

## I. 2020 DRAFT JJPOC RECOMMENDATIONS IN BRIEF

		Requirement
INCARCERATION WORK GROUP RECOMMENDATION 1	<p>It is recommended that JJPOC:</p> <p>A. Support a bill in the General Assembly amending C.G.S. § 10-253 (g)(7) &amp; (g)(8) to read, “(7) When a child is not enrolled in a school district at the time of placement in a juvenile detention facility, <u>or upon discharge does not return to the same school where the child was enrolled at the time of placement in a juvenile detention facility.</u>”</p> <p>“(8) Upon learning that a child is to be discharged from a juvenile detention facility, the educational services provider for the juvenile detention facility shall immediately notify the jurisdiction in which the child will continue his or her education after discharge. <u>A child shall have the right to enroll in such school district immediately upon discharge from detention into the community, as provided in subsection (6).</u>”</p> <p>B. In the alternative, propose an amendment to the JJPOC Education Committee recommendations that would require immediate enrollment for all children returning to the community.</p>	Underlined is added language.

### BACKGROUND

C.G.S. § 10-253 prescribes the school enrollment process for children discharging from detention into the community. Currently for children who seek to enroll in the same school district they were enrolled in at the time they entered the detention facility, the law mandates immediate enrollment. These students can start school without showing proof of prior transcripts, immunization records, special education records, or other paperwork. But for students who were not enrolled in school when they entered the detention facility, or for those whose school district changes upon discharge, the law does not provide for immediate enrollment in their new schools.

### DATA

Studies show that excess free time is a leading factor in predicting reentry success. Studies also show that children engaged with school have less free time, more access to positive peer and adult supports, and increased internal motivation for successful reentry. Staff at the Department of Children and Families, juvenile probation officers, and attorneys at the Center for Children's Advocacy have all expressed their concern that school enrollment delays are a major contributing factor in unsuccessfully reentry.

### POTENTIAL IMPACT

With this bill, the JJPOC is closing a loophole in order to support immediate school enrollment for all students returning from detention to the community, not just those children returning to their original schools. Also with this bill, the JJPOC will be providing more support to the detention facility's educational service provider, reentry coordinator, and the school district liaison. Once these providers as a team and with the child's family have identified an appropriate school, this bill will help these providers avoid any unforeseen delays to the child's enrollment and ensure the child's reentry plan will be successful.