

# EDUCATION SERVICES

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The Florida Legislature determined that education is the single most important factor 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), Workforce Florida, Inc., regional workforce boards, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation. Cross-program training is ongoing to facilitate access of juvenile justice-involved youth to available resources, partnerships, and opportunities.

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 Counseling
- Collaboration

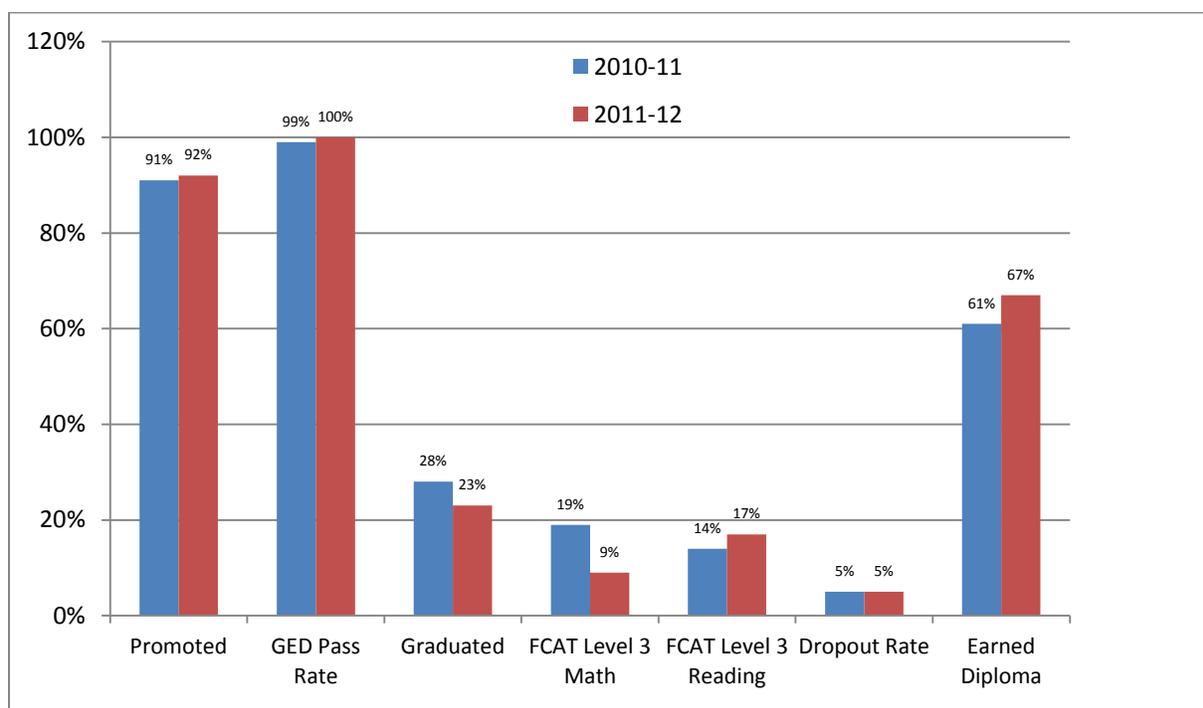
## Training

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 support academic success by requiring continuity of educational programming for students in juvenile detention centers, 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. In 2011-2012, 28,714 students enrolled in juvenile justice education programs and 6,600 students participated for at least 50% of the prescribed length of the program. The following exhibit depicts key outcome data for those students.

### Key Juvenile Justice Education Indicators FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12



Source: Department of Education 2013 Annual Dropout Prevention Report

Florida adopted the Florida Assessment for Instruction in Reading (FAIR) as the DJJ common assessment for school year 2011-2012 to measure learning gains in reading. Students in DJJ residential and day treatment programs took entry and exit FAIR assessments and 43% of the 3,037 students with valid entry and exit records demonstrated meaningful growth, as indicated by the positive increase in scores between the FAIR entry and exit assessments.

DJJ schools reported that in Fiscal Year 2012, 481 students earned GEDs, 141 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 2013 annual survey responses, The Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation and several providers assisted 38 students enroll in on-line college courses. Those students earned 142 college credits while in commitment.

## Career Counseling

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 14,000 students participated in CTE programs during Fiscal Year 2012.

*Vocational Program Levels:* The Office of Education works with 130 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 108 residential and day treatment programs and are reported as one of three levels:

- Level 1: Pre-vocational includes instruction contributing to personal accountability skills and behaviors appropriate for age groups and ability levels that lead to good work habits that help maintain employment and living standards.
- Level 2: Incorporates Level 1 competencies and provides an orientation to a broad scope of career choices, based upon personal abilities, aptitudes and interests, and exploring and gaining knowledge of occupation options and the level of effort required to achieve them.
- Level 3: Incorporates Level 1 competencies and the career education competencies or prerequisites needed for entry into a specific occupation.

Level 3 programs may offer certifications in more than twenty different areas, including, but not limited to, automotive repair, book keeping, carpentry, culinary arts, digital design, information technology, and welding. While the small size of the juvenile justice education programs makes it difficult to include a full time CTE instructor, many have worked to include work experience, readiness and certification opportunities. For example, 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 2012 include:

- 271 participants earned Pre-Apprentice Certificate Training (PACT) certificates;
- 85% of the participants graduated;
- 226 participants were eligible for placement;
- 186 participants were placed in a job, military, or school;
- 256 participants that earned a PACT certificate did not re-offend during follow up, representing a 94.5% non-recidivism rate;
- \$8.52 average wage at placement;
- 82% placement rate for graduates; and
- Participants saved tax payers an estimated \$286,696 by contributing 36,803 community service hours. The community service included maintaining, repairing, remodeling, and constructing state buildings and properties.

*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 elect to enroll in career and technical programs. As shown in the following exhibit, grants totaling \$412,848.40 were awarded to eight programs for FY 2013-14.

### 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	\$40,000.00
Citrus School District	Cypress Creek Academy	Digital Design Lab	\$64,400.00
Liberty School District	Liberty JUST	Welding	\$ 64,400.00
Okeechobee School District	Okeechobee Halfway House	Building Construction Technology	\$34,356.99
Orange County School District	Orange Youth Academy	Information Technology	\$64,400.00
Polk School District	Avon Park Youth Development Center	Business Education and Information Technology	\$26,359.00
St. Johns School District	Hastings Youth Academy	Information Technology	\$ 64,000.00
St. Johns School District	St. Johns Juvenile Residential Facility	Business Education and Information Technology	\$ 54,932.41
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$412,848.40</b>

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 2012-2013, more than \$15,300 were contributed to support education or employability skills training for 129 students.

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 2011-12, DJJ students earned 1,116 Florida Ready to Work credentials in the following categories:

- 355 Gold
- 364 Silver
- 397 Bronze

## Collaboration

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

- The Office of Education received a 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 high risk male and female juvenile offenders for technology-based jobs and careers that will maximize their ability to achieve employment and pay restitution.
- 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.
- The Department continues to partner with the University of Maryland, Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings. The Center will review current policies; provide recommendations based on research and best practices; provide technical assistance and training; and conduct site-visits to several schools to develop an action plan to improve Juvenile Justice School performance over the next two years.