

# **A Pathway to Success:** *The Importance and Potential of School Justice Partnerships*

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# Presenters



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# Objectives

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## Objective 1

To gain an introductory understanding of school justice partnerships (SJP) and the correlating benefits for at risk children.

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## Objective 3

To hear from current SJP leaders and partners about successes and challenges.

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## Objective 2

To identify potential stakeholder partners, supporters and available resources in respective communities.

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## Objective 4

To brainstorm around developing practical SJP implementation plans based on student needs and geographic resources.

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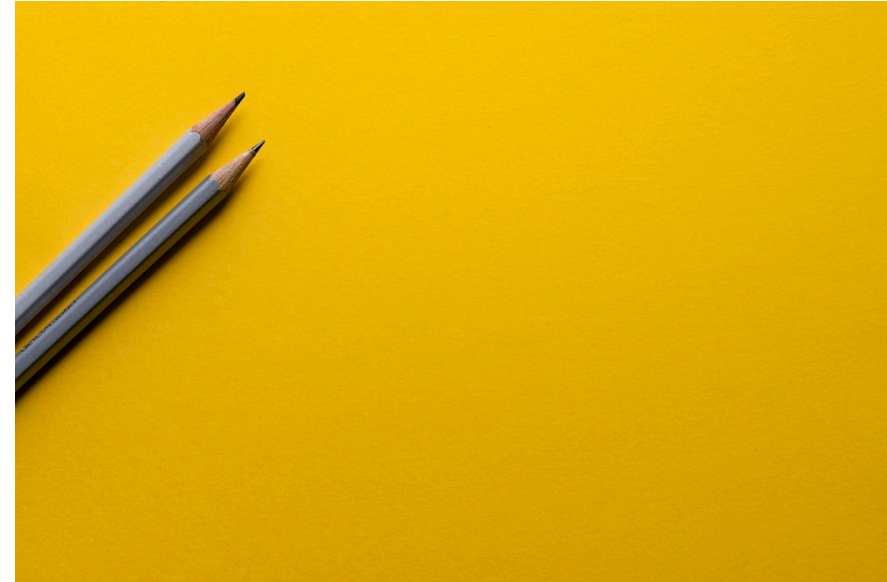
## Objective 5

To consider next steps for starting an SJP in your community.



# What are School Justice Partnerships?

- School Justice Partnerships (SJPs) are made up of community stakeholders who seek to develop and implement strategies to reduce and address student misconduct.
- A primary goal of SJPs is to lower the number of children experiencing exclusionary discipline (suspensions and expulsions), arrests and referrals to Juvenile Court.
- SJPs also work to increase the use of restorative practices and alternatives to exclusionary discipline by school administrators and school law enforcement.



# How can SJPs help children in my community?

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- By increasing available school and community interventions and supports for children at risk of juvenile justice involvement.
- By reducing exclusionary discipline outcomes and therefore decreasing the chances of adult criminal justice interaction.
- By increasing graduation and post-secondary success rates
- By joining community stakeholders' efforts and resources together to increase positive impacts.



# Which stakeholders are usually involved in SJPs?

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- School Administrators
- Juvenile Court Personnel
- School/Community Law Enforcement
- Youth-Serving Community Providers
- Other Partners (based on community-specific needs)



# Any examples of SJP outcomes in Georgia?

- In 2004, Clayton County Juvenile Court served as one of the first partnerships in the nation under the leadership of Chief Judge Steven Teske
- Since its implementation, Clayton County's Juvenile Court has experienced
  - An 83% decrease in referrals
  - A 43% decrease in referrals of youth of color
  - A 24% increase in graduation rates
- Since its implementation, the **"Teske Model"** has expanded to include a **System of Care** focusing on:
  - Increased school discipline alternatives
  - Dropout prevention and intervention
  - Mental health solutions for youth and families
  - Career training programs





# Fulton County Pathways

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Led by Presiding Judge Renata Turner in partnership with Atlanta Public Schools and Fulton County Schools, Fulton County Pathways School Justice Partnership has been making a difference in the lives of children across the county. Fulton County Pathways has reduced the number of school-based delinquency referrals by more than 50% and has continually increased the use of graduated responses and restorative practices by school officials and law enforcement.



# A Word from a School Justice Partnership Champion

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*Presiding Judge Renata Turner,  
Fulton County Pathways Lead*



Fulton County Juvenile Court

Pathways School-Court Committee

# How do youth-serving community providers contribute to SJP efforts?

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*Many students at risk of exclusionary discipline, arrest or referral to Juvenile Court are expressing underlying issues through behaviors. Community providers, such as Youth Advocate Program, Inc., intervene to support youth and families as they work to overcome any challenges, whether learning or behavior related, they may be experiencing.*



# Is there a role for Youth in an SJP?

- Impacted group
- Voice and choice
- Direct line to other youth
- Youth-centered organizations
- Youth-led organizations



# Is there a role for Parents and Families in an SJP?

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- Impacted Parents and Caregivers
- Community-oriented parent leaders
- Direct line to community partners
- Family-centered organizations
- Resource sharing



