



**CAMPAIGN OF THE NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY
PREVENTION COALITION**

www.act4jj.org

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) Fact Sheet Series

Reentry

BACKGROUND: The week of December 10, 2018, Congress passed [H.R. 6964](#), the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 (the Act) with overwhelming bipartisan support. The President signed the bill into law on December 21, 2018, amending the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) after years of collaborative efforts among juvenile justice organizations and advocates across the United States.

Below, please find a summary and impact of the provisions related to reentry in the bill.

WHAT CHANGED¹: H.R. 6964 sets out, for the first time, requirements for reentry plans for youth who are returning to the community. This is a critically important step to ensure that young people exit the justice system to safe, stable, and secure housing. Research has shown that 44% of young people who are experiencing homelessness report that they have also spent time in a jail or detention facility.²

Reentry plans must now be written and based on an assessment of the young person's needs which takes into account:

- Pre-release and post-release plans for the youth;
- The living arrangement to which the youth will be discharged; and
- Any other plans developed for the youth based on an individualized assessment.

States must also create a process by which to review reentry plans.

Returning to community schools: New requirements related to education are also included in H.R. 6964 for youth who are transitioning back to their community. Under the Act, states are now required to develop and implement a plan to ensure that student records are transferred in a timely fashion from the educational program that the student was enrolled in while housed in a detention facility or secure treatment facility. These records, including electronic records when available, must be sent to the school in which the student will be enrolling in the community.

Credits that a young person earned while in the facility must also be transferred. Students must be able to

¹ The amendments made to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act by this law will not apply until the beginning of Fiscal Year 2020.

² M.H. MORTON, A. DWORSKY & G.M. SAMUELS, VOICES OF YOUTH COUNT, MISSED OPPORTUNITIES: YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA (2017), available at <http://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/national-estimates-of-youth-homelessness/>.

receive full or partial credit toward high school graduation for secondary school coursework that they satisfactorily completed before and during the time in which they were held in custody. This requirement applies regardless of the local educational agency or entity from which the credits were earned.

For more information on the new education requirements, [click here](#).

STATE EXAMPLES: In Washington State, reentry plans are developed in close coordination with the youth who is exiting placement. For students who have reached the age of 18, this includes helping them secure housing, helping them secure employment, and identifying opportunities for them to continue their education after they leave a detention center.

San Francisco’s Juvenile Reentry Court includes a cross-disciplinary collaborative team that works closely with youth and their families to develop and carry out a case plan for successful transitions back into the community. The planning process begins at disposition and each court participant has a complete plan three months prior to leaving their residential placement, which “may include housing, vocational training, education, therapy, drug treatment, and any other services” that the young person may need to be successful.³

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: The Coalition for Juvenile Justice, in partnership with the National Network for Youth and the National League of Cities’ Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, has released the “Principles for Change,” a series of recommendations for ways that communities can address the intersection between youth homelessness and juvenile justice. These recommendations, and the subsequent report, “[Implementing Change: Addressing the Intersections of Juvenile Justice and Youth Homelessness for Young Adults](#),” include recommendations on ways that communities can strengthen reentry plans including:

- Ensuring that young people have access to identification documents such as a birth certificate, social security card, and government issued identification card (that does not say it came from a justice facility or justice agency).
- Ensuring that reentry plans include backups and alternatives so that the young person does not have to figure out alternative housing while facing an emergency.
- Ensuring that reentry plans address housing, education, and employment, as well as the social supports that a young person may need to successfully reenter the community such as life skills training, and assistance in building healthy relationships.
- Ensuring that young people have access to mental and physical health care as appropriate.
- Ensuring that mentors with similar lived expertise are available to help a young person navigate their return to the community.
- Providing support for young people to clear/expunge their records.

This fact sheet was prepared by:



³ 2016 ANNUAL SANTA CLARA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE REPORT, SANTA CLARA JUVENILE PROBATION SERVICES (2016), available at https://www.sccgov.org/sites/probation/Documents/JPD%20Services%20Annual%20Report_2016_FINAL.pdf.