

BALTIMORE CITY

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

GENERAL ORDER 18-03 SECTION K

DIVERSION STRATEGIES Approved: June 12, 2018

This General Order contains the following numbered sections:

- I. Directive
- II. Purpose
- III. Eligibility Criteria
- IV. Objectives of Diversion Process
- V. Roles and Responsibilities
- VI. Primary Diversion Programs
- VII. Effective Date

I. DIRECTIVE

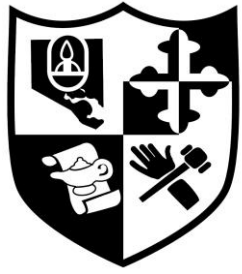
The Baltimore City School Police Force's interests concerning juvenile offenders reflect those of the community. The best interests of juveniles and the community dictate a limited application of arrests of juveniles who commit status offenses. Accordingly, officers may handle errant juveniles informally, particularly status offenders, those in need of protection, and those suspected of committing minor, non-violent criminal offenses, in lieu of criminal prosecution. The Department is committed to the development and perpetuation of programs designed to prevent and control juvenile delinquency. As a result, the BCSPF will utilize diversion strategies when reasonably possible.

Charges for those juveniles that successfully complete the diversion program will not be prosecuted. Juveniles who fail to meet their diversion program commitments/sanctions successfully will have their cases forwarded to the Department of Juvenile Services for formal adjudication.

1. The Baltimore City School Police Force will internally review all diversion opportunities for students of City Schools.
2. When a student is found to be in violation of a Misdemeanor offense said may be referred to a diversion program. Once a student is referred into the diversion program the student/family will be directed to the appropriate diversion program.

II. PURPOSE

This General Order is designed to direct qualified juvenile offenders from traditional juvenile adjudication functions and redirect them to nontraditional intervention programs.



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III. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Qualifications: the youth must be a Baltimore City School student between the ages of 7-17, must have committed a non-violent offense, with the exception of 2nd degree assault.

Referable Offenses:

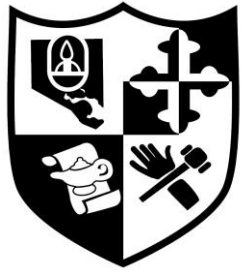
- i. 2nd Degree Assault
- ii. Alcohol Violation
- iii. Assault by Threat
- iv. CDS Marijuana (Under 10 grams)
- v. Deadly Weapon on School Property (Knives, Pepper Spray, Mace, etc.)
- vi. Disorderly Conduct
- vii. Gambling
- viii. Misdemeanor Larceny
- ix. Misdemeanor Vandalism
- x. Tobacco Violations
- xi. Trespassing

IV. OBJECTIVES OF DIVERSION PROCESS

1. Accurately apply eligibility requirements for entry into the program
2. Garner youth, parent, guardian or custodian cooperation and voluntary participation in the program
3. Facilitate referrals
4. Efficiently and effectively finalize approval for all diversion candidates
5. Accurately measure performance and/or progress

V. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Diversion Assessor
 - a. Conduct the initial screening of juveniles for the Diversion Program.
 - i. Review the juvenile's arrest record
 - ii. Review the general eligibility requirements for the various Diversion programs.



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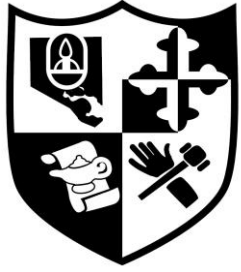
- b. Advise the investigating/arresting officer that the case is being considered for diversion.
 - c. Diversion recommendations shall be submitted to the on-duty diversion assessor for analysis so a final determination for admission into the program may be determined and the appropriate diversion services/alternatives selected.
 - d. If diversion is not approved, indicate the reason for rejection on tracking form.
2. Supervisors: Lieutenant, Sergeant, and/or Officer-In-Charge
 - a. The verified diversion packets are forwarded to the appropriate diversion provider (i.e., Community Conferencing, Teen Court, Community Mediation, and the McElderry Teen Initiative) by coordinating efforts with the Diversion Assessors.
 - b. A copy of each diversion packet is filed. (In-house Referral Report and Diversion Program Selected)
 - c. If any condition of the Diversion Program is not met, the youth will be processed formally.
 - d. Performance reports are collected and archived.

VI. PRIMARY DIVERSION PROGRAMS

1. B-CARS (Baltimore Child & Adolescent Response System)
2. Community Conferencing
3. Community Mediation
4. The GEMS Program (Girls Expecting More Success)
5. The McElderry Park Teen Initiative
6. Mental Health Treatment
7. Substance Abuse
8. Teen Court

VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order shall be effective on the date of publication.



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I certify that I have read and fully understand this Order.

Signature _____

Date _____