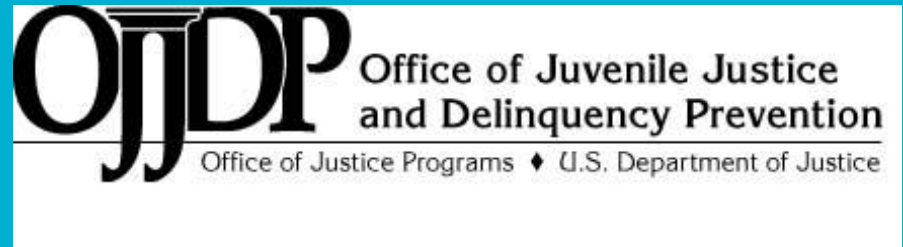


Youth Court: Increasing Scholar Voice & Restoring Justice



Acknowledgement/Disclaimer

This project is supported by Grant #2019-MU-MU-K011 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.



Goals of CCCS Youth Court Program

1 | Increase Scholar Voice

1. Reading skills
2. Higher order thinking skills
3. Self-reflection
4. Vulnerability
5. Teamwork
6. Active Listening
7. Speaking clearly

2 | Decrease Suspension Rates

1. Reduce punishment based consequences
2. Fix the initial harm caused by assigning restorative consequences.
3. Address where behaviors originates. (Trauma, frustrations)

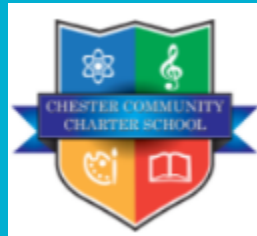
3 | Inspire Change in Our Community

1. Increase Scholar confidence.
2. Address all perspectives of a historical event.
3. Inspire reflection and evidence based reasoning for respondent and jury.



Change Begins with Us – CCCS Outcomes

1. Students will learn the judiciary process.
2. Students will become empowered to participate in improving school climate, and will acquire conflict resolution skills.
3. Program participation will reduce disciplinary infractions, specifically Out of School Suspensions.



Hearings

Scholars-lead hearings twice a week addressing behaviors; scholars deliberate and assign the respondent dispositions to fix the harm caused.

Scholar mastered positions: Judge, Jury-foreperson, Bailiff, Youth Advocate, Jury Members

Students practice skills needed in real life: active listening, speaking clearly, conflict resolution, high order- thinking, reflection on behavior, evidence based reasoning



SCHOLAR TESTIMONY

“To me, youth court means to teach kids about the reality of life and to learn how to control and know-how a real courtroom works and to take responsibility. The youth court program helped me by encouraging me to speak in front of people and to start taking responsibility for the mistakes that I made. The way I can use youth court to change our school community by teaching scholars to take responsibility for their actions. My favorite part of youth courts is being the youth advocate for the respondent to be there to help she/him and explain to them the questions that are being asked.”

- YAESHA SPENCER



SCHOLAR TESTIMONY

“Youth Court means a lot to me. It has helped with my ability to look at the evidence and fix the problem. It can help people learn to be respectful to their peers and schoolmates. My favorite part of youth courts is that we get to hear the child or the person getting in trouble perspective.”

- Aylese Mitchell

“Youth courts are just something new to me, I like the fact that it gives you a chance to talk and tell your side of the story without someone judging you. You are able to feel calm, and the best part is it's not a punishment. I for real think it helped me JUST A LITTLE with my anger issues. We can use this program to make people better and make them feel more welcomed. I think it will make our community more open and maybe a little less stressed. I enjoy when we ask questions and work together .”

Lauren Gordon



SCHOLAR TESTIMONY

Youth court means so much to me ; for us to have justice. We need freedom for stuff we didn't do. Youth courts help me because so i can have a voice also. Youth courts changed our community because so kids can have voices and have a chance to speak. My favorite thing about youth court hearing people stories. -

Mabinty Thollie

Youth court means that people that do bad don't get a punishment they get a trial and a chance to say their side of the story. Youth has showed me that people who do wrong get a trial and you can redeem your actions. It can change the community by letting kids have a voice. My favorite part of youth court is the

questioning. - Duane Dawson

