

Peer Jury: A Model for School-Based Court Diversion Programs

Establishing a school-based court diversion program designed to keep first-time offenders out of court by capitalizing on the most influential relationships in their lives-their peers. This model program is a cooperative effort by schools, peers, parents, and other stakeholders. It is hoped that this process will have a longer lasting effect than judgement by adults. Offenders and peer jurors will become more aware of the American judicial system and its' practical application.

Outcomes

School officials and SROs will learn an innovative and successful approach to juvenile justice and will be able to learn from and build upon the experiences of their colleagues while expanding this promising program model.

School officials and SROs will leave this session with the resources and templates necessary to go back to their schools and establish an effective school-based court diversion program.

School officials and SROs will learn how to select and train a well rounded peer jury that is representative of their entire student body and one that is fair, impartial, and non-discriminatory.

School officials will learn how to triage cases and feed the peer jury program using a balanced and restorative justice approach that takes into consideration the offender, any victims, and the safety of the school community.