

Improving School Discipline in CT

Seeking Parents' Views on the Shift To In-School Suspension

Presented by Connecticut Appleseed, in collaboration with Connecticut Parent Power and the Connecticut Association for Human Services

August 12, 2010



Connecticut Appleseed



About Connecticut Appleseed

Connecticut Appleseed is a statewide, non-partisan 501(c)3 organization dedicated to building a more just society. Our mission is to develop solutions for the causes, rather than the symptoms, of our state's social problems.

Visit our website for more information:

<http://ctappleseed.org/>



Connecticut Appleseed

About Connecticut Parent Power

Our mission is to educate, engage and mobilize parents to act on children's issues. To do this, CT Parent Power brings timely, clear, and accurate information to Connecticut parents and delivers meaningful opportunities for parents to take action on children's issues.

Visit our website for more information:

<http://www.ctparentpower.org/>

For more info on school discipline:

<http://www.ctparentpower.org/schools/our-issue-areas/school-discipline>



About the Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS)

Our mission is to end poverty and engage, equip and empower all families in Connecticut to build a secure future.

For the past year, CAHS has been collaborating with several organizations to present a series of webinars on a variety of topics, one of the many types of partnerships we have forged over the past 100 years.

Visit our website for more information: <http://www.cahs.org/index.html>
and <http://www.cahs.org/100years.asp>



How would you improve
school discipline?

Introducing presenter,

Bob Kettle, Executive Director

Connecticut Appleseed

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“Schools to Prison Pipeline” Risk

- Studies nationwide correlate student disciplinary data with juvenile justice statistics
- Disciplinary code violations lead to: out-of-school suspensions, expulsions, referrals to alternative schools, and Adult Ed.
- Those disciplined prone to drop out & worse

Where Connecticut Stands in 2010

- Public Act 10-111 set 7/1/10 deadline for implementing shift to “in-school suspensions” (ISS) for most disciplinary violations
- Some districts were already making progress by experimenting with ISS programs

How We Got To This Point

- 60,000 students expelled or suspended (2006)
- 2007 law limited out-of-school suspensions
- But districts protested unfunded mandate

How We Got To This Point (cont.)

- Legislature delayed implementation in 2008 and 2009
- CT Voices for Children reported in June on improving data (e.g. fewer expulsions, etc.)
- Public Act 10-111 (driven by Race to the Top) included firm July 1, 2010 implementation

As Fall Approaches

- Opportunity now to shape district ISS plans
- Most pilot ISS programs are poorly-funded
- CT Appleseed interviewing officials in 9 districts (and individual schools) to find Best Practices in ISS

Districts Need Ideas & Feedback

- Help districts respond to state law and make transition to ISS
- Let them know if and how their disciplinary framework has been effective, just OK or counter-productive

Seeking Parent Input

- Are you familiar with Codes of Conduct?
- Are school administrators notifying you of their disciplinary actions?
- Are schools communicating your rights?

How Your Input Will Help

- Inexpensive ideas needed since state not funding in-school suspension
- Help shape the details of your district's response to law:
 - How much academic content in ISS?
 - Are teachers certified?
- **On-line survey will follow**

CT Appleseed's Nov. 30 Report

- Will help with transition to ISS
- Will be distributed to districts and legislators
- We want report to reflect your perspective, please email your ideas/concerns to bobkettle@ctappleseed.org,
or call (203) 210-5356

Some Best Practices

- Target all district students w/research-based strategies
- Early intervention for some children
- Provide teacher/counselor training & support

More Best Practices

- Academic content for in-school suspension
- Plans to monitor at-risk students
- Track students in alternative schools
- Involve parents w/schools (THIS MEANS YOU!)

Some other ideas

- Peer mediation (in some Trumbull, New Haven and Bridgeport schools)
- Behavior Intervention Plans tailored to needs of each student
- Community service
- Saturday school
- Mentoring

Not all disciplinary actions work

- Success of Alternative schools varies widely
- Content and quality of teaching varies widely in in-school suspension programs:
 - “Detention” is inexpensive
 - Counseling services and teaching are not

CT Voices for Children's Report

- Check the following link for this recent report:
http://www.ckidslink.org/pub_detail_515.html
- Includes most recent school year data
- Features findings from interviews

Your School's Climate

- Are disciplines appropriate for offenses?
- Do disciplinary actions improve learning environment for majority of students?
- Is there an alternative school in your district?

How Would You Change School Discipline Further?

- Do teachers need more training to intervene more effectively, maintain order?
- Do you need better communication from schools?

Help CT Appleseed Improve School Discipline

- Best practices will be shared with districts
- Recommendations to state policymakers
- Check out our preliminary report here:
http://ctappleseed.org/pdfs/707/CTAppleseed_SchoolDiscipline_ExecutiveSummary.pdf
- Longer-term Evaluation:
 - Improved discipline data
 - Declining dropout rates
 - Declining juvenile justice statistics

QUESTIONS?

Please type your questions in, and we will attempt to address them all before we have to sign off.

A recorded version of this webinar and the entire presentation will be available online soon.

Thank you's and Survey reminder

- Your responses will inform our report and help to improve your kids' schools!
- **Please complete our survey as you exit**
- Thank you for your time!

Additional resources/reports

Thanks to the attendee who suggested the following reports:

[http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/Pressroom/RTI Executive Summary.pdf](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/Pressroom/RTI_Executive_Summary.pdf)

[http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/pressroom/SRBI full.pdf](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/pressroom/SRBI_full.pdf)

Contact/For more info

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