

EDUCATION SERVICES

Julie Orange
Director of Education Services
(850) 717-2708
Julie.Orange@djj.state.fl.us

The Florida Legislature determined that education is one of the most important factors in the rehabilitation of adjudicated delinquent youth and stated: *"It is the goal of the Legislature that youth in the juvenile justice system are afforded the opportunity to obtain a high quality education."* The mission of the DJJ Office of Education is to support this goal by providing training to all education stakeholders; supporting realistic and relevant academic and pre-employment curricula for students in DJJ programs; and maximizing the resources that support DJJ educational initiatives. The Office of Education accomplishes this mission by focusing on the following educational objectives:

- Develop and implement accountability measures to ensure that youth who are placed in the custody of the department attain measurable academic improvement, and when appropriate, learn a career education skill that will help the youth acquire employment following release from department supervision.
- Increase opportunities for industry-recognized certification of youth in residential programs.
- Establish multi-agency collaboration in the delivery of education services for at-risk youth.

The Office of Education works to support these objectives with a myriad of stakeholders including youth, families, the Department and contracted education and program personnel, district school boards, the Department of Education (DOE), Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), CareerSource Florida, regional workforce boards, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and the Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation (FJJF). In 2012-2013, 21,932 students enrolled in juvenile justice day treatment, detention, prevention, and residential education programs.

The Florida Legislature stipulates that DOE and DJJ serve as the point of contact for resolving issues not addressed by district school boards and to provide each Department's participation in four primary areas:

- Training
- Academic Performance
- Career Education
- Collaboration

Training

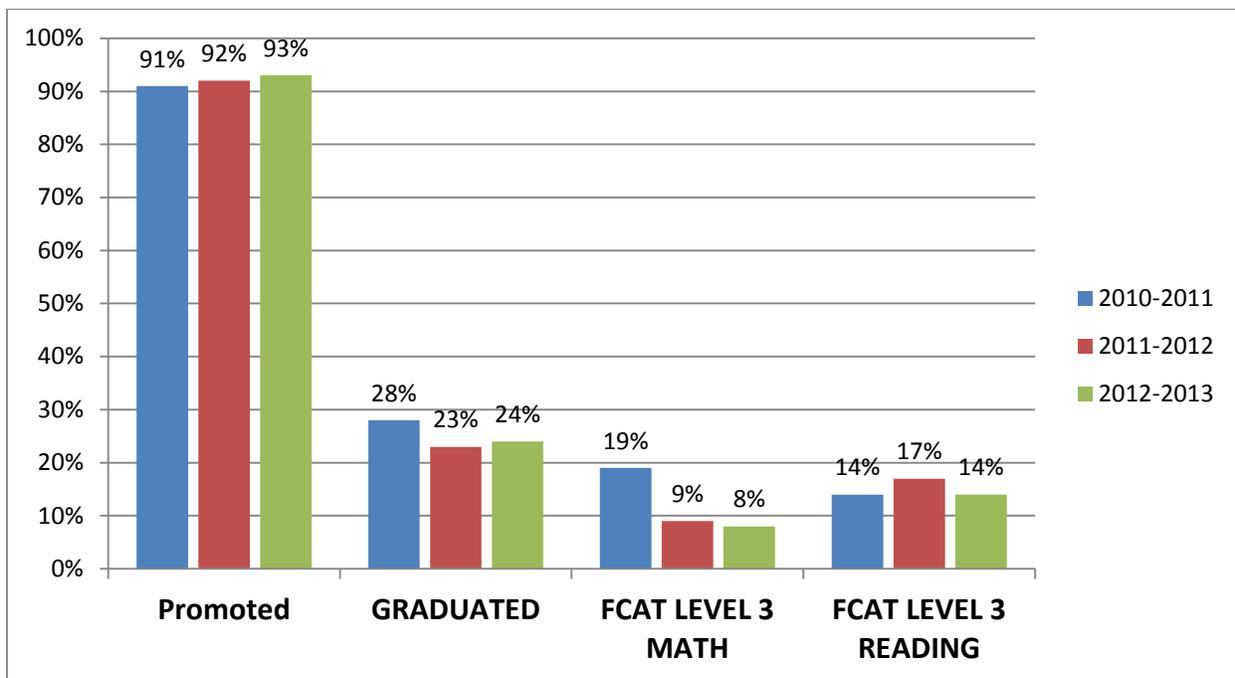
Representatives of the Office of Education provide training and technical assistance to stakeholders and partners throughout the year. Assistance is provided by telephone, e-mail, web site information, site visits, regional meetings, and statewide training events.

