

Administrative Office of the Courts

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Administrative Office of the Courts

Report for Juvenile Justice Oversight Council Submitted by Zach Ramsey, Director August 29, 2025

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is pleased to report continued progress on several key juvenile justice initiatives aimed at improving outcomes for youth across the Commonwealth. This report provides an update on the following:

- ➤ Implementation of Legislation Enacted during the 2023, 2024, and 2025 Regular Sessions.
- ➤ Outcomes and Attendance Data for Family Accountability, Intervention, and Response (FAIR) Teams, including participation by mandated members.
- Trends in Juvenile Complaint Filings, with a focus on both public and status offenses.

<u>Implementation of Legislation Enacted during the 2023, 2024, and 2025 Regular Sessions</u>

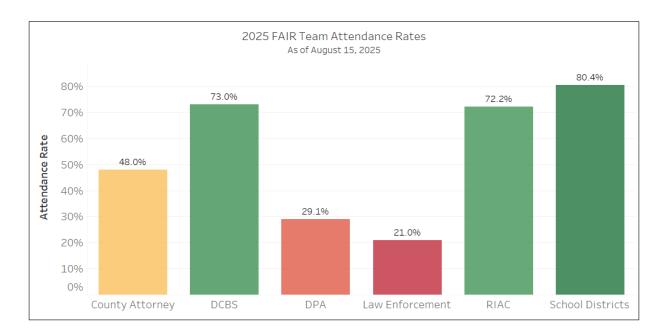
To address the statutory changes enacted in 2023, 2024, and 2025 impacting justice-involved youth, the AOC took steps to ensure effective implementation and compliance. This included revising policies to align with new legal requirements, updating all relevant forms, and providing targeted training to Court Designated Workers (CDWs) to support consistent application across the state. Additionally, the AOC modified the CDW case management system to reflect the statutory updates and developed comprehensive communication plans to inform and prepare stakeholders. These coordinated efforts ensure that Kentucky's juvenile justice processes remain responsive, legally sound, and focused on improving outcomes for youth.

CDW Program staff have received ongoing training to ensure alignment with newly implemented procedures. In addition, Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) efforts are being further developed to strengthen program oversight, enhance staff accountability, and identify areas for continued professional development. These initiatives support consistent practice across the state and reinforce the program's commitment to high standards of service for justice-involved youth.

Outcomes and Attendance Data for FAIR Teams

The AOC reports outcomes for cases reviewed by FAIR Teams at each Juvenile Justice Oversight Council meeting. FAIR Teams received 2,149 complaints in 2023, 2,480 in 2024, and, as of August 15, 2025, 2,253 complaints this calendar year. Of the 1,275 complaints closed to date in 2025, 19% were resolved outside of court, while 81% were referred to court. Notably, nearly half of the court referrals involved truancy cases that were initially placed on diversion but referred to court after the youth accumulated four unexcused absences as required by House Bill 611.

Attendance rates in 2025 have generally declined by 1% to 4% compared to the previous year, with the exception of Regional Interagency Council (RIAC) representatives. RIAC representatives showed a notable improvement, with attendance rates increasing by 5% over 2024 levels. FAIR attendance rates, pulled as of August 15, 2025, are provided in the chart below.



Trends in Juvenile Complaint Filings

In FY 2025, the CDW Program observed a diverging trend in the filing of public and status offense complaints. Public offense complaint filings declined for the second consecutive year, with a 4% decrease compared to the previous fiscal year. In contrast, status offense complaint filings increased in FY 2025, a rise entirely driven by a 20% increase in habitual truancy complaints. A chart illustrating the 10-year trend in public and status offense complaint filings is provided below.

