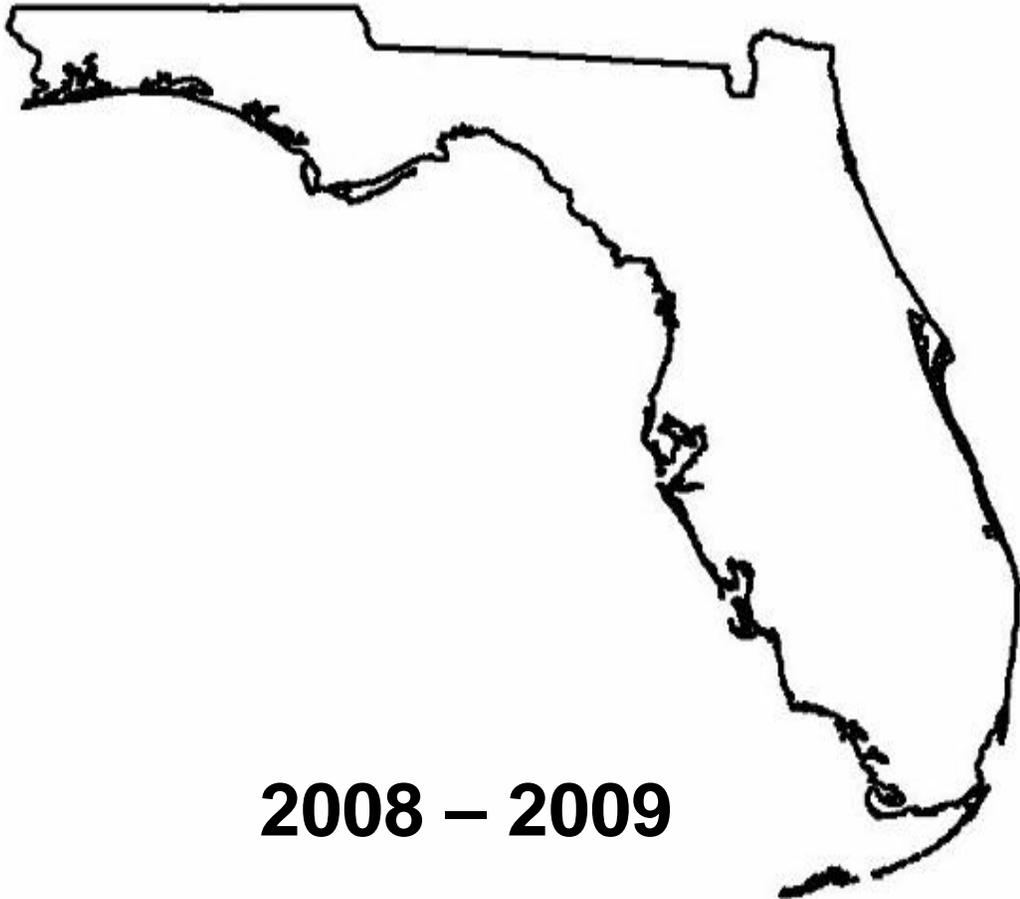


Educational



Quality Assurance Standards

Juvenile Justice Detention Centers



2008 – 2009

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services • Division of K-12 Public Schools
Florida Department of Education

This is one of many publications available through the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, Florida Department of Education, designed to assist school districts, state agencies that support educational programs, and parents in the provision of special programs for exceptional students. For additional information on this publication or for a list of available publications, contact:

Clearinghouse Information Center, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Florida Department of Education

Room 622, Turlington Building

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Telephone: (850) 245-0477

Fax: (850) 245-0987

Suncom: 205-0477

E-mail: cicbiscs@fldoe.org

Web site: <http://www.fldoe.org>

or the

Juvenile Justice Educational Enhancement Program

Florida State University

325 John Knox Road, Building L, Suite 102

Tallahassee, FL 32303

Telephone: (850) 414-8355

Fax: (850) 414-8357

Web site: <http://www.criminologycenter.fsu.edu/>

2008 – 2009

**Educational
Quality Assurance
Standards**

for

**Juvenile Justice
Detention Centers**

This product was developed by the Juvenile Justice Educational Enhancement Program (JJEPP), which is a special project funded by the State of Florida, Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B, and Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

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Preface

Quality Assurance for Juvenile Justice Educational Programs

The Juvenile Justice Educational Enhancement Program (JJEED) conducts annual quality assurance (QA) reviews of educational programs in Florida's juvenile justice facilities. JJEED is funded by the Florida Department of Education (DOE), Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through a grant to the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University.