# What are the steps for forming an SJP?

While specific steps may vary according to geographic location, resources and student needs, here are 10 SJP steps that will help you reach your goal of reducing exclusionary discipline, arrest and referrals to Juvenile Court:

- Assemble Diverse Stakeholders
- Develop a Shared Vision
- Understand the Issue(s)
- Set Measurable Goals and Objectives
- Identify Targeted Activities & Make a Task Plan
- Hold Initial SJP Team Meetings
- Draft and Finalize Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Train for Partnership Success
- Develop Plan for Updates & Course of Correction
- Create a Detailed Implementation Plan



# Steps 1 - 3



## Assemble Diverse Stakeholders

- Identify core members
- Identify additional partners
- Set tone for success during first meeting

## Develop a Shared Vision

- Use first meeting to develop a clear vision
- Refer to the shared vision for subsequent planning

## Understand the Issue(s)

- Collect and share data on exclusionary discipline, juvenile arrests and referrals, and student demographics
- Allow disparities, excessive use, and other findings to drive targeted efforts

# Steps 4 - 6

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## Set Measurable Goals and Objectives

- Specify data-driven goals, objectives, and performance measures

## Identify Targeted Activities/ Make an Action Plan

- Develop targeted action steps to meet objectives
- Prioritize action plan based on feasibility and resources

## Hold Initial SJP Team Meetings

- Identify key components of MOU and partner responsibility
- Define the role of law enforcement in schools to be included in MOU
- Develop a system of graduated responses and restorative practices
- Identify quality control and accountability measures



# Steps 7 - 8

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## Draft and Finalize Memorandum of Understanding

- Develop a comprehensive multilateral agreement
- Living document subject to necessary revision as goals change or are met
- The MOU is the buildout of the shared vision and an accountability tool

## Train for Partnership Success

- Develop initial and follow-up training for partners based on the MOU—essential for success
- Identify training content
- Develop an on-demand or regular training schedule for new employees and partners
- Provide refresher courses for partners including any new MOU and/or procedural changes

# Steps 9 - 10

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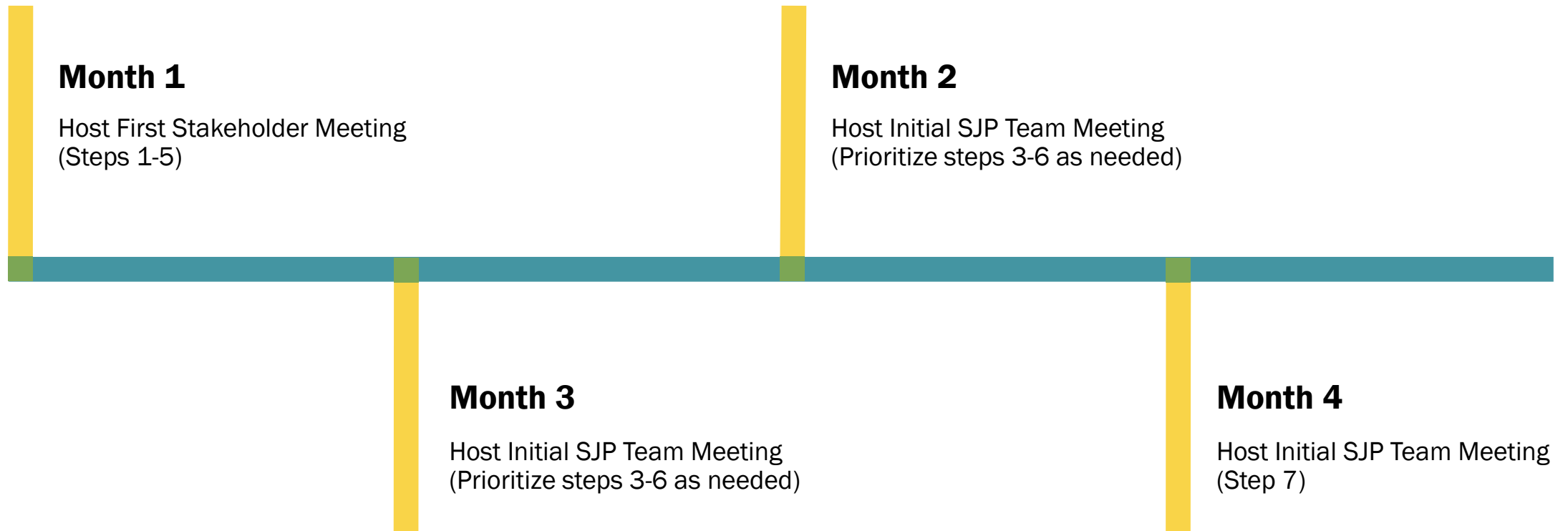
## Develop Plan for Updates and Course of Correction

- Goals and objectives should drive progress monitoring efforts
- Use data collected and analyzed to drive MOU modifications

