Toolkit for Foster Youth Education Success
Meeting the Disciplinary Challenges of Foster Youth

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Youth Perspective

Bettyeruth Davis, Peer Advocate
1. Indicators of Need
2. Prevention and Intervention
   a. Specific Procedures, Tools and Tips
3. Formal Discipline
   a. Legal Requirements
   b. Special Requirements for Foster Youth
4. School to Prison Pipeline
The School to Prison Pipeline

The school to prison pipeline is the increasing trend of policies and practices that push youth, often those with the highest levels of need, out of schools and into the juvenile justice system.
Foster Youth are Disproportionately Impacted:

Exposure to child abuse and neglect increases the risk of arrest by 55%, and the risk of arrest for a violent crime by 96%

*Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition, Back on Track: Supporting Youth Reentry from Out-of-Home Placement to the Community at 14 (Fall 2009).*

25% of former foster youth are incarcerated within a few years of turning 18, and 70% of California inmates are former foster youth.

Other At Risk Populations are Also Over-Represented:

Of youth who are in juvenile detention facilities, such as juvenile halls and camps:
  70% have a mental health diagnosis
  87% have a learning disability

*W. Haywood Burns Institute, Fact Sheet, 2013.*
Monetary Costs of the Pipeline:

One year at Princeton University: $37,000
One year at a New Jersey state prison: $44,000


California’s cost to incarcerate a juvenile for 1 year: $200,000

*Justice Policy Institute, Calculating the Full Price Tag for Youth Incarceration (2014).*

California’s cost to educate a pupil for 1 year: $9,000

*U.S. Census Bureau, Public Education Finances: 2012 (2012).*
The School to Prison Pipeline

Personal Costs of the Pipeline:

Over their lifetimes, children who have been incarcerated:

- achieve less educationally (almost 90% drop out of high school)
- work less and for lower wages ($4,100/year compared to $13,900)
- far less likely to form enduring families
- experience more chronic health problems, including addiction
- more likely to see future imprisonment

A Road Map for Juvenile Justice Reform, Annie E. Casey Foundation, June 2008; Rishawn Biddle, This is Dropout Nation: The High Cost of Juvenile Justice (2010); Justice Policy Institute, Calculating the Full Price Tag for Youth Incarceration (2014).
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We can turn these statistics around by using the tools discussed today to meet the needs of youth before they escalate to the most extreme behaviors that require court intervention. This will create better outcomes for the youth, the school, and the community at large.
Questions?
Contact us

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