Academic Performance

Florida Statutes and the Florida Administrative Code supports academic success by requiring continuity of educational programming for students in juvenile detention centers, prevention, day treatment programs, and residential commitment settings. DJJ educational programs are designed to meet the unique educational needs of each student, half of whom are in ninth or tenth grade, and more than 25% are significantly behind in school. The Florida Department of Education Annual Report tracked the educational outcomes of 5,492 DJJ students in 2012-2013, of which 93 passed the GED. Of the 93 students, 10% percent earned a performance-based diploma and the other 90% earned a state of Florida diploma.

The following exhibit depicts key outcome data for the 5,492 DJJ students included in DOE’s annual report.

**Key Juvenile Justice Education Indicators
FY 2010-11, FY 2011-12, & FY 2012-13**



Source: Department of Education 2012-2013 Annual Dropout Prevention Report

Section 1003.52(3)(b), F.S., requires the FDOE, with the assistance of school districts, select a common student assessment instrument and protocol for measuring student learning gains and student progression while a student is in a juvenile justice education program. During the 2012-13 school year, WIN Learning, in partnership with Florida Ready to Work, provided school districts with a common entry and exit assessment in reading and math. Students in DJJ residential and day treatment programs are administered the common entry and exit assessment. Scale score results for students who were administered both the entry and exit assessments indicate an average growth of 1.9 points in reading and 3.9 points in math.

The Florida Legislature allocated funding for the Ready to Work program to allow qualified individuals the opportunity to earn credentials that demonstrate the ability to enter the workforce with the skills needed to succeed. Pre- and post-instruction assessments are used to identify specific skills that indicate a competence

level to enter the workforce at an entry-level position or above. Florida Ready to Work also provides targeted instruction in the specific employability skill(s) for which mastery has not been demonstrated. In 2013-14, DJJ students earned 335 Florida Ready to Work credentials in the following categories:

- 34 Gold
- 190 Silver
- 111 Bronze

Additionally, students spent 2,328.6 hours completing Ready to Work courseware.

Students served in DJJ programs have access to the appropriate courses and instruction to prepare them for the General Educational Development (GED) test. Students in DJJ programs can enroll in GED preparation courses and still receive K–12 funding in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). GED preparation consists of adult education courses designed to prepare individuals at a ninth grade level or above to successfully complete the GED subject area tests leading to qualification for a State of Florida high school diploma. DJJ schools reported in Fiscal Year 2013-14, 362 students earned GEDs, 117 students earned standard diplomas, and 11 students earned special diplomas.

Students who have earned their diplomas also have opportunities to pursue post-secondary education while in the programs. According to 2014 annual survey responses, the Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation and several providers assisted 36 students enroll in college courses. Those students earned 133 college credits while in commitment.

Career Education

The Office of Education works diligently to enhance and expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, identify and procure documents essential for employment, and bolster the transition process to increase employment opportunities for DJJ students. DJJ schools reported that more than 5,390 students participated in CTE programs during Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

Vocational Program Types: The Office of Education works with education and training programs within prevention, detention, day treatment, and residential facilities. Since the average stay in a detention facility is approximately 11 days, there is minimal participation in CTE programs. CTE programs are primarily associated with the 94 residential and day treatment programs and are reported as one of three types:

- Type 1: Programs that teach personal accountability skills and behaviors that are appropriate for students in all age groups and ability levels and that lead to work habits that help maintain employment and living standards.
- Type 2: Programs that include Type 1 program content and an orientation to the broad scope of career choices, based upon personal abilities, aptitudes, and interests. Exploring and gaining knowledge of occupation options and the level of effort required to achieve them is an essential prerequisite to skill training.
- Type 3: Programs that include Type 1 program content and the competencies or the prerequisites needed for entry into a specific occupation.

Type 3 programs may offer certifications in numerous areas, including, but not limited to culinary arts, carpentry, welding, Building Tech/Auto Technology/NCCER, C-Tech Telecommunications, Building Ground Maintenance, and Information Technology. From the 5,390 DJJ students who participated in CTE courses in FY 2013-2014, 1,313 industry recognized certifications were earned.

