

JLARC Juvenile Detention Center Policy Recommendations¹

- Require juvenile detention centers providing post-dispositional rehabilitative programming to youth to provide evidence-based programs and services to the maximum extent practicable.
- Direct VDOE to develop a plan for an extended school year model that provides structured summer programming in juvenile detention centers.
- Direct VDOE to convene a workgroup to assess and improve the adequacy of current training, certification, and placement assistance services available in juvenile detention centers.
- Direct VDOE to work with the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget to implement cost-effective education staffing methods at juvenile detention centers to reduce educational spending per youth.
- The General Assembly may wish to consider amending the Code of Virginia to allow juveniles who are not sentenced to an adult correctional facility to receive credit for time spent in juvenile detention while awaiting trial in circuit court.
- The General Assembly may wish to consider amending §16.1-284.1 of the Code of Virginia to specify that if a juvenile detention center provides post-dispositional rehabilitative programming to youth, the center shall use evidence-based programs and practices to the maximum extent practicable.
- The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act directing the Board of Juvenile Justice to promulgate regulations that establish specific training requirements for front line staff of juvenile detention centers needed to effectively support youth in rehabilitative programs, including post-dispositional programs and community placement programs.
- The General Assembly may wish to consider amending §66-3.2 of the Code of Virginia to authorize the Department of Juvenile Justice to regularly conduct quality assurance reviews of juvenile detention centers' post-dispositional rehabilitative programs and provide technical assistance as needed to ensure the centers meet statutory and regulatory requirements.
- The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act (i) directing the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to reinstate its onsite monitoring reviews of the educational programs at juvenile detention centers, improve its collection of student outcomes data, and report annually on the effectiveness and quality of programs for youth in detention centers to the Senate Education and Health and the House Education committees; and (ii) establishing and funding an additional staff position at VDOE to assist with these oversight responsibilities.
- The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act directing the Virginia Department of Education to develop a plan to implement an extended school year model that provides structured summer programming in juvenile detention centers and estimate any additional appropriations required. The plan should be submitted to the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations committees no later than November 1, 2022.
- The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act directing the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to determine the extent to which each

¹ Virginia's Juvenile Justice System Report <http://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt558-1.pdf>.

juvenile detention center currently implements or could further implement cost-effective staffing methods. VDOE should be directed to work with the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget to determine the potential cost savings and feasibility of implementing each method and propose specific actions along with the estimated cost savings to the secretary of finance no later than June 30, 2023.

- The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act directing the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to determine the extent to which each juvenile detention center currently implements or could further implement cost-effective staffing methods. VDOE should be directed to work with the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget to determine the potential cost savings and feasibility of implementing each method and propose specific actions along with the estimated cost savings to the secretary of finance no later than June 30, 2023.
- The General Assembly could consider establishing a two-tiered reimbursement rate in the Appropriation Act for the construction and operation of juvenile detention centers. Juvenile detention centers that are operated regionally could receive higher reimbursement rates than those operated by a single jurisdiction.
- The General Assembly could consider including language in the Appropriation Act directing the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Virginia Department of Education to provide lower funding for juvenile detention centers that are consistently operating under a certain capacity, such as 50 percent, and are located within a certain distance, such as within a 45-minute drive of other facilities that are also operating under capacity.
- The General Assembly could consider including language in the Appropriation Act directing the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to implement a process to identify specific juvenile detention centers that should be closed or consolidated to better align facility capacities with regional needs. DJJ could be directed to report to the General Assembly on the results of the process and specific facilities identified for closure or consolidation.
- The General Assembly could consider including language in the Appropriation Act directing the Department of Juvenile Justice to evaluate the costs, benefits, and feasibility of transitioning juvenile detention centers to either specialize in (i) short-term detention or (ii) longer-term rehabilitative programming. The Virginia Department of Education could be required to develop a plan to align the educational programming to meet the different needs of youth in the two types of facilities.
- The General Assembly could amend § 16.1-278.8 of the Code of Virginia to require juvenile and domestic relations district court judges to consider any time youth have spent in detention prior to their adjudication when making disposition decisions.