

Appendix D: Incarcerated Youths

Background

Individuals under the age of 21 who commit offenses determined by the judicial system to warrant removal from the community are often remanded to the custody of the New York State Department of Correctional Services (DOCS), the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), or county jails. DOCS and OCFS are State agencies, which are responsible for providing educational service programs for certain youths incarcerated in their facilities. Youths placed in county jails are the educational responsibility of the district in which the jail is located.

DOCS currently has approximately 65 facilities, 7 of which are work release, that serve individuals 16 years of age or older who have sentences generally longer than one year. All individuals in these facilities who are not performing at or above the grade 9 level are required by the Commissioner to participate in an educational program offered by DOCS. These programs include Adult Basic Education, Pre-General Educational Development (GED), GED, Bilingual, and English as a Second Language (Table D.1).

OCFS has 32 facilities, serving individuals ages 12 to 21 who have committed an offense before 16 years of age. All youths in these facilities who do not have a high school credential are required to participate in a program offered by OCFS. These programs include K-12 Academics, GED Instruction, Career and Technical Education, Job Readiness, and Library Services (Table D.1).

New York State has 59 county jail facilities, holding individuals 16 years of age or older who are in custody for less than one year. Individuals in these facilities are not mandated to participate in the programs offered by the county jails. These programs include K-12 Academics, GED Instruction, Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, Career and Technical Education, Job Readiness, and Computer Training (Table D.1).

On July 12, 2003, 3,222 inmates under the age of 21 were in the custody of DOCS; and 1,709 students were in OCFS programs. In 2002–03, 4,683 individuals under the age of 21 were admitted to Rikers Island and 7,337 individuals under the age of 21 were admitted to county jails other than Rikers Island in New York State (Table D.1).

Funding for Incarcerated Youths

State aid payments to school districts responsible for the provision of educational services to individuals in incarcerated programs has grown from approximately \$11.1 million in 1998–99 to \$14.4 million in 2002–03 (Table D.2). These funds are used to support teachers and purchase supplies and materials directly related to instruction. State aid for incarcerated youths comes from a number of sources, including Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds; Vocational and Technical Education Act (VTEA) funds; Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Neglected and Delinquent funds; Title I, Part A funds; and Title II, Section 225 funds (Table D.2).

Incarcerated Youths and General Educational Development (GED) Diplomas

Generally, 98 to 99 percent of incarcerated youths receiving educational services from the Department of Correctional Services are working toward a high school equivalency diploma. Approximately 40 percent of incarcerated youths receiving services from the Office of Children and Family Services are working toward a GED; about 60 percent are working toward a local diploma. In 2002–03, 2,555 incarcerated youths served by DOCS were tested on the GEDs; 67 percent passed. In the same year, 307 incarcerated youths served by OCFS were tested and 64 percent passed. County jails tested 1,690 incarcerated youths; 69 percent passed (D.3).

Table D.1
Numbers Served and Educational Services Provided by Agencies Responsible
for the Education of Incarcerated/Institutionalized Youths

Agency	Number Served	Educational and Support Services Provided
Department of Correctional Services (DOCS)	July 12, 2003: 3,222 inmates under 21 years of age 1,601 receiving educational services	Adult Basic Education Pre-GED GED Instruction Bilingual English as a Second Language
Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)	July 12, 2003: 1,709 students in program 3,002 students received educational services during the 2002–03 school year	K-12 Academics GED Instruction Career and Technical Education Job Readiness Library Services
County Jails	1,508 students on any given day plus (excluding Rikers Island) 1,141 students in Rikers Island 7,337 individuals admitted in 2002–03 (excluding Rikers Island) 4,683 admitted in Rikers Island	K-12 Academics GED Instruction Adult Basic Education ESOL Career and Technical Education Job Readiness Computer Training

Table D.2
Counts of Full-Time Equivalent Incarcerated Youths and
Distribution of Funds for Their Educational Services
1998–99 to 2002–03*

Year	Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs)**	State Aid to FTEs	WIA 2000–02 AEA 1997–99	Vocational and Technical Education Act Funds	ESEA Neglected and Delinquent Funds
2002–2003	1,505.416	\$14,374,474	\$2,704,721	\$197,661	
2001–2002	1,508.909	13,344,004	2,704,721	159,020	\$758,884
2000–2001	1,483.400	12,439,322	2,300,000	147,766	764,211
1999–2000	1,483.264	11,573,847	2,127,685	147,776	N/A
1998–1999	1,465.884	11,123,602	2,403,065	160,127	N/A

*Does not include counts for Riker’s Island.

**FTEs are calculated on a 12-month program, which includes 48 weeks or a maximum of 4 weeks per month. The FTEs are truncated to 3 decimals; therefore, each week counts as .020 (1/48) and each month counts as .083 (4/48) of a year. Typically, three consecutive days of enrollment are required within the same week and same month for a youth to be considered incarcerated for a week, and no more than four weeks can constitute a single month.

Table D.3
Numbers of Incarcerated Youths Tested and Percentages
Passing the General Educational Development (GED) Test
July 1, 2002–June 30, 2003

Agency	Number Tested	Percent Passing
Department of Correctional Services (DOCS)	2,555	67.0%
Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)	307	64.0
County Jail Programs	1,690	69.0