



Oregon Juvenile Department
Directors' Association
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*Representing Oregon's
County Juvenile Departments*
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**HB 2889: The OJDDA urges support so that
Juvenile Detention Education Programs receive stable and equitable funding
for youth at risk of further penetrating the criminal justice system**

The Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association urges the Legislature to support HB 2889. HB 2889 proposes to make revisions to current Oregon Revised Statutes related to Juvenile Detention Education Programs (JDEP) as follows:

- Juvenile Detention Education Program would receive from the State School Fund for each school year a special State School Fund grant, consisting of an increased Average Daily Membership (ADM) funding rate of 2.0 versus the current 1.5 rate.
- Annual funding from the special State School Fund grant would be based on the higher of the previous two years of juvenile detention facility ADM to ensure consistent and adequate funding of education services.
- Inclusion of youth who are participating in a detention based youth care center as part of the population served within a “Juvenile Detention Education Program.”

REASONS THE PROPOSED REVISIONS ARE NECESSARY:

Currently, Juvenile Detention Education Programs receive funding per youth based on a formula that multiplies the ADM by 1.5, and Youth Corrections Education Programs receive funding per youth based on a formula that multiplies the ADM by 2.0. County Juvenile Detention Facilities detain a wide range of ages for various durations and where populations can increase or decrease on a daily basis, which complicates ensuring a consistent and adequate year round educational program.

Additionally, local school districts or educational services districts who are contracted with providing educational services to County Juvenile Departments who are also operating a youth care center within their detention facility are faced with receiving different funding levels for youth in detention (1.5 ADM) and youth in the youth care center program (1.0 ADM) although both attend the same education program within the detention facility.

Juvenile Detention Education Programs need consistent year round funding to ensure that there is not a great deficit for the approximately 10,000 youth who are detained annually in county detention facilities across the state. For every youth who drops out of school and gets involved in the criminal system it costs the system over \$1 million dollars. As we head into a very difficult budget process we are asked to spend our money where it will be the most effective. Cutting educational services to these at-risk youth will have a negative and costly affect by reducing a protective element in their lives.

PROBLEMS WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION:

Detained youth have generally had very little success in the school setting and have often been pushed out of the regular school systems because they have difficulties, primarily with behavior. Frequently their parents have historically not placed much value in education, they are poorly supervised, and they receive little to no help with homework. These youth are often inadequately assessed for learning disabilities and often are behind in reading and math. Many of these youth are not currently engaged in any educational programming when they come to the detention setting.

There are many studies which link school failure to juvenile delinquency and studies which show that youth who do not receive an adequate education are much more likely to live a life of crime. For the juvenile justice system we have to look at our highest risk youth and focus our resources on this population because it will have the biggest impact to our community.

County Juvenile Detention Education Programs' provide:

- ✓ A recognized assessment of what their educational strengths and/or deficits are.
- ✓ Facilitation of the transfers of school records between their home school or the last school attended, and detention education program.
- ✓ An individual educational plan for them to work on while in the facility.
- ✓ Students receiving-educational credit towards grade completion or graduation for the work they complete in detention and a facilitated plan for student returning to their home school.

Youth are successful in this setting because:

- ✓ It is very structured, individualized and may be one of the first times they actually experience success and achievement in any educational setting.
- ✓ Students get excited about learning and experience success in our detention school setting.
- ✓ This gives us the opportunity to get the youth back into their home school, on the right track and build upon the success they have experienced.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The OJDDA strongly urges support of HB 2889 so that an appropriate level of educational services to those at-risk youth who actually are in need of an increase in educational services can be provided. Based upon research, detention is a critical time for this group of youth, and we should actually be increasing our efforts in education for this population to provide them with enhanced opportunities to become productive citizens and to prevent them from becoming adult criminals.

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