



SCHOOL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIPS:
 A PROGRAM TO KEEP KIDS IN SCHOOL AND OUT OF COURT
 Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Seminar
 November 19, 2019



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SCHOOL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIPS





- “Raise the Age” authorizes statewide expansion of SJPs in order to reduce:
 - In school arrests;
 - Out of school suspensions; and
 - Expulsions.

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WHY DO WE NEED SJPS?



- Courts are increasingly becoming the default option for school discipline.
- >40% of all complaints filed in juvenile court come from schools.
- **Top 3 school based offenses** are non-violent misdemeanors.
 - Simple Assault
 - Disorderly Conduct
 - Simple Affray
- Most school based referrals to court are discretionary.
 - *i.e.*, not included in the mandatory reporting law - G.S. 115C-288(g)

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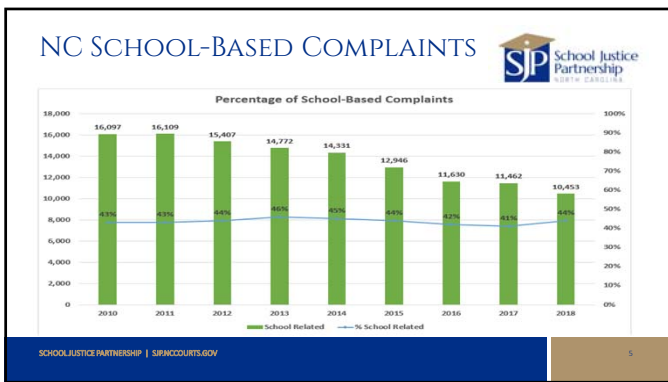


WHAT IS A SCHOOL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP?

- Collaboration among local stakeholders to help students succeed in school and prevent negative outcomes for youth and communities.
- **Main Goal** = keeping kids in school and out of court for minor misconduct.

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THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE (STPP)

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POTENTIAL IMPACT



- Lower Academic Achievement
 - Suspension increases the risk that a student will repeat a grade or drop out of school.
 - One suspension triples the likelihood a child will become involved in the juvenile justice system.
 - *Breaking Schools' Rules*. Tony Fabelo, et. al (2011)
- Higher Recidivism
- Permanent Criminal Record for 16 & 17-year-olds
- Outcomes worsen with deeper involvement in court system

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DISPROPORTIONALITY




- Exclusionary discipline practices disproportionately impact certain groups of students:
 - Youth of Color
 - Black Students
 - Students with Disabilities
 - Male Students

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RACIAL DISPARITIES



Youth of Color

- 2.5x more likely to be referred to juvenile court than white youth
- 1.5x more likely to be placed in secure confinement than white youth

Black Students


- 4x more likely to be suspended or expelled than white students
- 3.7x more likely to be referred to juvenile court than white students

Sources:
2018 Juvenile Justice Annual Report, NC Department of Public Safety.
2018 NC Racial Equity Report Card, Youth Justice Project NC.

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OTHER DISPARITIES



Students with Disabilities

- More than twice as likely to be suspended

Male Students

- Are roughly half of the student population but receive 73% of STS and 80% of LTS

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SJPS PRODUCE BETTER OUTCOMES




- Eliminates harmful collateral consequences of court involvement
- Provides accountability through age-appropriate consequences
- Improves school safety and school climate
- Improves student academic achievement
- Reduces disparate impact

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HOW DO SJPS WORK?




- Chief district court judge serves as the "convener"
- As conveners, judges bring the relevant stakeholders together to collaborate
- Key Stakeholders include but are not limited to:
 - Juvenile Justice Personnel
 - Law Enforcement Officials
 - School Superintendent
 - School Administrators
 - School Board Attorneys
 - Prosecutors and Juvenile Defenders
 - Parents and Family Partners

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THE GOAL




- To adopt an SJP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that:
 - Sets clear guidelines for the roles of law enforcement and school officials in responding to student misconduct
 - Limits the use of court referrals and suspension for minor student misconduct
 - Implements a **Graduated Response Model**
 - Meets the needs of the local community
 - Includes input from all community partners
- The Model SJP MOU is simply a starting point, if needed.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT ROLES





- School Resource Officer (SRO)
 - Improve school safety and educational climate at the school
 - Stay on campus
 - Charge less
 - Support positive response to discipline
- Non-SRO
 - Coordinate with School Administrators
 - Determine necessity of action
 - Follow custody protocols

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THE TOOLKIT

- A resource for convening stakeholder meetings with tools designed to help local communities establish an SJP.
- What's included?
 - Research on effective school discipline
 - Evidence based strategies and programs
 - Model MOU and other templates
 - Sample graduated response model
 - Sample data collection and monitoring plan

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NC COUNTIES WITH AN SJP




- Beaufort County (October 2019)
- Brunswick County (July 2017)
- Greene County (March 2018)
- Franklin County (October 2019)
- Lenoir County (March 2018)
- Martin County (October 2019)
- Mecklenburg County (January 2016)
- New Hanover County (November 2015)
- Stanly County (July 2018)
- Washington County (September 2019)
- Wayne County (April 2018)
- Whiteville City Schools (July 2019)

❖ Several more counties are in the process of establishing SJPs but have not yet adopted an MOU.