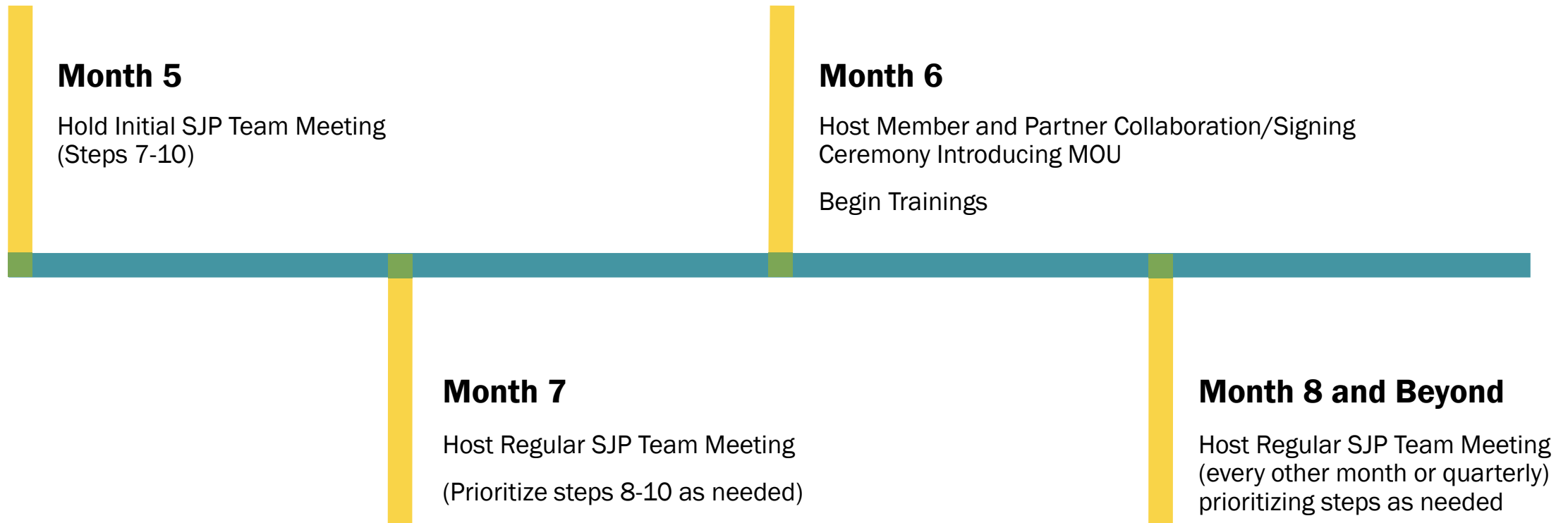
## Create a Detailed Implementation Plan

- A detailed implementation timeline will help members and partners stay on track
- Identify required components for timeline
- Hold regular SJP meetings to address issues and revise resources as needed
- Goals and Objectives identified in MOU should determine implementation priorities and procedures

# Sample Timeline for Implementation



# Sample Timeline for Implementation



# Summary

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## **School Justice Partnerships make a difference.**

Clayton, Fulton, and several other counties have proven these partnerships have a positive impact on youth.

## **Develop your SJP with your community in mind.**

Your team will use your community data to develop meaningful goals and objectives to make change.

## **All roads lead to success with the right team and plan.**

With a School Justice Partnership, multilateral efforts are combined to change the trajectory of Georgia's most vulnerable youth.

## **The children need your innovative advocacy.**

Advocacy drives your work everyday. A partnership would allow for enhanced collaboration and creativity.

## **You are not alone.**

Current School Justice Partnerships, Georgia Appleseed, and youth-serving community providers are here to help you along the way.



PASSION LED US HERE

# Thank you

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Thank you for your commitment in the fight for the welfare of Georgia's children.

We are in this together.

To learn more about School-Justice Partnership efforts throughout the state and other Georgia Appleseed Initiatives, visit us at [www.gaappleseed.org](http://www.gaappleseed.org) or reach out to us at [info@gaappleseed.org](mailto:info@gaappleseed.org).

Fulton County Juvenile Court. *Long term Trends and Programs: Protecting Children, Restoring Families, Involving Communities.*  
[http://www.fultonjuvenilecourt.org/sites/default/files/FCJC\\_Trends&Programs\\_2017.pdf](http://www.fultonjuvenilecourt.org/sites/default/files/FCJC_Trends&Programs_2017.pdf)

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Georgia Appleseed Center for Law & Justice. *Help Guides for Children with Behavior and Learning Challenges.* <http://bit.ly/GAHelpGuides>

Georgia Appleseed Center for Law & Justice. *Keeping Kids in Class Toolkit.*  
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Governor's Office of Student Achievement. *K-12 Student Discipline Dashboard.*  
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North Carolina Judicial Branch. *School Justice Partnership.*  
<https://www.nccourts.gov/programs/school-justice-partnership>

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. *School Pathways to the Juvenile Justice System Project: A Practice Guide.* <https://schooljusticepartnership.org/clayton-county-collaboration.html>

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# References and Resources

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