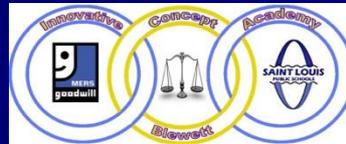


# Reinventing Older Communities Planning: What do students need to succeed?

Philadelphia, PA  
May 14, 2014

The Challenge: Keeping Children in school and out of  
Juvenile Court

Encouraging the Incurrigible



Honorable Jimmie M. Edwards, Circuit Court Judge  
Founder of Innovative Concept Academy

# FACTS

- Out of school supervision and detention are leading indicators of future dropping out of school and incarceration.
- Black children receive harsher or more frequent punishments for the same misbehaviors because of unconscious bias.
- Assignment of the least experienced and out-of-field teachers contribute to discipline disparity and court referral.
- Too many children are being referred to the juvenile court for minor offenses, often from public schools.

# In Missouri, the referral sources break down as follows:

- ❖ 67% school referral
- ❖ 19% law enforcement
- ❖ 6% family member
- ❖ 4% Children's Division
- ❖ 4% other



# Development of a Community School

## WHAT WORKS: Partnerships

- Plan as a team (include the youth and family)
- Create action steps and plan for contingencies
- Focus on the strengths and needs of the youth across multiple domains, e.g., academic, social, emotional learning, mental health support
- Academic and extra-curricular engagement
- Provide consistent support and connect youth and family to services
- Ensure the presence of an adult mentor and advocate
- Quickly and appropriately place crossover youth in the least restrictive environment
- Effectively transfer records (school, medical, mental health)
- Provide professional development and support to teachers and administrators

By: The National Evaluation and Technical Assistance Center

# Judicial Community Involvement

- Limited to inviting stakeholders to the table;
- Educate stakeholders about juvenile justice issues & concerns;
- Help to establish goals and objectives to resolve issues and concerns; prior to court intervention
- Help to sustain community participation through policy development and building agency relationships
- Protect the confidentiality of stakeholder records;
- Help to sustain community participation through policy development and building agency relationships

# School Involvement

- **Provide mandatory classroom and behavior management training for teachers, including how to connect with parents and students and deescalate aggressive behavior.**
- **Offer positives, socialization and citizenship skills training classes for students.**
- **Increase parental participation at school (not likely if dysfunctional parenting is the cause of the child's behavior)**
- **Improve protection for students with disabilities.**
- **Improve the evaluation process for identifying special education students.**
- **Provide wrap around services (therapy and trauma).**
- **Address discipline problems within the school system.**
- **Discourage teachers and staff from unilaterally seeking orders of protection against students.**