Your child,
has been referred to the Memphis City Schools School House Adjustment Program Enterprise.
Your child's school contact is:
Phone number:
Comments:
A special thanks to

A special thanks to Shelby County Mayor A C Wharton, City of Memphis Mayor Willie W. Herenton, and Memphis Police Director Larry Godwin

### The Memphis City Schools S.H.A.P.E.

Is administered through the school district's Department of School Safety, Security & Emergency Management

John Hall, Project Coordinator 416-6259 / hallj@mcsk12.net

Sam Moses, Project Director 416-5645 / mosess@mcsk12.net

Gerald Darling, Chief School Safety, Security & Emergency Management

in collaboration with the following agencies:

Shelby County Government Memphis & Shelby County Juvenile Court Shelby County Public Defender's Office City of Memphis Memphis Police Department

#### **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Martavius D. Jones, President
Stephanie Gatewood, Vice President
Tomeka R. Hart
Betty J. Mallott
Patrice Jordan Robinson
Dr. Jeff Warren
Dr. Sharon A. Webb
Dr. Kenneth T. Whalum Jr.
Dr. Freda Williams

#### **Superintendent**

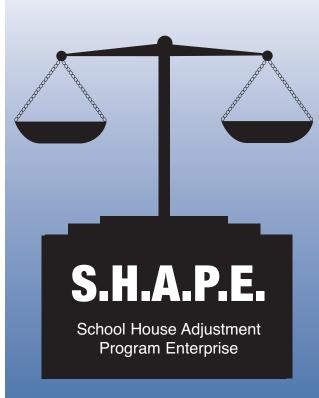
Dr. Kriner Cash



2597 Avery Avenue Memphis, Tennessee 38112

Memphis City Schools does not discriminate in its programs or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, handicap/disability, sex or age.

For more information, please contact the Office of Equity Compliance at (901) 416-5300.





An Alternative to Juvenile Court for Students Committing Minor Infractions within the Memphis City Schools

#### Memphis City Schools **S.H.A.P.E.**



Jersey.

The Memphis City Schools School House Adjustment Program Enterprise (S.H.A.P.E.) aims to reduce the number of Memphis City Schools students sent to Juvenile Court for minor infractions. It is funded through the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Pilot Project.

This state grant is funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Act. It requires all states to address overrepresentation of minority juveniles detained or confined in secure detention facilities, secured correctional facilities, jails and lock-ups throughout the country. The Pilot Program is to decrease the number of minority students sent to Juvenile Court for committing minor infractions. Similar programs have shown success in Chicago and New

## How did this program get started in Memphis?

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) is charged with implementing the OJJDP requirements and looking at the overall societal issues that contribute to the disparate number of youth who encounter the juvenile justice system in Tennessee. Here in Memphis, a collaborative effort by Shelby County Mayor's Office, Juvenile Court, Public Defenders Office, City of Memphis Mayor's Office, Memphis Police Department and Shelby County Disproportionate Minority Contact Task Force was instrumental in Memphis City Schools receiving grant funding to launch this pilot program in Memphis City Schools.

## What does the School House Adjustment Program Enterprise do?

The SHAPE curriculum consists of homework assistance, tutoring, mentoring, counseling, and social and life skills training. Students stay in the program for 90 days. This program is an alternative method that Memphis City Schools is using to work with juvenile offenders who have committed minor offenses. The intent of the School House Adjustment Enterprise Program is to provide immediate consequences, such as community services or restitution and a prompt and convenient resolution for the victim. At the same time, it benefits the juvenile by avoiding the stigma of a juvenile record. In many instances, this early intervention will deter the youth from continuing negative behavior and divert the youth from progressing into the juvenile justice system.

#### | How does the program work?

In S.H.A.P.E, the Site Coordinator typically

asks the juvenile, a parent or guardian/
caregiver, or other responsible adult to come to
the school within 5 days to discuss the offense. This
process allows the Site Coordinator to resolve minor
disputes without the need to file a complaint with the
court. The School Staff may refer a juvenile for needed
services and require the juvenile to make restitution if
needed. The Site Coordinator will discuss the offense
with the juvenile's parent or guardian/caregiver and
request assurances that the juvenile will not commit any
future offenses. Victims of minor offenses are often better
served when matters can be resolved locally, providing a
more efficient and expeditious resolution.

This project is supported by Grant# 626000360 awarded by the State of Tennessee, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the State of Tennessee, or Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth.

# What are the offenses that will be considered for the Memphis City Schools School House Adjustment Program Enterprise?

Typically, if a student commits one of the offenses listed below, the student may be eligible for the S.H.A.P.E. Assault and disorderly conduct account for approximately 65% of the students taken to Juvenile Court for 2006:

- Assault (Non-Serious Injuries)
- Disorderly Conduct

The program allows students

• Criminal Trespass

## What are the benefits to the School House Adjustment Program Enterprise?

to continue with their academic studies and to have their behavioral progress monitored by school staff, instead of being transported to Juvenile Court and obtaining a juvenile record. Students in the program will receive and participate in a violence prevention curriculum that is based on best practices by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency as effective, promising or exemplary. This will reinforce program strategies and concepts in everyday interactions with students and teach them how to model skills and behaviors in all interactions with other students and staff.