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THE RESULTS




- Clayton County, GA "School Referral Reduction Protocol" (Judge Steven Teske)
 - MOA implemented in 2004
 - **67.4%** reduction in school based referrals
 - **43%** reduction in referrals of youth of color
 - **73%** reduction in serious weapons on campus
 - **24% increase** in graduation rates
- New Hanover County, NC (est. 2015)
 - Higher graduation rates
 - **67%** reduction in school-based referrals since 2013-2014
 - In 2017-2018, **24%** of students referred to an SRO entered the court system
 - Prior to the SJP, it was **86%** of students

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BRUNSWICK COUNTY

(TOTAL SCHOOL-BASED COMPLAINTS)



DELINQUENT SCHOOL-BASED COMPLAINTS

SBO % Change

SBO % Change

Year Comparison to Change: 40.8%

FY 16-17

141

Year Comparison: 289

FY 15-16

110

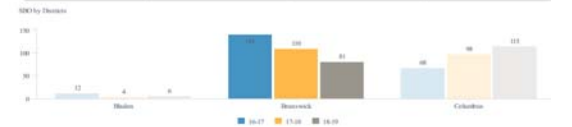
Year Comparison: 332

FY 14-15

81

Year Comparison: 312

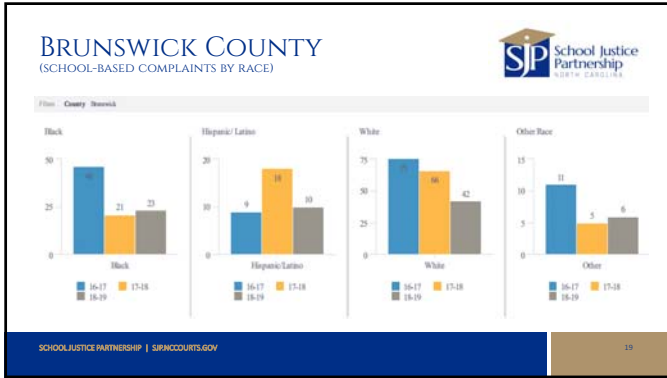
SBOs by Division



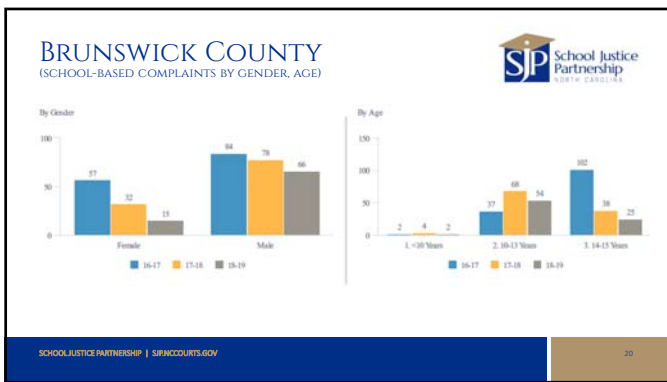
Division	FY 16-17	FY 15-16	FY 14-15
Status	11	4	6
Network	126	106	81
Collection	4	0	25

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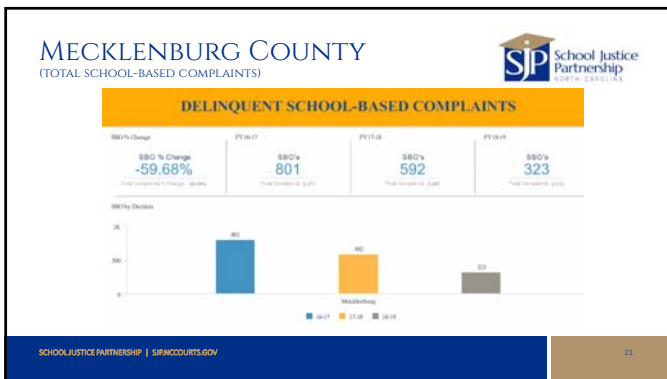
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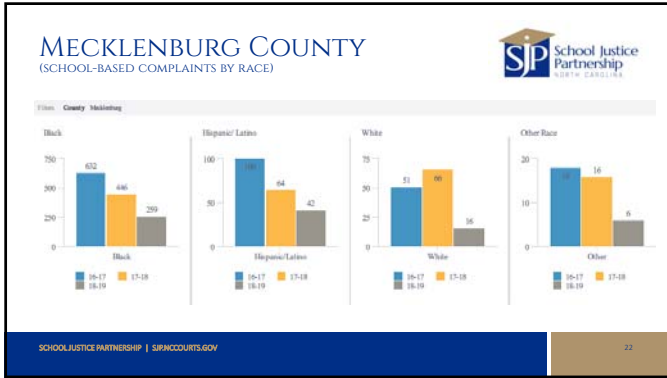
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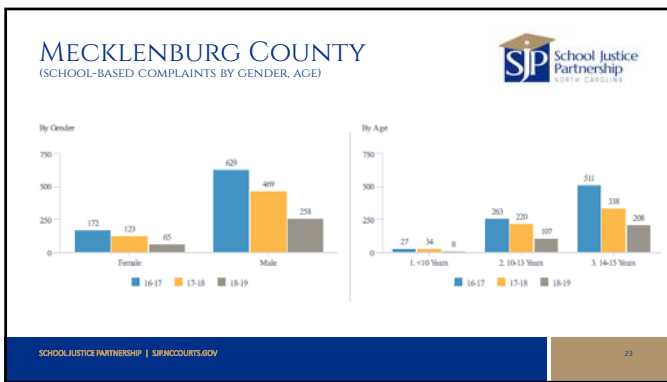
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ACCESS THE TOOLKIT

- Visit SJP.NCCOURTS.GOV to obtain a copy of the Toolkit and other SJP resources, such as:
 - SJP Fact Sheet
 - List of existing SJPs with links to each county's MOU
 - Statewide data on school-based offenses
 - News articles and videos
- To learn more about SJP North Carolina, you may also contact the NCAOC at SJP@NCCOURTS.ORG.

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