

Using **WIOA** Funds to Reverse the **School** to **Prison** Pipeline

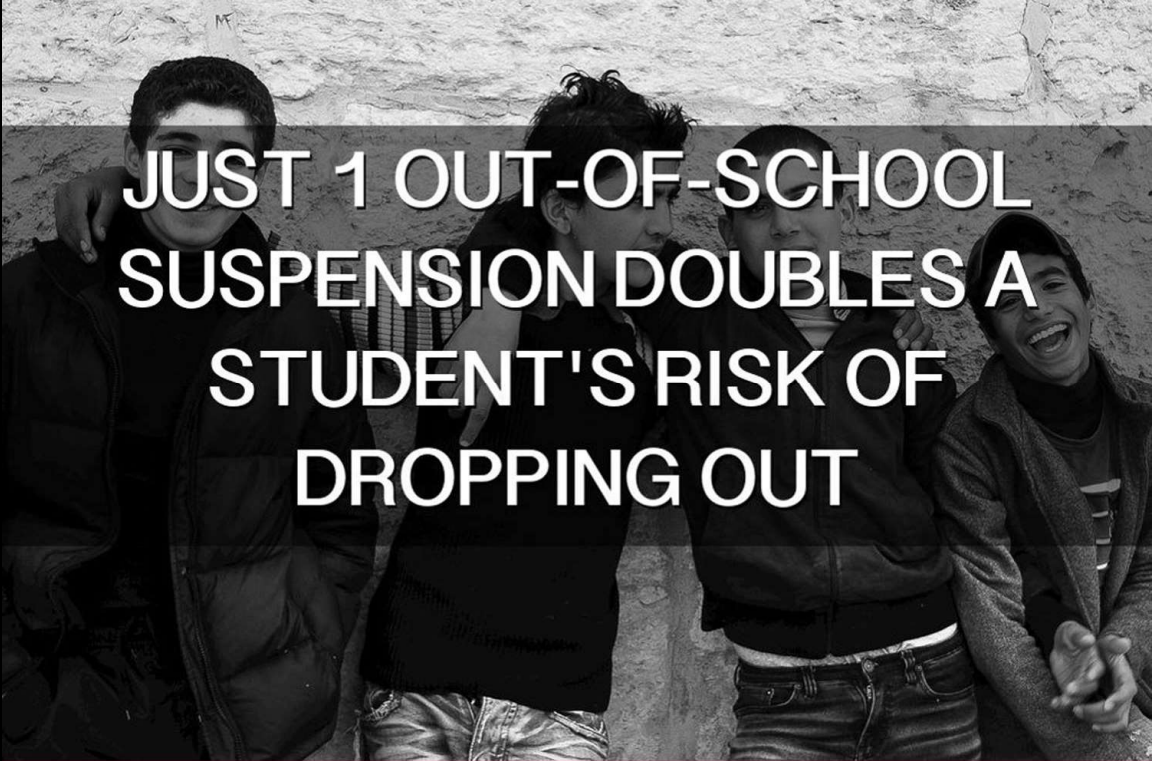
Hon. Staci B. O'Neal

Madison County Court Judge

Hon. Betsy Cotton

Yazoo County Court Judge

What is the Pipeline?



