

## 2023 Recommendations in Brief

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Workgroup	JJPOC Recommends:	Implementation Strategies
<p><b>DIVERSION WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATION 1</b></p>	<p>A. The following offenses shall be automatically diverted pre-arrest to the community-based diversion system or other services for first and second-time offenses. This would allow law enforcement, schools, and other systems to refer children to a Youth Service Bureau (YSB)/Juvenile Review Board (JRB) or other community-based agencies in lieu of an arrest and would permit the agencies to send the case back to the referring entity for further action, including referral to court, if the services are unsuccessful:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Beginning July 1, 2023:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. simple trespass under section 53a-110a of the general statutes</li> <li>b. creating a public disturbance under section 53a-181a of the general statutes</li> <li>c. disorderly conduct under section 53a-182 of the general statutes</li> <li>d. larceny sixth degree under section 53a-125b of the general statutes</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>B. By July 1, 2024: The implementation team shall develop and submit to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee a plan for automatic pre-arrest diversion of children to the community-based diversion system or other community-based agencies in lieu of an arrest for</p>	<p>Legislation, Policy, Fiscal</p>

	<p>first and second-time offenses, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. breach of peace in the second degree under section 53a-181 of the general statutes</li> <li>2. larceny in the fifth under section 53a-125a of the general statutes.</li> </ol> <p>Such implementation plan shall also include data from 7/1/23 – 7/1/24 regarding the implementation of pre-arrest diversion for the offenses listed in A.1.</p>	
<p><b>INCARCERATION WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATION 1</b></p>	<p>The Department of Correction shall develop in consultation with the JJPOC Incarceration Subcommittee a commissary implementation plan and shall submit the plan to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee, no later than July 1, 2023.</p> <p>The Plan, which shall be implemented by DOC for youth 17 and under no later than November 1st, 2023, and funded by the legislature and Governor, shall include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. An integrated positive behavior motivation system to engage and reinforce positive youth behaviors and expectations that can be used as payment for commissary goods in place of a monetary system.</li> <li>b. Revision of commissary policies and procedures to include the development and implementation of positive behavior motivation policies and procedures.</li> <li>c. Increases in incentives in a way that promotes good health and recognizes the diverse range of ethnic groups, races, sexes, and cultural backgrounds.</li> <li>d. Identification of those youth within the institution that do not</li> </ol>	<p>Legislation, Policy, Fiscal</p>

	<p>currently have equitable access to commissary, including indigent youth, youth without family supports and youth with disabilities for whom their disabilities are contributing to their lack of commissary, and implementing strategies for equitable access to commissary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. Incorporation of practices as noted in <a href="#">P.A. 22-188</a> sec. 82-83 addressing access to menstrual products.</li> <li>f. Consideration for the transition of saved commissary allocations and how those funds can be transitioned and accessed when a youth is transferred to an adult unit facility.</li> <li>g. Consideration for on-going training and technical assistance (i.e., CREC PBIS)</li> <li>h. Continuous Quality Improvement system for on-going monitoring of the implementation of the plan.</li> <li>i. Twice yearly surveys or focus groups to obtain feedback from the youth within its facilities on the ways to improve its system.</li> </ul> <p>DOC, in the interim while awaiting implementation of the new Plan, shall, as noted in 1(d) above, address strategies for equitable commissary options for youth with vulnerabilities.</p>	
<p><b>INCARCERATION WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATION 2</b></p>	<p>The Judicial Branch, the Department of Correction, and the Department of Children and Families shall, in consultation with the JJPOC’s Incarceration Workgroup, the Community Expertise Workgroup, and the Education Workgroup develop a Reentry Success Plan for youth released from DOC and Judicial Branch facilities and contracted</p>	

