

Youth Bias Task Force's Recommendations for Change



New Jersey's Interagency Task Force to Combat Youth Bias has conducted extensive research into the root causes of increased bias activity among New Jersey youth and, in a report being issued today, makes the following 27 recommendations to counter the trend:

Education

1. Require comprehensive anti-bias education in public schools and develop curricular support materials
2. Require anti-bias training for educators and school employees
3. Address discrimination in the imposition of school discipline
4. Study potential changes to reduce disparities in criminal justice referrals
5. Reduce racial disparities in identification of academically advanced students and identification and placement of students with disabilities
6. Take meaningful measures to diversify educator hiring at both the K-12 and postsecondary levels
7. Require anti-bias training for student athletes
8. Fund programs for student-led anti-bias programming and coordinate best practices
9. Encourage K-12 districts to designate a chief equity officer
10. Require anti-bias policies in colleges & universities
11. Encourage public and private postsecondary institutions to hire or designate a chief equity officer
12. Ensure that juveniles in state custody receive the same anti-bias programming as students in other schools
13. Publish resources for schools, colleges, and universities responding to a bias incident

Enforcement

14. Improve eUCR bias incident data collection and public access to data
15. Make it easier for NJ residents to report bias incidents to the Attorney General's Office
16. Continue aggressive criminal and civil enforcement of NJ's bias laws
17. Strengthen the State's hate crime law
18. Strengthen the civil and criminal remedies available to victims of bias-motivated conduct
19. Hold accountable those who weaponize the internet to harm others
20. Mandate completion of anti-bias education program for juvenile bias crime offenders
21. Expand law enforcement training on cyberhate investigations and domestic extremism
22. Consider investigations related to social media platforms
23. Study potential amendments to Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act

Engagement

24. Call out public figures who use hateful rhetoric
25. Launch a statewide campaign to stand up to hate in New Jersey
26. Implement the plan to establish an incident response team within the Division on Civil Rights
27. Create resource guides to educate parents, guardians, and educators about how to talk to children about avoiding hate on the internet and how to recognize signs of radicalization