



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Recommendation to the Commission

Party Submitting Recommendation: Educational Outcomes Task Force

Date of Submission: 7/10/2019

Type of Action Requested:

Legislation Policy Resolution of Support or Endorsement Public Promotion

Other: _____

Which of the Commission's Strategic Priorities does this Recommendation help advance:

Child Safety and services Juvenile Justice and Cross-system Youth
 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Educational Outcomes

Summary of Recommendation:

On behalf of the School Climate and Discipline subcommittee, we ask the Commission to publicly promote the recently released by IDOE of the *Comprehensive Positive School Discipline Resource Guide* for educators. We believe this public promotion and encouragement from the Commission to use this resource guide would lead to better outcomes for school aged children.

We also ask the Commission to publicly promote the use of the Indiana Information Sharing application among agencies and entities serving youth in Indiana. We believe this public promotion and encouragement from the Commission to collaborate and information share where legally allowable will significantly reduce duplication of resources and lead to better outcomes for children.

Background of Recommendation:

What is the need or problem?

Due to the rates that school aged children are being suspended or expelled in Indiana schools, HEA 1421 requested that IDOE provide a model evidence based plan for improving school discipline. This plan must include:

- (1) reduce out-of-school suspension and disproportionality in discipline and expulsion;
- (2) limit referrals to law enforcement or arrests on school property to cases in which referral to law enforcement or arrest is necessary to protect the health and safety of students or school employees; and
- (3) include policies to address instances of bullying and cyberbullying on school property of a school corporation.

When looking at school discipline as it is practiced in cases of children with behavioral difficulties, we discovered that frequently there are multiple individuals involved in serving a family that aren't communicating well. As a result, we have duplication of time/effort/resources and gaps in knowledge that prevent schools/system/mental health/placement facilities from effectively serving the entire needs of a child or family. Our collective experience is that, for the most part, lack of information sharing comes from a place of fear of disclosing or collaborating due to legal reasons. The Indiana Information Sharing application is a powerful tool that will be useful in breaking down barriers relating to the service of children.

What is the current response to the problem by the State of Indiana?

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) partnered with Butler University Professor Dr. Brandie Oliver to create the Comprehensive Positive School Discipline Resource Guide. This guide focuses on culturally responsive and restorative practices that can be incorporated within the school day. In addition this guide focuses on relationship building strategies and bullying & cyberbullying prevention strategies. The IDOE Office of School Improvement team has shared this resource through Dr. McCormick's weekly email in addition to numerous professional development presentations. This report was shared and supported by our subcommittee.

With regard to the information-sharing problem, the Indiana Information Sharing application was created to effectively address this need. The next step is to publicly promote and encourage the use of the application. Many of the organizations represented in our subcommittee, along with our network of contacts, were unaware of the application.

What is the recommender proposing, and how will it help solve the problem?

We believe that public promotion of both the resource guide and app will increase awareness and collaboration among student serving agencies.