

**School-Justice Partnerships in North Carolina**  
 Conference of District Court Judges  
 October 19, 2017

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**Raise the Age**

- Most parts effective December 2019
- Effective July 1, 2017:

"§ 7A-343. Duties of Director. The Director is the Administrative Officer of the Courts, and the Director's duties include all of the following: ... (9g) Prescribe policies and procedures for chief district court judges to establish school-justice partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, local boards of education, and local school administrative units with the goal of reducing in-school arrests, out-of-school suspensions, and expulsions.




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**Where Did this Come From?**

- Zero tolerance, policy shifts
- Teske's experience
- Now research driven
- Pushing kids out of school doesn't make sense and doesn't work
- 16-17 year olds still adults until December 2019




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### New Hanover Experience

- Planning with Teske
- 18 months of discussions
- Data review
- Agreed on purposes
- Agreed on discipline factors
- Agreed on focus acts
- Agreed to use graduated responses to misconduct (PBIS model)




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### Our Team

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Chairman, Board of Education | • Sheriff                |
| • Superintendent of Schools    | • SRO Supervisor         |
| • Deputy Superintendent        | • Chief of Police        |
| • Student Support Services     | • Probation              |
| • Behavioral Specialist        | • Chief Court Counselor  |
| • School Safety Lead           | • DSS Director           |
| • High School Principal        | • Mental Health          |
| • Chief District Court Judge   | • Clergy                 |
| • District Attorney            | • Parents                |
| • County                       | • Professor of Education |




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### Purpose

- Schools and law enforcement share responsibility for safety and must collaborate
- Consistent response to misbehavior
- Clarify the role of law enforcement in school discipline
- Efficiently utilize alternative support services
- Reduce law enforcement and court involvement for misconduct at school and school related events




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Purpose

To truly address behavior  
when and where it happens

Instead of pushing the behavior  
out of school and never actually addressing it



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Purpose

To return to an approach of discipline (to teach)  
as opposed to punishment



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Purpose

- Students should be held **accountable** for their actions. When appropriate, a **graduated response** to minor misconduct that provides a continuum of services and increasingly more severe sanctions for continued misbehavior should be used.
- Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Model
  - Already exists in many of our schools
  - Already funded



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### Discipline Factors

- Age, health, risks, needs and disability or special education status of student
- Intent, context, prior conduct and record of behavior
- Previous interventions
- Student's willingness to repair harm
- Parents' willingness to address issues
- Seriousness of incident and degree of harm
- Effect on the educational environment by student's continued presence in school




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### Focus Acts

- Affray
- Simple assault
- Disorderly conduct
- Misdemeanor larceny
- Simple possession of marijuana
- Possession of drug paraphernalia (marijuana)
- Damage to property
- Possession/use of alcohol
- Key: 2 in school year before charging




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### Now For The Real Work

- Interagency Governance Agreement on the Handling of School Offenses signed November 2015
- Partnered with City and County Governments
- AOC
- Progress Monitoring Team
- Ongoing data review




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### First Year Results

CATEGORY	2014/2015	2015/2016
	245 STUDENTS	390 STUDENTS
Arrests/citations	53	54
Juvenile complaints	269	141
Petitions approved	148	65
Teen court	37	73
School action (Schools only)	0	190




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### What's Next?

- Chief District Court Judge Leadership Training at SOG
- Identify a Convener
- Helps to have a Champion (may not be the Convener)
- Working with AOC to develop and train a group of facilitators
- Working with AOC to develop resources for support
- Chief and Superintendent need to identify team
  - May be different in every county
  - One size doesn't have to fit all: lots of flexibility
  - Convene
  - Agreements can be different in every county as well




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### QUESTIONS?




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## Thank You

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