



## JJPOC Suspension and Expulsion Workgroup Meeting

MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

11:00 AM- 12:00 PM

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

**THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES**

### Attendance

TJ Nuccio	Andrew Feinstein	Yecenia Casiano	<b>TYJI Staff</b>
James Mandracchia	Jennifer Lussier	Agata Raszczyk-Lawska	Paul Klee
Fran Rabinowitz	Amy Vatner		Brittany LaMarr
Kim Traverso	John Frassinelli		

### Meeting Summary

#### 1. Legislative Updates

- S B-3080 did not pass
- Public Act 24-25 concerning a mandate relief for school discipline and disconnected youth may be of interest to members of the subcommittee
  - Section 13 – the definition of in school suspension changed from 10 days to 5 days
  - Suspension is defined as exclusion from school privileges or transportation, provided that exclusion should not expand beyond school year of which the suspension was imposed
    - ‘For no more than 10 consecutive school days’ removed from definition
    - Refers to kindergarden-2nd grade
  - Section 14 – Grades 3rd to 12th cannot exceed 10 days for out of school suspension, grades Pre-K to 2nd are limited to 5 days
    - Uses the language “behavior that causes physical harm”
      - Removed definition that used “behavior of violent or sexual nature”



- Discussion of updating the usage of the term “physical harm” versus “behavior of a violent nature” in the definition
  - Trying to avoid over-suspension due to frequent harmful behaviors in the classroom as well as avoiding a loss of suspension for those having behaviors with violent intent but failing to cause physical harm
- Looking to discuss interpretation of behavior with education committee and addressing the definition of physical harm
  - Recommended to clarify the use of suspension for Pre-K

## 2. **Workplan**

- Discussion follows-up on last week’s questions regarding members’ desired goals and priorities for the subgroup
- What resources are available for researching literature, collecting data, and talking to stakeholders
  - Possible funds through JJPOC to fund technical support
    - In the process of sitting with development staff to discuss the funding through the new contract and how much money will be distributed to each workgroup
  - Researchers may include Paul Klee, Dr. Cooper following her sabbatical, and other University of New Haven faculty through administrative support
- Seeking to establish reasonable strategies to discourage suspensions
  - Including preventative work like preparing teachers with intervention skills
- Reworking in-school-suspension (ISS) to become a better intervention
  - Determining whether there are therapeutic strategies
  - Newington recently presented on a great decrease in discipline and in school suspension
- Decide on a small area to go after, perhaps involve the discipline collaborative, or SEL committee
- Looking for SDE to come out with a statement that promotes ISS first before using out-of-school-suspension
- By statute, the alternative education opportunity is given to students that are expelled
  - State is working on putting out data on this program and may be a specific area of research to look at
- Need resources to have an alternative to exclusionary discipline



- People inside the school buildings who can support the kids regularly or during ISS
- American Rescue Plan funding ends in September
  - Trying to work with DSS to go through the Medicaid system
  - Need additional resources for funding
- Need to add clinicians, training for teachers, as well as support outside of the school
- Searching for what can be done to reduce the number of expulsions
- Need strategies where discussion can take place about strategies language to target the disproportionate exclusionary discipline
- Possible opportunity to create an additional layer of research for disproportionality within the current alternative school program research
- Need standards in place for alternative educational programs and evidence of this
  - Avoiding a passive drop-off site for students in need of an alternative educational program

### **3. Future Focuses**

- Working toward reducing expulsion and what that may look like
- Discussing in-school-suspension and how to ensure it is being used strategically
- Restorative practices and de-escalation strategies that the district can use
- Establish tangible recommendations
- Open doors between community resources and schools for daytime support

**Next Meeting: June 28th, 2024**