

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CITY OF COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT,  
BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND THE 13<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT COURT-JUVENILE DIVISION**

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU"), is entered into by and between Columbia Public Schools ("the School System"), the City of Columbia for the Columbia Police Department ("CPD"), Boone County Sheriff's Department ("BCSD") and the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court-Juvenile Division ("the Court") for the purpose of establishing a cooperative relationship among community agencies involved in the handling of juveniles who are alleged to have committed a law violation and/or status offense over which the school may have disciplinary power.

The Parties agree that students may be held accountable for certain offenses without referral to the juvenile justice system. Further, the Parties agree that a cooperative agreement delineating the responsibilities of each party involved in making decisions regarding juvenile referrals and alternative consequences (such as restorative practices, peer mediation, counseling services, etc.) would promote the best interest of the student, the School System, law enforcement and the larger community.

The Parties acknowledge and agree that this Agreement is a cooperative effort among the public agencies named herein to establish guidelines for the handling of school-related delinquent acts, while reducing the involvement of the criminal justice system, hereinafter referred to in this Agreement as "minor school- based offenses." A "minor school-based offense" is one that is not addressed in the Safe Schools Act. This Agreement is intended to serve as the written agreement contemplated in RSMo.565.056.

The guidelines in this Agreement are intended to establish uniformity in the handling of a student who is accused of having committed a minor school-based offense, while simultaneously ensuring that each case is addressed on a case-by-case basis to promote a response proportional to the various and differing factors affecting each student's case.

**DEFINITIONS**

As used in this Agreement, the following definitions apply:

**School-based referral:** An electronic communication with the Juvenile Office, not involving Law Enforcement. This is not a criminal report for investigation.

**Law Violation:** Anything that is not a status offense.

**Law Enforcement Report:** Communicating an incident or crime to a Law Enforcement Officer.

**A. 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assault:**

1. The person attempts to cause or recklessly causes physical injury, physical pain, or illness to another person; or
2. The person purposely places another person in apprehension or immediate physical injury; or
3. The person recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of death or serious physical injury to another person; or
4. The person knowingly causes or attempts to cause physical contact with a person with a disability, which a reasonable person, who does not have a disability, would consider offensive or provocative; or
5. The person knowingly causes physical contact with a person knowing the other person will regard the contact as offensive or provocative.

**B. Status Offense:**

1. The child, while subject to compulsory school attendance, is repeatedly and without justification absent from school; or
2. The child disobeys the reasonable and lawful directions of his or her parents or other custodian and is beyond their control; or
3. The behavior or associations of the child are otherwise injurious to his or her welfare or to the welfare of others.

**C. Peace Disturbance:**

1. The person unreasonably and knowingly disturbs or alarms another person or persons by;
  - a. Loud noise; or
  - b. Offensive language addressed in a face-to-face manner to a specific individual and uttered under circumstances which are likely to produce an immediate violent response from a reasonable recipient; or
  - c. Threatening to commit a felonious act against any person under circumstances which are likely to cause a reasonable person to fear that such threat may be carried out; or
  - d. Fighting; or
  - e. Creating a noxious and offensive odor.
2. The person is in a public place or on private property of another without consent and purposely causes inconvenience to another person or persons by unreasonably and physically obstructing:
  - a. Vehicular or pedestrian traffic; or
  - b. The free ingress or egress to or from a public or private place.

**D. Private Peace Disturbance:**

A person commits the crime of private peace disturbance if he is on private property and unreasonably and purposely causes alarm to another person or persons on the same premises by:

- a. Threatening to commit a crime against any person; or
- b. Fighting

**E. Trespass in the Second Degree:**

1. A person commits the offense of trespass in the second degree if he enters unlawfully

upon real property of another.

**F. Trespass of a School Bus:**

1. A person commits the crime of trespass of a school bus if he knowingly and unlawfully enters any part of or unlawfully operates any school bus.
2. For the purposes of this section, the terms "unlawfully enters" and "unlawfully operates" refer to any entry or operation of a school bus which is not:
  - a. Approved of and established in a school district's written policy on access to school buses; or
  - b. Authorized by specific written approval of the school board.

**G. Misdemeanor Stealing:**

1. A person commits the crime of stealing if he or she appropriates property or services of another with the purpose to deprive him or her thereof, either without his or her consent or by means of deceit or coercion.
  - \* Value of the property must be less than seven hundred fifty dollars.

**H. Property Damage:**

1. A person commits the crime of property damage in the second degree if:
  - a. He knowingly damages property of another; or
  - b. He damages property for the purpose of defrauding an insurer.
  - \*Value of the property must be seven hundred and fifty dollars or less.

