



Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association
Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments
www.ojdda.org

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SB 1552 JDEP and YCEP Funding

Support Juvenile Detention Education Program (JDEP) Funding for county operated juvenile detention centers and Youth Correctional Education Programs (YCEP) operated by the Oregon Youth Authority.

The Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association (OJDDA) would like to encourage support for SB 1552 JDEP/YCEP funding within the Oregon Department of Education's (ODE) budget. This funding is critical to provide educational services at the eleven juvenile detention facilities throughout the state of Oregon. Detention centers are required to provide five and a half hours of education each school day for the youth in custody for a 220 day contract. The ODE contracts with Education Service Districts (ESD) or local school districts to provide this education program located within the walls of our state's juvenile detention centers.

JDEP program youth have suffered insufficient funding for more than 20 years making programs unstable and needing additional monies just to meet the very bare minimum of services required by statute. With additional funding provided by the 2022 Legislature, JDEP programs are now able to not only provide minimum services but provide an education comparable to a public school and help youth transition back into their community-based schools. It is essential to now add this important funding into statute to continue to provide quality education services to youth.

Youth held in our detention centers are commonly behind in academic levels and credits compared to their peers. They are, in many cases, disenfranchised with the educational system after being unsuccessful and falling behind. These youth have experienced many traumas in their lives which has made learning very challenging for them in any environment but especially the public school setting. They are often pushed out of the public school systems with suspensions and expulsions, because of their behaviors, which causes them to spiral towards school failure, dropout and the juvenile justice system.

The JDEP programs offer an opportunity for youth to re-engage in learning. Nearly all of the JDEP classroom settings are small and the youth's needs are individually

addressed. Many experience success and a renewed interest in learning they have not had for a very long time. Students see that they can learn and succeed with educational goals and the right supports in place.

While detention stays are generally short, about a week, we don't expect students will increase their reading or math by multiple grades, however sometimes this does occur. We believe it is the re-engagement of the youth in the learning process which is most critical. Youth located in detention centers need more services in all areas including education to help them avoid further involvement in the criminal justice system.

OJDDA requests your continued support of the long term funding solutions for JDEP programs which serves one of Oregon's most vulnerable populations.

For Further Information Contact:

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