



JJPOC Education Committee

September 30, 2019

2:00-3:30pm

DOC Headquarters, 24 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109

Meeting Summary:

- Subcommittee Updates
 - Infrastructure
 - 3 proposals were discussed regarding the provision of educational services to youth in custody:
 - (1) Expand USD#1 so that it is responsible for providing the education to all justice involved youth.
 - (2) Give the responsibility to another state agency or contracted non-profit education service provider
 - (3) Keep the current system, in which each facility is responsible for managing their own educational services
 - All 3 options above include a legislatively mandated oversight commission comprised of representatives from SDE, CSSD, DOC, and possibly other system stakeholders.
 - Transition/Reentry
 - Work with SDE to distribute list of reentry coordinators to system stakeholders, including DOC, CSSD and parents of juveniles. This list should be made public and displayed on the SDE website
 - Gather list of liaisons responsible for reentry within the agencies (DOC, CSSD)
 - Assign a website gatekeeper to keep reentry coordinator contacts up to date
 - Establish a timeframe for updating educational records pre-discharge
 - Committee must consider how to handle records of undocumented youth
 - Quality Control
 - There is difficulty is defining educational success. There were questions as to whether this Committee should define success as attainment of a high school diploma or if there are social emotional indicators that should be considered.
 - Committee must look at the whole child and the deficits that existed prior to entry into the JJ system. Continuity of services are necessary in order to ensure that the while child is being developed.
 - Questions arose as to how budgetary constraints could potentially impact delivery of services.

- Review of Peter's DRAFT Presentation
 - It is important that standards for education services of incarcerated youth are consistent with those in public schools around the state. Funding should take into account mobility, academic disadvantage and special education needs of the youth. There should also be annual reporting on the operations of educational programming for youth in the justice system.
 - A special school district should be created for incarcerated and other court-involved youth. This school system should have an independent school board. The school district should receive CT average per pupil funding as well as additional supports for this high-need population. This new school district should be required to receive accreditation from an association of colleges and secondary schools within 36 months. Note: not all members in agreement with the creation of a new district.
 - A framework should be developed for accountability that includes educators, the court system, sending/receiving school districts, as well as the DOC and CSSD. Education providers should have to report no less than semi-annually on student performance to the new school district and its board. Reporting measures should also take into account short vs long-term placements. Education providers should also be required to develop and maintain relationships with LEAs, non-profits, local industries and businesses.
 - Discussion
 - The Committee is almost unanimously in favor of USD#1 becoming independent of the DOC if they are selected to provide educational services. Committee stressed the need to separate DOC which is adult centered, from the education of youth in the JJ system
 - Members of the Committee expressed concerns over continuity of care, especially for those up to age 21, who are guaranteed access to public education according to state law.
 - The members discussed the importance that both teachers and facility staff are aware of their expectations and responsibilities for education of youth.
 - The members were adamant that changes made must also include consistency some unified formula for conversion of classroom hours into credits for all districts
- Next Steps
 - Peter is presenting his preliminary presentation to the JJPOC Executive Committee on October 2nd, 2019.
 - Peter will present his preliminary presentation to the JJPOC on October 17th, 2019

Next Meeting: October 28, 2019 – Location TBD