

Youth Court Frequently Asked Questions Sheet

1. Do I have to call it Youth Court?

Many people have suggested changing the name of Youth Court to have a more positive connotation. As a school you can change the name. One school has chosen to call it the Justice Council.

2. Do respondents retaliate against youth court members?

Youth Court is a restorative program that is designed to help students. Respondents leave youth court knowing that youth court is there to provide support, not to punish students. As a result, there are no known instances of retaliation against youth court members.

3. Is there training?

Yes, there are professional development trainings as well as ongoing coaching. Schools are provided with all of the materials needed to have a successful youth court.

4. Can I have a youth court before or after school?

Youth Court has been tried after school at both the middle and high school level. Based on the outcome at those schools it is not permitted to have youth court outside of regular school hours.

5. Can a student go to youth court more than once?

Yes, students can be sent to youth court more than once if the student is showing improvement. The final decision is up to the administration of the school. During the 2019-2020 school year youth courts had a 7.7% recidivism rate.

6. How can I get a youth court at my school and how fast can it happen?

Youth courts can start at the beginning or middle of the school year depending on the goals and needs of the school. Contact John Papiano at jpapiano@philasd.org to get started.