

## **Community Based Juvenile Justice Programs**

### **Office of the Norfolk District Attorney**

**January 29, 2026**

During 2025, the Norfolk District Attorney's office administered over twenty community based juvenile justice programs (school safety forums) serving twenty-seven communities in the County of Norfolk. These programs were designed to help coordinate the efforts of school systems, law enforcement, the Norfolk County Juvenile Probation Department, the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families and the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, as appropriate, to help develop positive interventions for court-involved and at-risk juveniles. Additionally, these confidential forums may serve to identify those juveniles whose violent behavior could potentially pose a danger to school systems and communities, and to help coordinate informational resources and other potential interventions designed to help maintain school safety and deter the recurrence of violence.

These collaborative school safety forums have been in place in the Norfolk District for more than twenty years. The Norfolk District Attorney's Office has taken a leadership position in scheduling these meetings, and in trying to facilitate and maintain open lines of communication between the partner agencies. The Norfolk District Attorney's Office encourages and supports the regular participation of relevant agencies, as appropriate. Partner agencies may choose to explain the specific services and interventions they may have available, as well as any relevant criteria and protocols for accessing such services. The forums have been an effective venue for agencies to share informational resources. The Norfolk District Attorney's Office assigns an Assistant District Attorney from the Norfolk District Attorney's Juvenile Justice Unit to each confidential forum to ensure consistency with towns and to assist in communication. This Office provides information to these towns and school systems in order to better protect victims present in the school systems with the juvenile and to update the school systems so they may best assist the juvenile going forward.

These collaborative agencies include Juvenile Probation, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Youth Services, as well as the schools and local law enforcement. The office works very closely with School Resource Officers (SROs) to enhance the Office's knowledge of school incidents as well as to learn best ways to support schools and juveniles. General school safety concerns, precautions, and perceived trends are also discussed to further support school and community prevention efforts. In addition to the work NDAO has done for many years, in 2025, the Office has worked to implement a new diversion program through MYDP, Massachusetts Youth Diversion Program, and has been the largest referral source to this new program amongst the courts and law enforcement. This program has enabled the NDAO to avail more juveniles of increased and improved resources to aid them and their families while keeping these juveniles from gaining a criminal record.

The Norfolk Juvenile Court in Dedham services the nineteen communities of Avon, Canton, Dedham, Dover, Foxborough, Franklin, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Needham, Norfolk, Norwood, Plainville, Sharon, Stoughton, Walpole, Wellesley, Westwood, and Wrentham. There were approximately 100 felony cases prioritized for discussion at the community based juvenile

justice programs in this service area. The Juvenile Session of the Quincy District Court services the seven communities of Braintree, Cohasset, Holbrook, Milton, Quincy, Randolph, and Weymouth. There were approximately 150 felony cases prioritized for discussion at the community based juvenile justice programs in this service area. There were approximately 6 felony cases prioritized for discussion in Brookline. Additional adult co-defendant court proceedings were also discussed as appropriate.

Currently, the Dedham Juvenile Court has a delinquency session two days per week and the Quincy Juvenile Court has a delinquency session three days per week, with every other week being two days a week. Brookline Juvenile Court holds a delinquency session once per month.

The Norfolk District Attorney's Office provides strategic, targeted prevention, education and training to our 28 communities and 34 public school districts. In 2025, following a review of our caseload and diversion referrals, we continued to work on enhancing and expanding our programming and better utilizing the diversion resources available to our office.

The NDAO offered the following in 2025:

