



**Office of Children  
and Family Services**

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**SHEILA J. POOLE**  
Acting Commissioner

TO: NSD Program Directors

FROM: Dan Maxwell, Bureau of Detention Services

DATE: January 09, 2019

SUBJECT: Commingling NSD and Residential Youth

Throughout this past year, there has been significant discussion around youth placed in non-secure detention (NSD) programs co-mingling with youth placed in the affiliated residential campus program. Historically, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has suggested that detention youth be maintained separately from the youth placed in your agency's residential program as a safety and security precaution. This led to the concept of sight and sound separation for the NSD youth.

Following a close review of applicable regulations and much consideration, OCFS has revised this position to permit the co-mingling of NSD youth and the youth placed in the agency's residential program. Commingling will provide numerous opportunities to enhance and increase educational, recreational and vocational opportunities. In addition, the commingling of youth may occur within the context of mental health and medical treatment services where appropriate.

It is imperative that the NSD and residential program staff maintain consistent and direct supervision along with all other existing supervisory protocols during these activities. The effective monitoring of youth during their interactions and activities with other youth is an important and necessary ingredient for successful youth development and effective programming.

This new commingling initiative is effective immediately upon your receipt of this memo. If you have any questions related to this matter, please contact me at 518-486-4018.