In addition, Home Builders Institute provides career and technical training to at-risk and adjudicated youth at eight sites throughout Florida. These programs receive funding through the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. Outcomes for 2013-2014 include:

- 311 participants earned Pre-Apprentice Certificate Training (PACT) certificates;
- 299 participants that earned a PACT certificate did not re-offend during follow up, representing a 96.14% non-recidivism rate;
- 85% of the participants graduated;
- 205 participants were eligible for placement;
- 174 participants were placed in a job, military, or school;
- \$9.34 average wage at placement;
- 81% placement rate for graduates; and
- Participants saved tax payers an estimated \$328,138.17 by contributing 42,123 community service hours. The community service included maintaining, repairing, remodeling, and constructing state buildings and properties, saving \$ 1.8 million since 1997 by HBI Florida students.

Financial Grants: The U.S. Department of Education provides federal funds, i.e., Perkins Grants, to develop more fully the academic, career, and technical skills of students who are enrolled in career and technical programs. As shown in the following exhibit, grants totaling \$385,171.00 were awarded to seven programs for FY 2014-15.

Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Secondary Career and Technical Education Programs Department of Juvenile Justice Students			
Agency	DJJ Site	Focus Area	Amount
Brevard School District	Melbourne Center for Personal Growth	Culinary Arts	\$49,086.00
Citrus School District	Cypress Creek Academy	Building Construction Technology	\$64,400.00
Liberty School District	Liberty JUST	Building Construction Technology	\$ 64,400.00
Madison School District	JoAnn Bridges Academy	Information Technology	\$54,177.00
Martin School District	Martin Girls Academy	Hospitality and Tourism	\$25,822.00

Pinellas School District	Eckerd Youth Alternatives	Building Construction Technology	\$63,071.00
Santa Rosa School District	Milton Youth Academy	Business Education and Information Technology	\$ 64,215.00
TOTAL			\$385,171.00

Source: Florida Department of Education Career and Adult Education

The Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation (FJJF) is a not-for-profit corporation and a direct-support organization for DJJ. The Foundation assists students, their parents, and citizens by promoting delinquency prevention, intervention and educational opportunities for youth. The Foundation manages the Youth Investment Award Scholarship Program. The awards may be used for tuition, equipment, supplies, transportation, education or employability assistance. The Office of Education assists youth, families and the FJJF Director in processing the Youth Investment Award. In Fiscal Year 2013-2014, \$3,116.90 was contributed to support education or employability skills training for students.

Collaboration

The Department successfully collaborated with federal, state, and local agencies and was awarded several grants to fund career education in residential commitment programs. For example:

- The Office of Education received the Second Chance Act Grant, offered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, to establish and provide technology career training programs to prepare Florida's highest risk male and female juvenile offenders. The training program focuses on technology-based jobs and careers that will maximize the student's ability to achieve employment and pay restitution. Labs were set up in four facilities throughout the state and teachers were trained to teach the Microsoft Office Specialist Program including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Students worked towards earning certification in each program depending on their ability level and length of stay. Five students passed the certification exam by the end of the grant but this project is ongoing since the equipment has been provided for the labs and the curriculum has been purchased. Youth in the four selected facilities across the state can continue to access the Microsoft training programs as long as the teacher who was trained remains at the program and the facility continues to use the current Microsoft curriculum. Although not as many youth completed the certification program and became employed as initially anticipated, the Office of Education is projecting to see an increase of graduates with industry recognized certifications in the future due to the low costs of sustainability for this grant. Regional workforce boards can assist these students with reentry and employment support post-release.
- The Office of Education received a JABG grant to provide students with nationally recognized vocational training and hands-on training in the construction trades industry. The curriculum and certification is provided by the National Center for Construction and Education Research (NCCER) Foundation and Paxton-Patterson. The specific objectives of the program are to provide NCCER Core Curriculum Certification to students who satisfy all course requirements and provide hands-on training in reading blueprints, setting tile, using hand tools, and installing communication systems e.g. cable,

Internet, telephone, and security systems. This grant has provided 38 students with NCCER certifications so far.

- The Department continues to partner with The Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings. The Center reviews current policies; provides recommendations based on research and best practices; provides technical assistance and training; and conducts site-visits to several schools to develop action plans to improve Juvenile Justice School performance. CEEAS worked with four Okeechobee residential programs over the past year on improving student engagement strategies. Teachers at each program are now implementing project based learning on a regular basis. For the 2014-2015 school year CEEAS is assisting DJJ with the administration and analysis of student climate surveys in all residential programs.