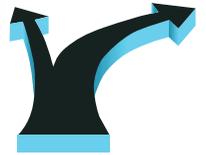


# Celebrating 10 Years of Reducing Arrests by Connecting Students to Behavioral Health Services: The Connecticut School-Based Diversion Initiative (SBDI)



Connecticut School-Based  
Diversion Initiative

2009-2019



The Connecticut School-Based Diversion Initiative (SBDI) promotes positive outcomes for both schools and students. Instead of arresting and suspending children with behavior problems, SBDI schools support students and connect them to community-based behavioral health services.

By transforming school discipline and helping at risk students, SBDI schools (2010-2018) have:

**Reduced court referrals by 34% and connected 47% more students to behavioral health services\***

\*Calls to 2-1-1 Connecticut's Mobile Crisis Intervention Services. Mobile Crisis is free for all youth in Connecticut.

## Core Components of SBDI

### 1 Workforce Development

SBDI has trained **85+ school resource officers and police officers and 4300+ teachers and staff** to recognize trauma and mental health concerns and manage behavioral health crises in schools.

### 2 School Policy Development and Capacity Building

SBDI has helped schools implement **restorative practices** and develop a **Graduated Response Model of discipline**.

### 3 Collaboration

SBDI has facilitated **collaboration with law enforcement and community mental health providers** so schools call **Mobile Crisis (2-1-1)** instead of the police/school resource officers (9-1-1) to manage a behavioral health incident.

**47,000 +**  
**Students Enrolled**  
in the **48 Connecticut Schools** implementing SBDI (2009-2019)

**45 of the 48**  
schools were in  
**Alliance Districts\***  
(94%)

In addition to Connecticut, the success of SBDI has led to expansion of the model or its core components in **Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New York and Wisconsin**.

\*Alliance Districts are the 33 lowest-performing districts in CT.

## Background

The Connecticut School-Based Diversion Initiative (SBDI) model was co-developed in 2008 by CHDI, the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) of the Judicial Branch, and the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) with funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. It was piloted in three schools in 2009 and was included as part of Governor Malloy's Second Chance Society legislation in 2015. SBDI is state funded and overseen by the State Department of Education, DCF, CSSD, and the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. The Child Health and Development Institute serves as the SBDI Coordinating Center.

Learn more at: [chdi.org](http://chdi.org) | [ctsbdi.org](http://ctsbdi.org)

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