

# Educating Youth in Custody

## A SNAPSHOT

Oregon Youth Authority | September 2020



### Overview

OYA requires all youth in our custody who have not graduated high school to work toward a diploma or GED. We also encourage them to pursue vocational training, attend college, and gain job skills and certifications.

Each of OYA's nine close-custody facilities has an accredited school. These schools and those at county juvenile detention programs are overseen by Oregon Department of Education and run through contracts with school districts or education service districts.

The schools run on a year-round schedule with 220 class days, versus 180 days at regular public schools. Schools in OYA facilities are funded at an ADMw of 2.0, and county detention schools are funded at 1.5.

OYA also partners with 11 Oregon colleges and universities to provide higher education courses and advanced training.

Most OYA facilities have in-house training spaces, including woodshops, machine shops, automotive shops, barbershops, and food service areas, offering more than 50 vocational and job skill training programs.

### Degrees Earned in June 2020 in OYA Facilities

- 5 college degrees
- 75 high school diplomas
- 24 GEDs

### Education and COVID-19

OYA supported bringing teachers back in person as soon as it was safe and appropriate. Correctional facilities and county detentions did not close during the pandemic, and the youth often respond better and are more successful with in-person teaching and relationships.

Each OYA school developed and implemented its own blueprint for bringing teachers back in person, based on guidance from OYA and OHA. County detention protocols are similar.

Safety measures include:

- Health self-checks and temperature checks by teachers and staff before entering facilities. No one is allowed inside if they have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Hand-washing at facility entry and frequently throughout the day.
- Face coverings required for all teachers, staff, and youth.
- Smaller class sizes to allow six feet of distance between people whenever possible.