1. Hosted an in-person Peer Leadership Breakfast Meeting for Norfolk County Public School Student Leaders at the Tirrell Room in Quincy to kick-off the school-year long Peer Leadership Program;
2. Hosted four (4) virtual Peer Leadership meetings for Norfolk County public school student leaders focused on prevention topics, including;
  - a. Vaping education and Narcan training, in collaboration with the SAFE Coalition;
  - b. Advanced Internet Safety, in collaboration with Norfolk Advocates for Children (NAC);
  - c. Distracted and impaired driving, in collaboration with AAA;
  - d. Healthy relationships and appropriate boundaries, in collaboration with DOVE;
3. Hosted an in-person Peer Leadership Conference for Norfolk County Public School Student Leaders at the Cross Insurance Pavilion at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, featuring trainings by:
  - a. Minding Your Mind;
  - b. The 84 Group;
  - c. Drug Story Theater;
  - d. Dover Y2Y;
  - e. In Control Crash Prevention;
4. Provided Until Help Arrives, an interactive critical safety training created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to Norfolk County Communities;
5. Provided the Good Decision Class in partnership with Bay State Community Services as part of the Norfolk District Attorney's Diversion Program, and allowed public high schools to incorporate the class into their disciplinary action involving substance use and related risk-taking behaviors, even when students were not court-involved;

6. Provided access to a master's-level clinician at no cost for behavioral and mental health evaluations and referrals, if necessary, for teens and young adults in Norfolk County, in partnership with Bay State Community Services;
7. Hosted quarterly Community Coalition meetings with community partners focused on substance use prevention;
8. Hosted quarterly School/Youth Resource Officer meetings focused on substance use prevention and behavioral intervention;
9. Hosted quarterly Medical Review meetings with medical professionals for Norfolk County Community Coalition leaders, Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Departments; the Department of Public Health, School Nurses, and other community partners;
10. Hosted countywide Mandated Reporter trainings for schools, school resource officers, police departments, and fire departments in partnership with Norfolk Advocates for Children (NAC), followed by guided tours of the NAC facility;
11. Hosted an in-person train-the-trainer anti-bullying program in collaboration with the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC);
12. Provided grant funding for NaloxBoxes placed in public school buildings and other municipal facilities throughout Norfolk County;
13. Replenished Naloxone supplies for Norfolk County public school districts;
14. Provided Narcan training to Norfolk County public school staff and municipal employees;
15. Awarded Safe Celebration Grants in the amount of \$500 to Norfolk County public high schools to offset the cost of alcohol-free post-prom and graduation events;
16. Hosted the Making Norfolk County a Safe Place to Live Conference at the Tirrell Room in Quincy, highlighting Norfolk District Attorney's Office programs, trainings, grants, and services related to school safety, behavioral health, and mental health for Norfolk County Community Coalition leaders, Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Departments; the Department of Public Health, School Administrators, and other community partners;
17. Provided grant funding for Community Resource Dogs to support police departments and schools in serving children in crisis and strengthening trust between agencies and local children and families;
18. Provided the FireSense diversionary program to reduce juvenile fire setting and educate youth on the dangers associated with fire-related behavior;
19. Provided Third Millennium diversionary programming to diverted youth, including Conflict Wise, Diversity Equity & Inclusion, Nicotine and Other Drugs, Respect & Resolve, THC 101, Under the Influence, and Shoplifting;
20. Provided Fatal Vision Education, a live in-person alcohol and marijuana impairment simulation demonstrating the effects of substances on vision, reaction time, memory, and problem-solving;

21. Hosted live Disabled Persons Protection Commission (DPPC) trainings Norfolk County Community Coalition leaders, Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Departments; the Department of Public Health, School Administrators, and other community partners;
22. Facilitated Advanced Internet Safety trainings for Norfolk County youth, parents, and professionals;
23. Partnered with NCMEC to offer train-the-trainer Internet safety opportunities and expanded access for county professionals to additional specialized training opportunities;
24. Provided Community Resource Dog visits to Norfolk County schools and community events;
25. Conducted a Designate a Water Watcher public awareness campaign prior to the summer season to promote water safety and prevent water-related injuries and fatalities;
26. Participated in multiple community policing and public safety outreach events across Norfolk County, including National Night Out and First Responders Day;
27. Provided In Control Crash Prevention training to Norfolk County High Schools;
28. Provided IROC2 digital citizenship and media literacy training programming to Norfolk County Middle Schools;
29. Partnered with Sandy Hook Promise to support Norfolk County school districts in implementing the Start with Hello program and Anonymous Reporting System; and
30. Distributed Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Human Trafficking personal care kits to Norfolk County Police Departments.