



CAMPAIGN OF THE NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY
PREVENTION COALITION
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Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) Fact Sheet Series

Educational 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.

The reauthorized JJDP A includes important new protections for youth in the juvenile justice system to support their reentry to school. This fact sheet provides a summary of key provisions regarding educational reentry and highlights effective models to implement the updated JJDP A and related laws to support youth:

WHAT'S NEW¹: The reauthorized JJDP A requires states to provide assurances in their state plans that they will collaborate with the State Educational Agency to create a plan to facilitate educational reentry. Specifically, state plans must support timely transfer of education records, including electronic records if available, from detention or treatment facilities to the student's next school. In addition, young people must be able to earn full or partial credit for coursework successfully completed while in custody, and those credits must transfer to the receiving school and count toward high school graduation.

The JJDP A's requirements reflect and complement [increased educational reentry protections](#) that state and local educational agencies and locally-operated juvenile correctional facilities must provide to receive funding under Title I, Part D of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those agencies must also provide assurances related to school reentry, including the transfer of education records and academic credits. Codifying these protections across the juvenile justice and education systems is essential to supporting youth in meeting their educational goals.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: *The best way to keep youth on track academically is to continue their education in the community.* This allows for educational continuity and eliminates educational barriers that arise as a result of changing schools. Once a young person is in a facility, the quality and coordination of education provided there also impact the ease with which they can return to school in the community and be successful. In addition, coordination of services at the point at which a young person transitions from a facility to the community is critical to ensuring a successful return to school. The following resources, practices and policies help facilitate this.

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

Blueprint for Change: Education Success for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

The Legal Center for Youth Justice and Education is a national collaboration of Juvenile Law Center, Southern Poverty Law Center, Education Law Center, and the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law. The Legal Center created the [Blueprint for Change: Education Success for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System](#) — an interactive online resource featuring 10 goals and corresponding benchmarks that set forth a broad framework for promoting educational success for young people involved in the juvenile justice system. [Goal 9](#) of the *Blueprint* focuses on effective reentry planning and smooth transitions between home schools and juvenile justice placement. For a comprehensive description of the supports needed to foster an effective reentry to school once a young person is in a juvenile justice facility, review the resources, practices, and policies detailed under [Goal 9](#) of the *Blueprint*.

The U.S. Department of Education also hosts a webpage dedicated to [reducing recidivism for justice-involved youth](#), which highlights federal guidance, technical assistance information, and resources designed to help youth return to school from juvenile justice facilities, including:

- [You Got This: Educational Pathways for Youth Transitioning From Juvenile Justice Facilities](#), an educational reentry toolkit specifically for youth;
- [Transition Toolkit 3.0, Meeting the Educational Needs of Youth Exposed to the Juvenile Justice System](#), the third edition of the Transition Toolkit from the National Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Neglected Children and Youth ([NDTAC](#)), which highlights strategies, practices, and resources to enable agency administrators and service providers to provide high-quality transition services for youth moving into, through, and out of education programs in the juvenile justice system; and
- [IDEAs That Work: Improving Outcomes for Youth with Disabilities in Juvenile Corrections](#), The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)'s website that provides resources specifically targeted for youth with disabilities in the juvenile justice system.

As highlighted in the Blueprint, many jurisdictions, including [California](#), [New Mexico](#), [Connecticut](#), [Maine](#), [Florida](#), [Virginia](#), [Utah](#) and [Iowa](#), have passed legislation or established regulations to facilitate a smooth reentry back to school through requirements such as coordinated team reentry planning and ensuring that youth get academic credit for work done in facilities. Additionally, practices such as [Washington's Education Advocate program](#) can also assist in easing reentry to school so youth do not miss class time, are immediately placed in the right courses and receive appropriate special education services if needed, and are awarded credit for schoolwork completed.

This factsheet was prepared by:



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