



Juvenile Justice System of Care

Broward County Public Schools, 17th Circuit Judicial Court, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Broward County Public Defender's Office & Broward County State Attorney's Office

The Juvenile Justice System of Care is a unique feature of the PROMISE initiative, which encourages reluctant students (and/or their parent[s]/guardian[s]) to fully engage in all facets of the PROMISE program. Intervention by a member of the judiciary is intended to educate the student about the potential long-term implication of either refusing to participate or failing to successfully complete the PROMISE program.

The Juvenile Justice System of Care is a hearing, which includes a Juvenile Court Judge, Broward County Public Schools staff and representatives of the Juvenile Justice System. The Judge explains to the student and to the responsible adult[s], why participation in the PROMISE program will lessen the potential for the student to enter the delinquency system [for the specific Code of Student Conduct violation.

During this hearing, both the short and long-term ramifications caused by entry into the delinquency system are shared with the student [and to the responsible adults]. Documentation of the Juvenile Justice System of Care hearing will become part of the student's disciplinary record for the Code of Student Conduct violation, which originally allowed the student access to the PROMISE program.

The **System of Care** model involves collaboration across agencies, families, and youth for the purpose of improving services and accessing and expanding community-based services supporting youth.



Every attempt will be made to ensure the parent[s]/guardian[s] and students understand the severity and urgency of completing participation in PROMISE. Parent[s]/guardian[s] and students should note that failure to fully engage in all aspects of PROMISE, including completion of the entire program, will cause the PROMISE liaison to initiate a Juvenile Justice System of Care Intervention Referral and the student may be arrested for the original offense.



Students are referred to the Juvenile Justice System of Care if they refuse to participate in the PROMISE program or if they do not fulfill the terms of the PROMISE agreement.

The Juvenile Justice System of Care offers students the opportunity to reconsider their decision not to participate in the PROMISE Program and avoid the negative consequences associated with refusal.



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Juvenile Justice System of Care F.A.Q.

IS PARTICIPATION IN THE PROMISE PROGRAM MANDATORY?

Broward County Public Schools, in collaboration with its community partners, has designed the PROMISE program as a mandatory component of the District's Discipline Matrix. The goal of PROMISE is to reduce the number of students who become enmeshed in the State of Florida's Juvenile Justice System as the result of committing a behavioral offense [select outlined misdemeanors that do not impact public safety]. While not advisable, if a parent/guardian chooses not to accept the PROMISE program for their child, the Juvenile Justice System of Care hearing will be held to meet with youth, and their parent[s]/guardian[s]. This hearing is also held if they have unsatisfactorily participated in PROMISE. The Judge will impress upon the student (and their parent[s]/guardian[s]), the potential negative outcomes for unsuccessful completion of PROMISE or refusal to participate in the program.

WHERE IS THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM OF CARE HEARING?

These hearings are convened by the Juvenile Justice partners and Broward County Public Schools at:

Kathleen C. Wright
Administration Building
600 SE 3rd Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

WHO MUST ATTEND THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM OF CARE HEARING?

The student and parent[s]/guardian[s] must attend the Juvenile Justice System of Care hearing. Also present will be school staff and the representatives from the District Attorney's office.

IF MY CHILD DOES NOT APPEAR BEFORE THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM OF CARE, ARE THERE ANY CONSEQUENCES?

Your child may be subject to arrest for the original offense.

WHAT HAPPENS AS A RESULT OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM OF CARE HEARING?

The student may be directed to attend the PROMISE Program at Pine Ridge Educational Center, be administratively assigned to one of Broward County Public Schools' Behavior Intervention Programs, be referred for additional services, or be subject to arrest for the original offense.

In all cases, the student will be required to complete the PROMISE program as well as the follow up components at his/her home school.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM OF CARE?

Contact the School Climate & Discipline Department at (754) 321-1655.

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