



JJPOC Education Committee

December 10, 2019

2:00-3:30pm

William C. Graustein Memorial Fund, 2319 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518

Meeting Summary:

- Reentry/Transition Subcommittee Update
 - Members of the Reentry Subcommittee shared their recommendations to the entire Education Committee. First, they recommend that the agency who will provide educational services to the youth shall employ transition specialists whose primary responsibility is to facilitate transition between out-of-home placements and the community.
 - SDE shall be the gatekeeper for the existing reentry coordinators list. This list shall include school districts who are required to maintain a reentry coordinator in accordance to the statutory requirements of P.A. 18-31 as well as agencies such as DOC, CSSD and all contracted facilities. It was noted that the request was made multiple times that list should be made available on the SDE website similarly as the homeless liaisons are posted on their website. There was discussion on how SDE can successfully enforce districts and agencies to comply with the statutory requirements.
 - It was also recommended that a singular, state-wide electronic record transfer system be used for all, not just exclusive to the proposed juvenile justice district. Currently, PowerSchool is widely used by a majority of school districts in the state.
 - It was recommended that a student's home district offer the diplomas earned by youth during their time in the juvenile justice system. DCF has the ability to work with youth who are designated "no-nexus".
 - It was also recommended that all agencies involved with housing youth in juvenile justice placements have the capabilities to fulfill all graduation requirements and offer any state-wide/college prep testing. There was discussion on the use of a virtual classroom, and other technological tools in order to address challenges of educating a small population in a variety of geographical placements.
 - There were recommendations regarding expectations for credit transfers/partial credit transfers, classroom hour-to-credit conversion, and equivalent access to technology.
- Infrastructure & Quality Control Subcommittee Update
 - The members of the subcommittee discussed in detail three potential infrastructure options: (1) Creation of a new independent school district with a new independent Board of Education; (2) Expansion of USD#1 to provide education services for all youth in JJ placement; and (3) Expansion of USD#2 to provide education services for all youth in JJ placement. There was discussion on feedback provided by members of the subcommittee, as well as Dr. Peter Leone.

- If Option #1 is selected, the creation of an independent juvenile justice school district, then there will also be the creation of a school board with delineated representation on the Board and annual stipends and travel expenses provided for community members or youth involved. The school district should be adequately funded/resourced and operate like all other school districts within the state. There was discussion on the special needs of this unique student population and the importance of ensuring appropriate district funding. Further information regarding specific costs of education is still needed.
- If Option #2 or #3 is chosen, they will be allowed to keep their existing advisory/school boards.
- With all options, the education service provider will have the ability to hire additional personnel and/or subcontract for provision of services. Whichever option is chosen should receive twice the average per pupil expenditure for public school students in the state.
- Regardless of which option is chosen, the central administration shall be responsible developing and reviewing quarterly reports, including academic performance, school discipline, attendance, etc. It was also recommended that education providers tailor the information they provide to account for student experiences in both short and long-term placements and develop partnerships and programs with local education agencies, non-profit cultural groups, local industries and businesses.
- Upon careful deliberation and consideration, the Committee ultimately decided against further pursuit of Option #2, expansion of USD#1.
- Upon further discussion and consideration, members of the majority of the Committee voiced their opinions in favor of moving forward with Option #3, expansion of USD#2. However, the it was agreed that both Option #1 and Option #3 would be brought forward to the Executive Committee for further consideration.
- Next Steps
 - On December 16th, the Co-Chairs of the Education Committee will present their draft recommendations to the Executive Committee.
 - On Decemer 20th, the Executive Committee will receive an updated copy of the draft recommendations.
 - On Janurary 9th, the draft recommendations with feedback from the Executive Committee will be distributed to the members of the JJPOC.

Next Meeting: TBD