



JJPOC Suspension and Expulsion Workgroup Meeting

APRIL 19TH, 2024

11:00 AM- 12:00 PM

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Attendance

Jeana Bracey	Werner Oyandel	Agata Reszczyk-Lawska	TYJI Staff
Amy Vatner	TJ Nuccio	Kim Traverso	Paul Klee
Emily Leen	Andrew Feinstein		Brittany LaMarr
Fran Rabinowitz	Janeen Reid		

Meeting Summary

1. Update on SB 380

- Background
 - Newly passed legislation eradicated the term “sexually violent” as it pertains to pre-k-second grade.
 - Instead, the term “Causing Serious physical Harm” was used.
 - There was still controversy around the maximum number of days a pre-k-second grade student should be suspended.
 - The subgroup argued for a two-day maximum, The current maximum is 10 days.
 - Current Status of SB 380
 - The subgroup was informed that negotiations around the maximum days of suspension for pre-k- second-grade students were continuing.
 - The Possibility of Aligning Suspension and Expulsion Practices with School Climate Provisions (2023) was discussed.
 - It was suggested that the language of SB-380 should be decided by July 1st, 2025, when the school climate provisions will begin to appear in schools.



- Subgroup members reiterated their arguments for the two-day suspension revision to SB 380
 - The subgroup was reminded that since SB 380 consisted of 14 smaller bills, the suspension language would not come up as a separate bill.
- Closing Comments
 - A subgroup member asked for clarification regarding whether SB 380 was the bill that discussed schools needing to share data with the Youth Service Bureau.
 - The consensus was that discussion was covered in the Disconnected Youth Bill.
 - A subgroup member shared their prior research that found that Connecticut ranked fourth in the country when it came to having the most expulsions.
 - That study was shared with members of the subgroup.
 - Another subgroup member reminded the group that the resources needed to ban school expulsions are just not there for some school districts.
 - A discussion was held about why students have been suspended/expelled and the detriments that have on their development.

2. Suspension and Expulsion Subgroup Workplan 2024

- The subgroup was reminded of the Education Workgroup Workplan:
 - Receive regular updates from DCF-JJEU
 - Follow up on 2018 legislation involving C-TECS
 - Receive Regular Updates from 119k Commission and School Discipline Collaborative
 - Receive CSDE Updates on Alternative Education Opportunities report and 2022 legislation
- The subgroup was also reminded of the Suspension and Expulsion Subgroup Workplan:
 - Receive updates on SB 380
 - Review violent and sexual nature statute for Pre-k- 2
 - Outline standards for interventions during in-school suspensions
 - Receive Update from CHDI piloting SBDI-E in certain elementary schools

3. SBDI-E Pilot Update

- Background
 - SBDI-E just received funding to pilot their program in three elementary schools over the next two years.



- SBDI has already been successfully incorporated into middle and high schools. SBDI-E aimed to incorporate the program into elementary schools.
- A subgroup member inquired about how the three elementary schools for the pilot would be picked.
 - A representative for the pilot shared that schools would be picked based on a framework of interest, need for the program, and capacity to incorporate the program at their own expense
- A subgroup member suggested that if the SBDI-E program is incorporated into more elementary schools, they would like to see it pushed worst numbers around suspensions and expulsions, regardless of interest.
 - The representative agreed that in an ideal world that would happen, but prior experience has shown that SBDI is not successful if the districts don't want to embrace it.
- Another subgroup member voiced their concern about the timing of the SBDI pilot considering the mass budget/staff cuts around Connecticut Public Schools.

4. Next Steps

- A subgroup member shared that as of right now, the substantive work for this subgroup consists of researching and outlining standards for interventions during in-school suspensions
- A discussion was held regarding what additional goals the subgroup wanted to set for this year. Some suggestions were:
 - To promote more collaboration between the subgroup and other Educational Service organizations.
 - To work toward minimizing/ending the Discriminatory Application of discipline, specifically based on race.
 - To observe the discrepancy in disciplinary action taken between school districts in Connecticut.
 - To revise standards for in-school suspensions and reinforce their usage in school districts
 - To conduct a study on whether schools even use In-School-Suspension anymore for different infractions
 - To investigate developmentally appropriate trauma-informed responses from students returning to the classroom after suspension/expulsion
- The subgroup was asked to focus on tangible outcomes that could be achieved by the end of this upcoming legislative session



- An email was sent to the subgroup members asking for the goals they would like to complete. The group was asked to respond within two weeks so a Subgroup Member could compile a list to discuss at the next meeting.
- A subgroup member asked the group to look at existing standards for In-School-Suspensions when deciding on a proposed revision
- Another subgroup member will look into and then update the 10-233C memo regarding in-school-suspension guidelines back around to the Connecticut Public Schools.
- The state guidelines for disciplining special ed students were shared with the subgroup to review in their own time.

Next Meeting: May 17th, 2024, 11:00 am-12:00 pm