**JUST 1 OUT-OF-SCHOOL
SUSPENSION DOUBLES A
STUDENT'S RISK OF
DROPPING OUT**

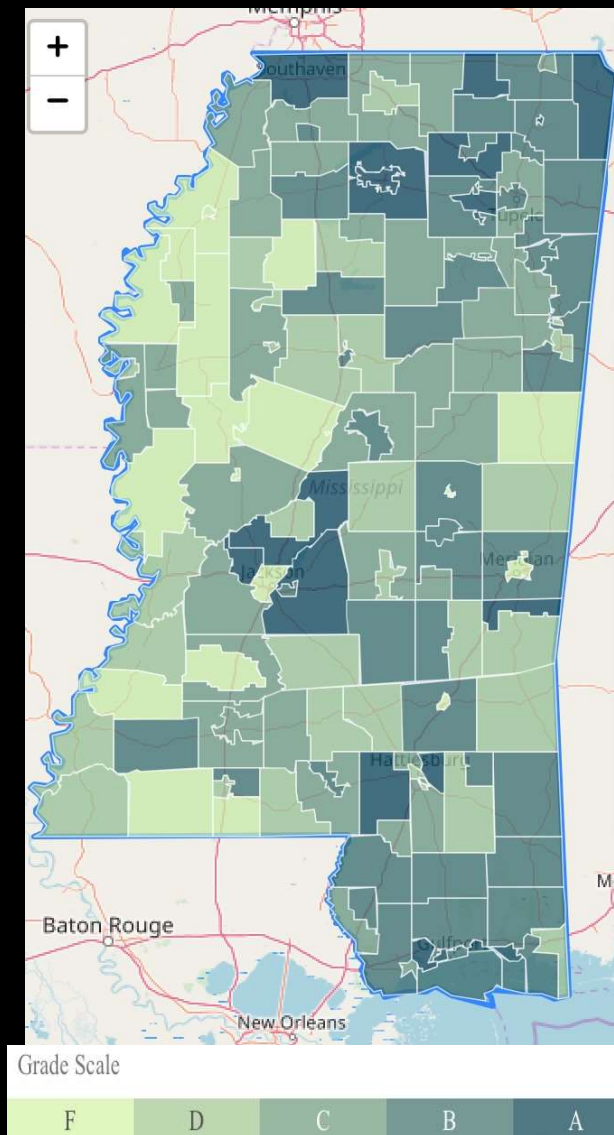
**TAKE THE PLEDGE TO
#DISRUPTS2P**

68% of males in prison
do not have a high
school diploma.

Mississippi

Grade

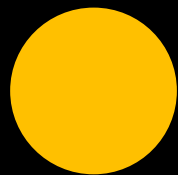
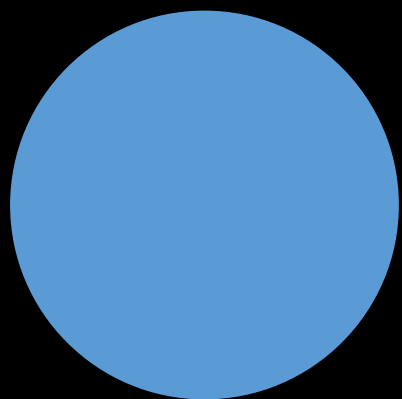
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Pipeline Causes



- Society ills?
- Criminalizing Misbehavior in School?
- Zero Tolerance Policies?
- Rigorous Testing?
- Under Performing Schools?
- Juvenile Justice?



YES!



What's the Solution?

- Refuse to do justice?
- Keep quotas?
- Quit our jobs and become teachers?
- Complain and rant on social media?
- Get angry?
- Get involved with your community?

SEND KIDS BACK UP THE PIPELINE!



TOWARDS a JOB!

Current Dispositional Options?



- Unsupervised probation
- Supervised probation
- Court Ordered Treatment or Counseling
- Drug Court
- Community Service
- Curfew
- Cell Phone / Drivers License restriction
- Anger Management Classes
- Detention
- Training School

§43-21-605 Disposition alternatives in delinquency cases

(1) In delinquency cases, the disposition order may include any of the following alternatives:

...