**DUTIES OF THE PARTIES**

When a student/juvenile/child is under the supervision of the Juvenile Office, or is otherwise the subject of an existing disciplinary action administered by Columbia Public Schools (such as suspension, etc.), the terms of the supervision by the Juvenile Office or the terms of the existing disciplinary action shall supersede the terms set forth below.

When a superintendent or his or her designee in the School System believes that an incident within the scope of this MOU, has occurred during school-sponsored activities, the superintendent or his or her designee may consider the following guidelines in determining whether to refer the particular incident to the Juvenile Office:

1. The age and maturity of the student involved.
2. Whether the incident involved the use of or threatened use of a weapon or involved sexual misconduct or allegations of sexual misconduct.
3. The nature and severity of the conduct.
4. The nature and severity of injury, if any, inflicted on the other person involved.
5. Any other factors which the superintendent or his or her designee, in the exercise of professional judgment, determines to be appropriate under the circumstances.

The guidelines listed above shall in no way inhibit a superintendent or his or her designee from reporting to law enforcement (BCSD or CPD), regardless of whether such conduct actually constitutes a violation. The Parties agree that this agreement does not alter the powers or duties of law enforcement officers to protect the public and sworn law enforcement officers shall take whatever action they deem appropriate in their discretion and judgment. Further, the terms set forth in this MOU shall not be construed to prohibit or impair the superintendent or his or her designee from

referring incidents to the Juvenile Office as required by State or Federal Law. This agreement does not preclude anyone from contacting law enforcement.

If the juvenile is not in custody and the superintendent or his or her designee determines in the exercise of professional judgment that an incident does not need to be reported to law enforcement for offenses listed in the Definition Section of this MOU and the Parties agree the superintendent or his or her designee may utilize the following system:

1. If a student/juvenile is the subject of more than one report in the same school year for any of the above-mentioned offenses, the principal of the student's school shall notify the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) of the incident and the action taken by the school. The superintendent or his or her designee shall discipline the student in accordance with the School System's policies and procedures regarding student conduct in order to maintain proper behavior in schools. The School System may use the most appropriate resources available to the Parties hereto in order to address the report(s) and services needed. Such resources may include but are not limited to: monthly meeting with parents and home school communicator and/or school representative, counseling at school, behavior plans, home visits, office visits, referral and participation in Interagency Meetings, mediation, attendance contracts and suspension. The School System shall keep records of the report(s) each student/juvenile receives and the services used to address the reason for the report(s).
2. If a student/juvenile is the subject of more than two reports in the same school year, for any of the previously mentioned offenses, the School System may utilize resources such as mediation, suspension, and referrals to Children's Division for possible family-centered services. The superintendent or his or her designee shall discipline the student in accordance with the School System's policies and procedures regarding student conduct in order to maintain proper behavior in schools. In addition, the student may be required to complete behavioral programs as directed by the principal of his or her school. The behavioral programs are to be presented by a Juvenile Officer at Columbia Public Schools, on a monthly basis.
3. Any student/juvenile who has been the subject of four or more reports in the same school year, for any of the previously mentioned offenses, should be reported to law enforcement and/or the Juvenile Office. If the report(s) constitute a status offense, as delineated in the Definition Section of this MOU, the superintendent or his or her designee may refer the student to the Juvenile Office and provide the Juvenile Office with information and documents regarding the incident. If the report(s) constitute a law violation, as delineated in the Definition Section of this MOU, the superintendent or his or her designee shall make a report to law enforcement for further investigation. Columbia Public Schools shall give the students and parents a notice of the referral. The School System shall provide the Juvenile Officer with a copy all referral(s) should any referrals be sent to the Juvenile Officer.

Any juvenile/student attending elementary school, who has been the subject of an excessive number of referrals regarding a behavioral or attendance issue, shall become the subject of a case discussion in a monthly meeting with a representative from CPS, the Juvenile Office and any other appropriate agencies to discuss any abuse and/or educational neglect.

