



Oregon Juvenile Department
Directors' Association
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*Representing Oregon's
County Juvenile Departments*
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HB 4008: The OJDDA urges support so that Juvenile Detention Education Programs receive stable funding for youth at risk of further penetrating the criminal justice system

The Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association urges the Legislature to support HB 4008. HB 4008 proposes to make revisions to current Oregon Revised Statutes related to Juvenile Detention Education Programs (JDEP) as follows:

- 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.

REASONS THE PROPOSED REVISIONS ARE NECESSARY:

Currently, Juvenile Detention Education Programs receive funding per youth based on a formula that multiplies the Average Daily Membership (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 youth in a wide range of ages, for various durations and where populations can increase or decrease on a daily basis. This population shift complicates ensuring a consistent and adequate year round educational program.

ADM is calculated as an estimate in April with adjustments for actual numbers in February of each calendar year. As an example for 2013-14 the ADM estimate is based upon the time period of July 2011 through April of 2012 and then recalculated from the actual ADM numbers between July 2013 through February 2014. Reductions or additions are made based upon the actual ADM in the JDEP/YCEP education program. The issue this creates is that the school year begins July 1 for JDEP/YCEP programs and school programs are built upon the estimated amount. If the population of youth decreases by any significant number then in February of the school year, reductions in teaching staff and programming has to occur. By supporting HB 4008 and going to the ADMW it provides the opportunity to look at a two year period of time instead of one and take the higher of the two ADM. This will provide more stability for a school year instead of making cuts and disrupting the education of these youth in the middle of their school year. A facility will know what their resources are from beginning to the end of the school year.

Detention facilities are required by Federal Law to provide 5.5 hours of education to youth housed in our care Monday thru Friday year round minus a few weeks during winter and summer breaks. Regardless of the total number of residents in the facility, the 5.5 hours of education is required whether a facility has 1 student or 60 students. Currently the ADM is calculated two times each year

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 4008 to stabilize current levels educational services to those at-risk youth in our care. 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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