

**Priority:** Education  
**Program Offer Type:** New Program  
**Related Programs:** 50014, 50015, 21031A, 21031B  
**Lead Agency:** Community Justice  
**Program Contact:** Thach Nguyen

**Program Characteristics:**

**Executive Summary**

Shockingly, one out of three youth involved in the juvenile justice system were not enrolled in school. Many had not been to school for several years- some dropped out, others were suspended and never returned to school, others did not enroll due to family issues. Yet research is clear that lack of education is a key factor in whether or not youth are able to leave the justice system successfully. Reconnecting these youth with school will dramatically improve their chances of living productive lives and lower their risk to public safety. This program helps realize the county's education priority to ensure that all children succeed in school by dedicating three juvenile court counselors to provide advocacy, assessments, and school plans for youth on probation to help them re-engage and succeed in school. This program will serve 200 youth annually.

**Program Description**

To identify youth not in school, three juvenile court counselors will review the school records of all youth on probation who are assessed as high- or medium-risk to re-offend. They will work with the youth, their parents, and the schools to identify why the youth are not participating in school. The court counselors will assist the youth and families to identify the right school environment, coach parents on how to advocate for their children, and assist with setting up testing (if required by the school), and develop Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) so these teens can rejoin their academic communities. Advocates will help students and families collect transcripts, transport youth to registration sites, and arrange meetings with school principals, psychologists, counselors and teachers. Once youth are enrolled, advocates will monitor each youth's attendance, grades and behavior for at least a full semester to ensure success, as well as attend, with the youth's parents, suspension hearings, IEP reviews, parent-teacher conferences, and expulsion hearings. In addition, education advocates can quickly help schools resolve conflicts and ensure a safe learning environment for all students.

**Program Justification**

This program helps realize the county's education priority to ensure that all children succeed in school. Education advocates will break down the barriers that prevent many delinquent youth from returning to school and completing their education. Currently, almost 200 probation youth are not enrolled in school and re-enrolling them poses many challenges. Schools are often reluctant to re-admit probation youth because they have missed grades, have poor social skills, or present mental health issues. Nor are youth necessarily eager to be there, especially if they feel they are failing. Language and cultural obstacles also prevent parents from advocating forcefully for their children. (Of those that are not in school, 15% are Latino.) These issues doubly jeopardize youth of color; not only are they already overrepresented in the juvenile justice system, they also fail to graduate from county schools at disproportionately high rates. The latest data indicate that 47% of out of school are youth of color. Parents of these youth frequently encounter numerous procedural road blocks to re-enrolling their children. State data indicates that in 2004-2005, none of the five county districts met federal targets for graduating youth of color, although they all exceeded the target for white youth, and all but Portland exceeded the target for their general student population. To help resolve these issues, education advocates will act as liaisons with the schools to help reconnect probation youth to the educational system. The enrollment process can take from 1-6 weeks depending on the circumstances of the youth and school district's requirements. As a result, existing Juvenile Counselors cannot handle this work due to other priorities (such as enforcing probation conditions). Education advocates roles will be filled by court counselors who have the skills and expertise to quickly help schools resolve conflicts and ensure a safe learning environment for all students.

**Performance Measures**

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY04-05)	Current Year Purchased (FY05-06)	Current Year Estimate (FY05-06)	Next Year Offer (FY06-07)
Output	Number of youth served	0	0	0	200
Outcome	Percent of probation youth enrolled in school.	0%	0%	0%	80%
Outcome	Percent of probation youth enrolled in school with an academic plan.	0%	0%	0%	90%
Outcome	Percent of youth in school at the end of school year	0%	0%	0%	90%

**Performance Measure - Description**

**Legal/Contractual Obligation**

ORS 419C.001 mandates that "The (juvenile) system shall provide a continuum of services that emphasize prevention of further criminal activity by the use of early and certain sanctions, reformation and rehabilitation programs and swift and decisive intervention in delinquent behavior."

**Revenue/Expense Detail**

	<b>Proposed General Fund</b>	<b>Proposed Other Funds</b>	<b>Proposed General Fund</b>	<b>Proposed Other Funds</b>
<b>Program Expenses</b>	2006	2006	2007	2007
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$221,415	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$2,030	\$0
Internal Services	\$0	\$0	\$4,500	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$227,945</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$10,885	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$11,397	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$22,282</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Total GF/non-GF:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$250,227</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Program Total:	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$250,227</b>	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00
<b>Program Revenues</b>				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Explanation of Revenues**

County General Fund.

**Significant Program Changes**

**Last year this program was:**

New program for 2007.