	<p>programs for the purpose of reintegrating these youth back into their communities successfully.</p> <p>Such plan shall be developed no later than November 1, 2023.</p> <p>In development of the Reentry Success Plan, the above-mentioned entities shall examine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. reentry models and best practices around the country, including reentry hubs and community-based enhanced reentry wraparound services (New Jersey), and transitional housing (Long Creek in Maine).</li><li>b. expansion of community Reentry Roundtables and Welcome Centers to include focus on youth</li><li>c. any other considerations deemed necessary for successful implementation of the plan.</li></ul> <p>Such plan shall incorporate restorative and transformative justice principles, and shall include but not be limited to,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. the provision of individualized academic support, and the role of school districts in ensuring the provision of academic, vocational and transition support services,</li><li>b. connection of youth to vocational and workforce opportunities,</li><li>c. connection to developmentally appropriate housing,</li><li>d. delivery of trauma-informed mental health and substance use treatments,</li><li>e. development of restorative justice re-entry circles,</li></ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. utilization of credible messengers as mentors and/or transition support providers.</li> <li>g. role of reentry coordinators</li> </ul> <p>The plan shall include a proposed quality assurance framework, including the collection of appropriate data, promulgation of a public dashboard, and the monitoring framework to ensure the successful discharge and re-entry of incarcerated youth.</p> <p>The plan shall include information regarding federal and state funding sources to support a comprehensive reentry model and identify priorities and appropriate timelines for implementation. Such Plan shall be presented to the JJPOC for its consideration no later than January 1, 2024.</p>	
<p><b>SUSPENSION &amp; EXPULSION RECOMMENDATION 1</b></p>	<p>Effective July 1, 2024, the State Department of Education shall require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Districts identified in two subsequent reporting school years as having high suspension and expulsion rates and/or high disproportionality, for all grades, including Pre-K, will submit a response and improvement plan to CSDE and the committee of cognizance.</li> <li>b. A phased in plan with the aim to reduce and cap classroom student-to-teacher ratio beginning July 1, 2024, through July 1, 2028; the recommendation shall be considered a ceiling, not a floor. 20 students in Pre-k-K to 2nd grades. 23 students for grades 4-8th. 25 students for high school classes The Commissioner of Education may exempt certain types of classes (physical education, athletics,</li> </ul>	<p>Legislation, Policy</p>

	<p>performing arts, etc.) from these class size caps as deemed safe and appropriate.</p> <p>c. Encourage all schools throughout the state of Connecticut to administer the Columbia Suicide Severity Scale when students are exhibiting mental health distress or suicide warning signs.</p>	
<p><b>SUSPENSION &amp; EXPULSION RECOMMENDATION 2</b></p>	<p>Effective July 1, 2024, the legislature and the Governor shall fund the following, as noted in 1a-b above:</p> <p>a. Additional positions to the State Department of Education for the purpose of providing support, technical assistance, on-site monitoring, and oversight of districts improvements plans.</p> <p>b. Funds to permit districts to implement improvement plans.</p> <p>c. Increase in workforce/support staff gap to support the efforts to reduce and cap classroom to teacher ratios as noted in 1b, starting with PreK to 2nd grades.</p>	<p>Legislation, Fiscal</p>
<p><b>SUSPENSION &amp; EXPULSION RECOMMENDATION 3</b></p>	<p>Effective July 1, 2023, through July 1, 2026, for purpose of a case study of reporting on Alternative Educational Opportunities (AEOs) from all districts, districts shall report on an annual basis to Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee and to the CSDE with the expectation that there be a MOA with the University of New Haven to complete the study.</p> <p>a. Number of expulsions and use of alternative educational opportunities (AEOs) for expelled students for the time period. Reporting will include identification of AEO placements and listing of completed credits for expelled</p>	<p>Legislation, Fiscal</p>

	<p>students during their AEO placement.</p> <p>b. A description of the alternative educational opportunities provided by the district and how it compares with the model program promulgated by the State Department of Education in “Standards for Educational Opportunities for Students Who Have Been Expelled.”</p>	
<p><b>SUSPENSION &amp; EXPULSION RECOMMENDATION 4</b></p>	<p>Behavior perceived by adults as being of a “violent or sexual nature” that may trigger suspension or expulsion of a PreK-2 student within current state statute is evidence of a child’s need for intervention, not exclusion. Effective July 1, 2024, the Department of Education shall organize a team comprised of members of the subcommittee and others to develop guidance and strategies that aim to reduce out of school suspension and expulsions in pre-k -2. Guidance shall include precise, research based, developmentally appropriate definitions of the terms “violent or sexual nature” as they may apply to this age group, examples of behaviors which may trigger the need for intervention despite the ban, and developmentally appropriate interventions.</p>	<p>Legislation</p>
<p><b>CEW RECOMMENDATION 1</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Public Act 14-217, Section 79</a> be amended to increase the membership of the JJPOC to include:</p> <p>a. Two children/youth/young adults between the ages of 18 and 26 with lived expertise in the juvenile justice system and nominated by the Community Expertise Workgroup, one of whom shall be appointed by one chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee, and one of whom shall be appointed by the other chairperson of the Juvenile</p>	<p>Legislation, Fiscal</p>

	<p>Justice Policy and Oversight Committee; and</p> <p>b. One community member, which could include family members of youth impacted by the juvenile justice system or credible messengers with lived expertise in the justice system and currently working with youth in the juvenile justice system, nominated by the Community Expertise Workgroup and appointed by the chairpersons of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee.</p> <p>The state shall fund sponsor organizations to support members appointed by the Community Expertise Workgroup with transportation, childcare, and stipends to enable member participation.</p>	
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