk of death or serious physical injury to the public.</li> </ol> <p>B. A “second look” provision be adopted for all youth transferred to adult court who receive sentences of incarceration. This “second look” will require a sentence review within 50% of their sentence, or by their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday (whichever comes first) to determine the need for continued incarceration.</p>	<p>Legislation</p>
<p><b>INCARCERATION WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATION 2</b></p>	<p>JJPOC recommends:</p> <p>A. Legislation be proposed to provide the automatic erasure of certain juvenile records, and elimination of the petition requirement that exists in current law which youth and families rarely avail themselves of. Specifically, this proposal would do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It would provide for automatic erasure of juvenile records after the existing statutory waiting period of two years and fulfillment of the requirement that there be no additional offenses, for any juvenile offense that is not a serious juvenile offense.</li> <li>2. It would still require youth with serious juvenile offenses to petition to have their records erased after</li> </ol>	<p>Legislation</p>



	<p>the existing required four year waiting period.</p> <p>3. It would not impact the ability to petition earlier by requesting a hearing for good cause for any youth with a record.</p>	
<p><b>INCARCERATION WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATION 3</b></p>	<p>JJPOC recommends:</p> <p>A. A bill in the General Assembly which reads, "Beginning July 1, 2020, telephone services or any other telecommunications services provided to a child confined in a correctional facility or transferred to DOC shall be provided free of charge"</p> <p>B. Beginning July 1, 2020, a committee be established to study phone call rates and commissary needs for all youth, 18-21 years of age, confined in Connecticut correctional facilities, and such committee shall make recommendations to the General Assembly and Department of Administrative Services prior to the renegotiation of the current prison phone services contract set to expire March 1, 2021."</p>	<p>Legislation</p>
<p><b>COMMUNITY EXPERTISE WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATION 1</b></p>	<p>JJPOC recommends that:</p> <p>A. The General Statutes be amended to increase the membership of JJPOC by two community members and two youth (must be under 26 years of age) with first or second-hand justice system involvement. Funding should be provided for stipends, transportation, and child care to enable member attendance.</p>	<p>Legislation &amp; Funding</p>