

REENROLLMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE YOUTH

- Reenrollment of youth in schools following discharge from a juvenile correctional facility has been a perennial challenge as schools and school districts have resisted reenrollment of formerly incarcerated youth. One study revealed that In spite of juvenile court orders requiring that they attend school; youth were regularly denied reentry into their home school.ⁱ
- Juvenile Court Schools in California have the highest dropout rate of all schools in the state. California's juvenile court school population is also disproportionately youth of color, as Latino and African American youth comprised 81% of its enrollment during 2010-2011.ⁱⁱ
- In a recent report to the State Legislature, the California Department of Education revealed that of the 56,492 juvenile detention youth served by Neglected or Delinquent programs only 13,693 (or 24%) "enrolled in their local district school" and only 662 (or 1.2%) "obtained employment", within 30 calendar days after exit from the facility.
- Research has shown that incarcerated youth have trouble transitioning back into public school once released. One study found that one year after institutional release, only 28% of the youth were enrolled in school, 27% had withdrawn, and 45% never re-entered.ⁱⁱⁱ
- "Research shows that juveniles experience high recidivism rates, ranging from 55 to 74 percent. In addition, most youth do not reengage with the educational system after leaving confinement. In New York City it was documented that two-thirds of high school age offenders do not return to school after release. Research in Kentucky showed a 95 percent dropout rate between release and entrance into a public school system or transitional educational center. The key to preventing this, as suggested by some research, is engagement."^{iv}
- "It is crucial that students are involved in an appropriate educational program while in the correctional center, and upon release. The incidence of recidivism becomes greater when enrollment is not available soon after release'....."^v
- [T]he criminal justice and education systems often seem to work at cross-purposes. Judges mandate school attendance, but the community lacks an effective system for reenrolling students."^{vi}

ⁱ "Addressing the Unmet Educational Needs of Children and Youth in the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems" (2010) Peter Leone, Lois Weinberg).

ⁱⁱ CDE DataQuest Adjusted 2009-10 Grade 9-12 Dropout report all juvenile court schools <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dropoutreporting/dropotherschgrade.aspx>. DataQuest Enrollment by Ethnic Designation report all juvenile court schools 2010-11 <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/DQ/SchEnrOtherEth2.aspx?TheYear=2010-11&SortBy=a&cCounty=all&cSchType=14>

ⁱⁱⁱ "1999 Annual Report to the Florida Department of Education: Juvenile Justice Educational Enhancement Program" – Chapter 8 – Transition and Aftercare.

^{iv} "Transition Toolkit 2.0: Meeting the Educational Needs of Youth Exposed to the Juvenile Justice System" (The National Evaluation and Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or at Risk" (2008)).

^v "A Summary of Best Practices in School Reentry for Incarcerated Youth Returning Home" (2004) Just Children, Legal Aid Justice Center).

^{vi} "Overcoming Barriers to School Reentry" (2004, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Cora Roy Stevens).