



Alternatives to Zero Tolerance Taskforce



Alternatives to Zero Tolerance Subcommittee

- Main Goal One: Identify and support demonstration projects and highlight best practices and proven approaches to promote alternatives to zero tolerance school discipline policies
- Main Goal Two: Assist in the development of projects that promote alternatives to zero tolerance school discipline policies;
- Main Goal Three: Educate and mobilize individuals and organizations to build public support for alternatives to zero tolerance school discipline policies.



Organization

- Legislative Action
- Alternatives to Zero Tolerance Binder
- Alternatives to Zero Tolerance Conference
- Youth Involvement



Legislative Action

- **Working with Education Law Task Force (ELTF) school discipline coalition to support their legislative efforts.**
 - **An Act Relative to Students' Access to Educational Services and Exclusion from School**
 - **An Act to Respond to School Exclusion Data and Reduce School Dropouts**



Legislative Call to Action!

- Work with the school discipline group to obtain cosponsors of the bills
- Increase awareness and support of the bills
 - Contact: Tom Mela at Massachusetts Advocates for Children, 617-357-8431 x223, tmela@massadvocates.org or Joan Meschino at Massachusetts Appleseed at 617-482-8686, jmeschino@appleseednetwork.org



Alternatives to Zero Tolerance Binder

- Taskforce is working to develop a Resource Binder that compiles information regarding the State and National alternatives to zero tolerance school discipline policies.



Binder Call to Action!

- Please forward ANY information you may have about alternative policies to Marlies Spanjaard, mspanjaard@publiccounsel.net or Barbara Lomax, blomax@publiccounsel.net
- Help design the template for what should be included! What is the best platform?
- Research specific geographic areas to add to the binder



Alternatives to Zero Tolerance Conference

- A statewide conference to highlight alternatives to zero tolerance and to have a candid discussion of the barriers to implementation



Conference Call to Action!

- Help plan the conference!
- What should be incorporated?
- How to create buy in?



Youth Involvement

- Taskforce members are working with student groups around their Anti-Bullying projects, teacher evaluations, and Listening Tours.
 - Taskforce is developing a questionnaire template that could be used to assess the young people on the Tours – information that could be used in all Taskforces.



Youth Involvement Call to Action!

- If you have any ideas about other youth organizations that may be interested in getting involved or are doing some work related to zero tolerance/the cradle to prison pipeline OR ideas for developing a questionnaire template, please email Omo Moses, ojohari@gmail.com.