



RECOVERY EDUCATION ACADEMY

Changing how teens recover from addiction and reclaim all aspects of their lives!

THE NEED

- 1 in 17 Worcester students, approximately 1,513, were disciplined in SY2022 where 1.6% had in-school suspension and 4.4% had out of school suspension. The highest percentage disciplined were high need, low income Hispanic or Latino males. (MA-DOE School and District profiles).
- Massachusetts does not currently provide funding for or require juvenile diversion of any kind (Citizens For Juvenile Justice (CFJJ), 2018).
- There is one alternative school diversion program, which only enrolls Worcester public school students reaching a mere 50 students per year.
- Youth are 2x more likely to engage in negative behaviors or be arrested when suspended fueling the “school-to-prison pipeline.” (CFJJ, 2018)
- 1 in 8 teens abused an illicit substance in the last year. More than 1/3 of teens report experiencing poor mental health, which was only further exacerbated by COVID. (NIH, 2022)

Current solutions are fragmented and hard to navigate by already overwhelmed families to ensure their teen gets the help they need.

OUR SOLUTION

Quality Comprehensive Care All Under One Roof

We use a harm reduction approach with a zero-barrier policy that leads with recovery (development, healing and care of **SELF**), then we fold in academics (completing goals for **SCHOOL**), followed by social enrichment (building the confidence and the skills to thrive in **SOCIETY**)

SELF

(Behavioral & Medical Health)

- Individual and Group Therapy,
- Trauma Informed Approach,
- Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT),
- Overall General Wellness Care,
- Family Involvement & Restoration

SCHOOL

(Academic Support)

- Program for Alternative to Student Suspension (PASS) – structured early intervention model that acts as a lever to referral services.
- Virtual HS diploma options – Greater Commonwealth Virtual School or TEC Connections Academy
- GED or HiSET prep

SOCIETY

(Social Enrichment)

- Restorative Justice Circles
- Alternative Peer Group (APG) – Positive recovering peer support.
- Recovery Coaches – Lived Experience mentors teach life skills modeling pro-social skills with place-based learning.



Mission: Working to create a safe, supportive, respectful recovery community where adolescents struggling with addiction and co-occurring disorders can reclaim and restore all aspects of their lives.

www.4choices.org