The Parties hereto shall develop an interagency plan to communicate about and cooperatively develop

intervention and diversion strategies to be implemented for the benefit of students/juveniles that have come to the attention of one or more of the Parties for conduct listed in the Definitions section, but have not been referred to the Juvenile Office. The purpose of such plan is to ensure that the Parties hereto are aware of the students'/juveniles' status and are able to cooperatively mobilize to give access to such programs, services, or interventions as administered by each particular agency to promote the success of each such student/juvenile. In that regard, the duties of the Parties shall include the following:

1. The Juvenile Office shall provide the School System with a then-current list of students/juveniles under the supervision of the Juvenile Office on a bi-weekly basis.
2. The Juvenile Office shall provide the School System Superintendent with a notification of any juvenile/student charged with a violation of any offense listed in of the Safe Schools Act, Section 167.117 RSMo, as soon as possible and no later than five days following the filing of the petition. The notification shall include a complete description of the conduct the pupil is alleged to have committed and the dates the conduct occurred but shall not include the name of the victim. Upon the disposition of any such case, the Juvenile Office shall send a second notification to the School System Superintendent providing the disposition of the case, including a brief summary of the relevant finding or facts, no later than five days following the disposition of the case.
3. All Parties hereto shall comply with reporting/referral requirements imposed upon them by state and/or federal law.
4. To the extent allowed by state and/or federal law, or pursuant to Court Order, the Parties hereto shall provide to each other current information regarding students/juveniles who are arrested for violations of the provisions of the Safe Schools Act.
5. Each Party hereto shall designate an individual to serve as a liaison among the Parties for purposes of all communications necessary, prudent, or proper to advance the purposes hereof and to promote the success of the juveniles and students within the jurisdiction of the Parties hereto.
6. The Parties hereto, shall utilize a comprehensive list of interventions/services available to students/juveniles that may provide appropriate assistance or services beneficial to that any particular student/juvenile. The list shall be kept current, and shall be referenced in selecting appropriate behavioral programs and other services to be accessed in administering the terms of this Agreement.
7. Within five days of request of the School System Superintendent or designee, the Juvenile Office shall provide the School System with a description of the referred or alleged violation regarding any student who is referred for or charged with conduct that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

#### **TERM OF THE MOU**

The term of this Agreement shall commence on January 20, 2022 and terminate on June 30, 2025.

#### **ASSIGNMENT**

This MOU shall not be assigned or subcontracted in whole or part by any party without prior written consent of all Parties.

#### **COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS**

All Parties shall comply with all applicable federal, Missouri State and local laws, rules, regulations and ordinances.

**GOVERNING LAW**

This MOU shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of Missouri.

**RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES**

The Parties hereto, in the performance of this MOU, shall not act as agents, employees, partners, joint ventures, or associates of one another and shall not be construed as the employees or agents of the other party for any purpose whatsoever.

**NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Each party agrees not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender identity, gender expression, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, disability, age or use of leave protected by the Family and Medical Leave Act, in its programs and activities.

**TERMINATION**

This MOU may be terminated by any party whenever, for any reason, such party determines the termination is in its best interest. Termination of services shall be effected by delivery to the other Parties of a Termination Notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the termination effective date.

**EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS**

All obligations of the Parties under this Agreement which require the expenditure of funds are conditional upon the availability of funds budgeted and appropriated for that purpose.

**NO WAIVERS OF IMMUNITIES**

In no event shall the language of this Agreement constitute or be construed as a waiver or limitation of any party's rights or defenses with regard to each party's applicable sovereign, governmental, or official immunities and protections as provided by federal and state constitution or law.

**ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

This MOU constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties. This MOU expressly revokes any prior understandings, agreements, or representations, or written, of the Parties. This MOU may not be modified, supplemented, or amended, in any manner, except by written agreement signed by the Parties.

**NOTICE**

Whenever any notice, statement or other communication is required under this MOU, it shall be sent to the following addresses, unless otherwise specifically advised:

Dr. Brian Yearwood, Superintendent  
Superintendent, Columbia Public Schools  
1818 West Worley Street  
Columbia, Missouri 65203

Ruth McCluskey, Chief Juvenile Officer  
13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit 705 East Walnut  
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Leslie Schneider, Family Court Judge  
13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
705 East Walnut  
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Dwayne Carey, Sheriff  
Boone County Sheriff's Department  
2121 County Drive  
Columbia, Missouri 65202

Geoff Jones, Chief of Police  
Columbia Police Department  
600 East Walnut  
Columbia, Missouri 65201

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

SO AGREED.

Brian Yearwood  
Dr. Brian Yearwood, Superintendent  
Columbia Public Schools

11/21/22  
Date

Ruth McClusky  
Ruth McClusky, Chief Juvenile Officer  
13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit


1/26/22

Leslie Schneider  
Leslie Schneider, Family Court Judge  
13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

Dwayne Carey  
Dwayne Carey, Sheriff  
Boone County Sheriff's Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Geoff Jones, Chief of Police  
Columbia Police Department

FOR THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
De'Carlton Seewood, City Manager 

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sheela Amin

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Thompson 