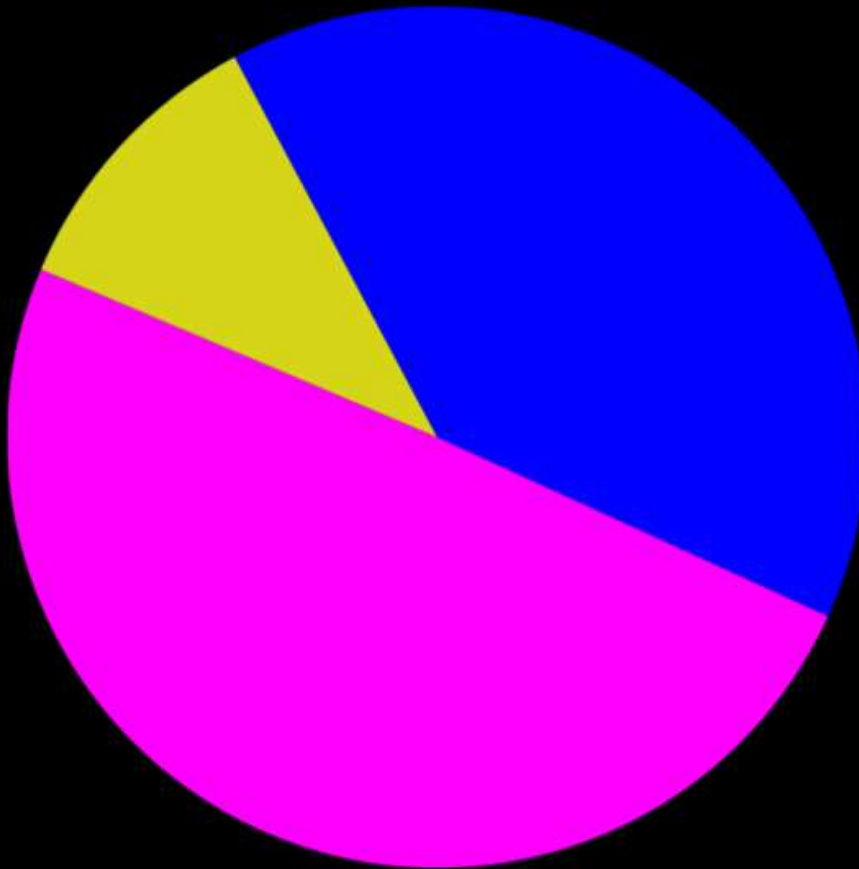
(e) Order terms of supervision which may include participation in a constructive program of service or education ...

(j) Order the child to participate in a youth court work program as provided in Section 43-21-627.

§ 43-21-627

- Each **youth court** is authorized to establish a **youth court work program** as an alternative disposition for nonviolent offenders. The youth court work program shall be used only for first time nonviolent youth offenders. The **court shall solicit and approve** the assistance of volunteers from the area served by the youth court, including business and community volunteers. . . The volunteers shall provide a working environment as mentors to provide **guidance** and **support** and to teach the youth offender **job skills**. Each youth offender and volunteer shall be under the supervision of the court....

Youth on Probation



■ Passing	39%
■ Failing	49%
■ Out	10%

Our Goal

Create a disposition alternative that will change the trajectory of an “Out-of-School” youth’s future by preparing them for workforce.

Jobs4Youth

Phase 1
Assessment

Phase 2
GED

Phase 3
CRC * ACT
ASVAB

Phase 4
Internship

Phase 5
Follow-up
College/Military/
Career

Jobs4Youth



YES

Phase 1
Assessment

Phase 2
GED

Phase 3
CRC * ACT
ASVAB

Phase 4
Internship

Phase 5
Follow-up
College/Military/
Career

Yazoo County
Youth
Empowered to
Succeed (YES)



Community Partners

- CMPDD
- Community College Adult Education Department
- Non-Profits
- Chamber of Commerce organizations
- Local school officials
- Service Organizations (Rotary, Lions, Fraternity/ Sorority)
- Local Businesses

Court Involvement

- Dream what works for your county.
- Design and Create your program by Court Order
- Order participation at Disposition
- Review progress informally
- Encourage and interact with participants at periodic review hearings.
- Preside over contempt hearings



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- VIDEO

Q&A