



We are pleased to share the news!
2018 JJPOC Recommendations have passed as Public Act 18-31.

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND CONCERNING TRANSFER OF JUVENILE SERVICES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO THE COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH".

We are so grateful to our Connecticut Legislators for their hard work and commitment. The following are the components of the PA 18-31:

DIVERTING CHILDREN FROM CONTACT WITH THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Section 1

- Codifies the Community Based Diversion System Plan developed under PA 16-147,18(K), in which the Youth Services Bureaus are identified as the primary agent for diversion of children from the juvenile justice system.
- The Community Based Diversion Plan addresses the newly developed process for making referrals of juvenile justice children from police, schools and other agents to the youth services bureau system.

Section 2

- Codifies the School Based Diversion Plan developed under previous legislation.
- The Plan addresses priority strategies for school-based diversion: disciplinary policy review, use of community resources such as the Emergency Mobile Crisis Teams, improved professional development for school staff.

REMOVING BARRIERS IN EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT

Section 3

- Starting 8/1/18, school districts where juveniles reside must continuously maintain the enrollment of youth who are held in juvenile detention centers so that they can more seamlessly transition when they are returned.
- State detention centers must notify the district to which the child is returning as soon as the discharge date is determined.

Section 4

- On August 1, 2018, each eligible school district (those with more than 6000 students) will have to designate an employee as a liaison to facilitate transitions between the school district and the child in "justice system custody".

OPENING ACCESS TO THE TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN RETURNING FROM OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT

Section 5

- Not later than 1/1/20, the Technical High School System and the Court Support Services Division will collaborate to provide career and technical education programming for youth who are in justice system custody or who are returning to their home communities.
- The collaboration is intended to create a pathway to enrollment and the technical schools are

called upon to amend their admission criteria to enable this change.

- By January 1, 2019, the Board and the Superintendent of the Technical Schools shall submit a plan to accomplish this to both the JJPOC and the appropriate committees of the legislature.

CREATING A DATA SYSTEM FOR “REAL TIME” SHARING OF EDUCATION RECORDS

Section 6

- By 1/1/20, the Education Department must develop a plan to incentivize and support school district participation in a statewide information technology plan that allows for real time sharing of education records.
- By 2/1/19, the commissioner will provide information to JJPOC on the progress being made on the above plan.

PLANNING FOR A CONSOLIDATED EDUCATION SYSTEM FOR YOUTH IN CUSTODY

Section 7

- By 1/1/20, the Education Department must develop a plan to incentivize and support school district participation in a statewide information technology plan that allows for real time sharing of education records.
- By 2/1/19, the commissioner will provide information to JJPOC on the progress being made on the above plan.
- By January 1, 2021, a single agency will be in charge of a statewide system for education of transitional supports for children in custody
- By 7/1/18, the JJPOC will convene a committee, the member of which are designated in the bill, to develop the plan mentioned above.
- By 1/1/19, the JJPOC will receive a report from such committee and propose legislation to vest responsibility for the education of children in custody in a single state agency that will provide all education and related transitional supports, effective July 1, 2020.
- Among the many things that the Plan must address are the following: the range of services for the justice-involved youth must include, at a minimum, a traditional high-school diploma program, an accelerated credit recovery program, vocational training, and access to post-secondary options.
- By 10/1/18, the JJPOC must report on the services available for persons under the age of 18 at the Manson Youth Institution.

PLANNING FOR JUSTICE REINVESTMENT

Section 7

- By 1/1/20, the JJPOC shall report on a Justice Reinvestment Plan that will allow for the reinvestment of a portion of the savings from the decreased use of incarceration and congregate care programming to become strategic investments in home, school and community based behavioral health services for children diverted from the juvenile justice system.

The remainder of the Bill addressed the technical changes necessary to transfer juvenile functions from the Department of Children and Families to the Judicial Branch.

If you have any questions, please visit www.cga.ct.gov or contact Erika Nowakowski, Director of Youth Justice Initiatives at enowakowski@newhaven.edu.

Thank you to the Legislators who made this Bill possible, through which important reforms to the Juvenile Justice System continue!

