

Correctional Education Re-entry Model

Background

In the last few decades, the only answer to the question of escalating crime and violence was to “lock 'em up and throw away the key.”¹ Policymakers are now acknowledging that the old approach did little to improve public safety, and was not fiscally sustainable in the long term. Under the strain of billions of dollars in budget shortfalls, a package of proposals has been introduced at State and local levels, to divert thousands of nonviolent lawbreakers from the prison system to community supervision. Despite this shift toward community supervision, several key components toward preventing recidivism seem to be lagging. The American Probation and Parole Association warns that we are setting ex-offenders up for failure by pushing them out of prison with fewer interventions, such as drug treatment, housing or job assistance to support them, and the people to supervise them.² The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) intends to address this issue by creating a conceptual program model for offenders to use the time between release and employment to complete their educational goals and upgrade their skills in the community while on community supervision. While far-reaching, this project will demonstrate a strategic, cost-effective plan for improving re-entry and transition success.

Overview

The model, built upon sound research and expert experience, offers educators, advocates, and program providers a foundation for building a correctional education program.

Project Milestones

- Literature review, September 2011
- Draft model, November 2011
- Subject matter expert meeting, January 2012
- Second draft of the model, February 2012

Outcomes and Products

Final publication, May 2012

Contact: John Linton: John.Linton@ed.gov

¹ Murphy, Sean. "Lawmakers Paying for Tough Crime Laws - U.S. News - Msnbc.com." Breaking News, Weather, Business, Health, Entertainment, Sports, Politics, Travel, Science, Technology, Local, US & World News - Msnbc.com. Web. 14 Feb. 2011. http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41362793/ns/us_news/ .

² Johnson, Kevin. "USATODAY.com." News, Travel, Weather, Entertainment, Sports, Technology, U.S. & World - USATODAY.com. 09 Feb. 2011. Web. 14 Feb. 2011. http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20110209/probationviolators09_st.art.htm