

# Social Justice Coalition winter 2025

*Educate, Advocate, and Agitate*

## Food Insecurity

### **Can kids Rescue Food in Andover**

**Public Schools?** The SJC is developing a pilot food rescue program at West Elementary School. Watch for ways children and adults can rescue kid-friendly food for donation to the Village Food Hub.

### **Happy April Vacation Grocery Bags!**

A collaborative proposal is in the works with the Town of Andover to distribute a week's worth of food for vacation week to the 650+ food insecure children in Andover Public Schools.

## Juvenile Justice

### **Statewide Data on Crossover Kids**

Stay tuned for the spring report of the MA Office of the Child Advocate on the status of crossover kids (foster children in the criminal justice system) in counties across MA including Essex County. Without families stepping up for these predominantly BIPOC children, who is looking out for them in the courts?

### **Spring Follow-Up Meeting with DA Paul Tucker in May 2025**

The SJC will continue our discussion with DA Tucker to encourage diversion for youth, and learn how his office explains the status of cross over kids in the Essex County Juvenile Justice System. We will continue to advocate for their compassionate care.

## Book Challenges in Andover

**“For the love of God, Don’t Ban Books** The SJC has learned about the experiences of subtle book challenges at Andover’s MHL, explored their professional approach to policies and procedures for responding to book challenges, and expressed our support for their leadership in the community.

### **Exploring Policies and Procedures Responding to Book Challenges in**

**Andover Public Schools** Stay tuned for what we learn as we delve into how the APS District handles book challenges in the school libraries and across curricula materials.

## SJC Sponsored Gatherings

**“Beyond the Screen” and other small group gatherings** Watch for an invitation to a movie night! Come watch a movie together or show up later for the following discussion spinning off from the movie. We are looking forward to more small group get-togethers!