

STAKEHOLDER QUOTES

NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH

- School Justice Partnerships help keep kids where they belong, in the schoolhouse and out of the courthouse. — CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE SCOTT L. USSERY, BLADEN, BRUNSWICK, AND COLUMBUS COUNTIES
- It is important to deal with minor student misconduct when and where it happens instead of pushing it out of school and largely ignoring it. After all, how many parents schedule discipline for their children 30, 60, or 90 days from the misbehavior? — CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE J.H. CORPENING, NEW HANOVER AND PENDER COUNTIES
- School Justice Partnerships transform the relationship between police officers and students from authority and punishment to mentor and restoration. When School Justice Partnerships keep kids in school and out of court, schools benefit from higher achievement, improved attendance, and better school climate. — CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE ELIZABETH T. TROSCH, MECKLENBURG COUNTY
- Every prosecutor should support the School Justice Partnership because it is good for kids first and foremost, it makes them safer, it reduces crime, and it gives you more capacity at the courthouse to handle all the other cases where we are already stretched thin. — BEN DAVID, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, NEW HANOVER AND PENDER COUNTIES

NORTH CAROLINA EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Our communities must engage with kids to help keep them in school and out of jail. The Toolkit planned by the Judicial Branch can help build positive partnerships and I have directed the Juvenile Justice Section of the Department of Public Safety to help with implementing School Justice Partnerships across North Carolina. — GOVERNOR ROY COOPER

JUVENILE JUSTICE

- School Justice Partnerships generate meaningful discussions in local communities about how to best treat our children. These discussions should produce agreements that lead to stronger working relationships among all local stakeholders and ultimately to better outcomes for children. — WILLIAM LASSITER, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE, NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

STAKEHOLDER QUOTES

C O N T I N U E D

SCHOOLS

- Current exclusionary discipline practices push students out of school and into juvenile court; the consequences are devastating. The goal of education is to prepare students to participate productively in society. We negate our own purpose when we implement — often through policy — exclusionary practices for minor misconduct that result in poor student academic performance, and the likelihood that students will drop out of school and/or become involved in the juvenile justice system. Our actions diminish opportunities for our students, especially poor students and students-of-color, to thrive. By working alongside local law enforcement, the judicial system as well as local and state lawmakers, we can begin to implement real changes that increase our young people’s chances of success. — DR. SHARON L. CONTRERAS, SUPERINTENDENT OF GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS
- Our schools are safer, we have seen a reduction in court referrals, School Resource Officers’ hours in the buildings have increased, long term suspensions have been reduced considerably and all of this has been the result of the School Justice Partnership and other steps we’ve taken in our schools. — DR. TIM MARKLEY, FORMER SUPERINTENDENT, NEW HANOVER COUNTY SCHOOLS
- Our students are staying in class and they’re staying in school. They have a better chance to graduate. They have a better chance at a future, and that’s exactly what we’re supposed to be doing. — FORMER CHAIRWOMAN LISA ESTEP, NEW HANOVER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- The North Carolina Sheriffs’ Association is proud to support any project that aims to redirect the lives of potentially troubled or at-risk youth. This project is vitally important to our schools, to our law enforcement officers and to community safety. Collaborating with stakeholders from various entities enhances the probability of the program’s success. — SHERIFF JOHN W. INGRAM V, CHAIRMAN, NORTH CAROLINA SHERIFFS’ ASSOCIATION
- Incorporating input from sheriffs, police chiefs and district attorneys into this project ensured a healthy balance between the educational objectives of our schools and the public safety responsibilities of our criminal justice system. — SHERIFF JAMES E. CLEMMONS, JR., CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, NORTH CAROLINA SHERIFFS’ ASSOCIATION
- This project is an excellent example of the good work that results when all interested government agencies work together to address a public policy issue that is critically important to our citizens. — EDMOND W. CALDWELL, JR., EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL, NORTH CAROLINA SHERIFFS’ ASSOCIATION
- Taking an active role in our local SJP provides our School Resource Officers with pre-arrest diversion options, which have proven to be successful in changing juvenile contact outcomes. — LIEUTENANT C. L. SMITH, NEW HANOVER COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE, SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER COMMANDER