

CLASSROOMS **NOT** COURTROOMS

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE IS INCREASINGLY A GATEWAY TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM. KEEP KIDS IN CLASSROOMS AND OUT OF OUR COURTROOMS.

Why Reform Matters

In West Virginia, a lack of community-based alternatives, means that kids who get sent to court are often placed in “out-of-home facilities” – a nice way of saying juvenile detention – which is costly and ineffective. Classrooms not Courtrooms seeks to combine school based diversion and school-based mental health. We want to expand these programs statewide to ensure kids are given the tools to thrive.

One Solution: Two Approaches

School Based Health Centers

- Use the schools to identify at-risk-youth earlier
- Connect youth with services without the courts
- Keep kids in their schools
- Stop the school-to-prison pipeline at the source

Expanded School Mental Health Services

- Connect families of at-risk youth with services
- Save the state money in court costs and jail
- Stop the cycle of childhood trauma
- Give kids the tools they need to succeed

CONNECTICUT CASE STUDY

Kids who get in trouble are referred to community-based alternatives instead of traditional school discipline.

THE RESULTS

10% of youth going through the program had court referrals in the subsequent year

94% of kids referred get services

45% decrease in court referrals