

**The Department for Children, Youth and Families**  
**Justification for Contract Authorization with LaSalle School**  
**for the Provision of Juvenile Justice Raise the Age Services**

The Department for Children, Youth and Families respectfully requests legislative authorization to enter into a contractual agreement with LaSalle School—Juvenile Reporting and Family Center (JRFC) for the provision of Juvenile Justice- Raise the Age Services. The requested contract term is for January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020 not to exceed the amount of \$240,000.

Albany County submitted a Raise the Age plan to provide programs and services for 16 and 17 year olds entering the juvenile justice system. The County received approval of the Raise the Age plan in April of 2019. Within the approved plan, Albany County received approval to expand the JRFC program to serve RTA youth.

The premise behind Raise the Age is to provide services to 16 and 17 year olds that previously were not available to them as they were in the adult system. Albany County recognizes the need to have programming that effectively addresses the needs and complexities of RTA youth. Programming that focuses on independent living skills, educational and vocational activities, as well as conflict resolution and management of anger are key skills for this population. The JRFC has a proven record of delivering programs and services to that target these essential needs of youth interfacing with the juvenile justice system. As such, expanding the program to meet the needs of RTA youth is felt to be an effective strategy.

LaSalle's Juvenile Reporting and Family Center (JRFC) for RTA youth is a collaborative effort between the LaSalle School and Saint Anne Institute. The program will connect youths and their families with holistic services through the program's Service Partners to address the risk factors and provide key skills building programming to referred youths and their families in a safe and neutral location. This collateral programming will be tailored to each family, provide custom designed discharge planning to foster meaningful connections to their community and natural supports, and may include, but is not limited to: substance abuse treatment, mediation services, mentoring, employment planning, recreation, school based organizations and parental empowerment. The JRFC and their service partners share the vision of providing services and supports which will positively impact the youth and families involved with the Juvenile Justice System and reduce recidivism.