

Aruna Miller
Lt. GovernorWes Moore
GovernorVincent Schiraldi
Secretary

Date: January 28, 2025
Bill Number/Title: SB 78 - Juvenile Sex Offenders - Juvenile Sex Offender Registry and Prohibition on In-Person School Attendance
Committee: Judicial Proceedings
DJS Position: Oppose

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) opposes SB 78.

SB 78 prohibits a child from attending public or nonpublic school (that receives state funds) if the child has been convicted or adjudicated delinquent of felony rape or sex offense.

School systems are equipped to address student behaviors through a continuum of responses developed to support students and promote safety in the school community. Prohibiting in-person without evaluating supports to mitigate any risk, may result in students being unfairly excluded, stigmatized and penalized.

Research consistently shows that school engagement is a critical protective factor in preventing delinquency. Denying in-person attendance isolates students from a structured, supportive environment, increasing the likelihood of future challenges, including academic failure, behavioral problems, and involvement in the justice system.

For these reasons, DJS requests an unfavorable report on SB 78.

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