JJEED Mission Statement

JJEED's mission is to ensure that each student who is assigned to a Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) program receives high-quality, comprehensive educational services that increase that student's potential for future success.

JJEED's four main functions are to:

- Conduct research that identifies the most promising educational practices
- Conduct annual QA reviews of the educational programs in Florida's juvenile justice facilities
- Provide technical assistance to improve the various educational programs
- Provide annual recommendations to the DOE that are ultimately aimed at ensuring the successful transition of students back into community, school, and/or work settings

JJEED Vision Statement

The vision of the DOE and the JJEED is for each provider of educational services in Florida's juvenile justice facilities to be of such high quality that all young people who make the transition back to their local communities will be prepared to return to school, work, and home settings as successful and well-educated citizens.

Contacts for further information and technical assistance

Karen Denbroeder
Florida Department of Education
325 W. Gaines Street, Room 614
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400
Phone: (850) 245-0475

Tom Blomberg
Principal Investigator, JJEED
325 John Knox Road, Bldg L., Suite 102
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Phone: (850) 414-8355

Introduction

Quality Assurance (QA) reviews are a valuable method of assisting providers and school districts with achieving, evaluating, and maintaining high-quality educational programs in juvenile justice facilities. Each year at statewide conferences and meetings, Juvenile Justice Educational Enhancement Program (JJEEP) and Department of Education (DOE) staff solicit input from school districts and providers for annual revision of the QA standards. Before the new QA review cycle begins, school district contract managers, lead educators, and private provider personnel are invited to participate in regional meetings or conference calls with JJEEP staff to discuss changes in the standards.

Educational QA standards are developed for each of the three types of juvenile justice facilities:

- Residential commitment programs
- Day treatment (prevention, intensive probation, and conditional release)
- Detention centers

This document contains only the standards used to evaluate educational programs in juvenile justice detention centers. Detention centers are operated by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) that detain students while they are awaiting court appearances or awaiting placement in a commitment facility.

To obtain the publications detailing the standards for *day treatment* programs and *residential* juvenile justice commitment programs, contact the entities listed on the inside front cover of this publication or download them from the JJEEP Web site at <http://www.criminologycenter.fsu.edu/>.

History of the Educational QA Standards

In 1995, Florida Department of Education (DOE) staff developed the first set of quality assurance (QA) standards to encourage continuous improvement in juvenile justice educational programs. One set of standards for all types of programs was drawn from exceptional student education (ESE) performance standards and statutory authority. The standards focused on administration and each program's philosophy, procedures, and approach to education. The standards were revised in 1996 and 1997.

In 1998, the project was awarded to the Florida State University School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, resulting in the creation of the Juvenile Justice Educational Enhancement Program (JJEED). During that year, JJEED conducted an extensive literature review on promising and best educational practices for delinquent and at-risk youths and hosted five regional meetings to obtain input from practitioners in the field.

A new set of standards, based on the results of the literature review and input from practitioners, was developed for the 1999 QA review cycle. Early in 1999, JJEED, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPAGA), and the Juvenile Justice Accountability Board (JJAB) submitted reports to the Florida Legislature, which resulted in the enactment of *HB 349*. This legislation addressed numerous requirements for juvenile justice education, including the creation of *Rule 6A-6.05281, Florida Administrative Code (FAC.), Educational Programs for Youth in Department of Juvenile Justice Detention, Commitment, Day Treatment, or Early Delinquency Intervention Programs*.

The 2000 QA standards were modified to address these new requirements, including contract management, year-round schooling, and other educational accountability issues. The 2001 QA standards addressed new legislative requirements, including adult and career education. Minor revisions occurred in 2002 and 2003 based on input from school districts and provider practitioners. The standards have continued to be revised each year based on ongoing best practice evaluation research and new legislative requirements.

In 2001, President George W. Bush signed the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB), the reauthorization of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965*. This legislation is having a far-reaching impact on school performance and accountability throughout the country.

In our efforts to implement NCLB systematically, JJEED plans to conduct continual research to identify evidence-based best practices in juvenile justice education. Specifically, JJEED is conducting longitudinal research and student outcome assessments of juvenile justice commitment programs as well as case studies of high- and low-performing juvenile justice educational programs. These longitudinal outcome and case study results will serve multiple purposes that include determining educational practices that lead toward improved student academic attainment and outcomes, identifying demonstration sites that exhibit these best educational practices, developing technical assistance materials for average- and low-performing programs, and making policy recommendations for statewide system improvement.

Reference Points for Educational QA Standards

Quality Assurance (QA) standards and program evaluation are based on state and federal requirements. Although programs are required to follow all state statutes and rules, the following most directly relate to juvenile justice educational programs.

Section 1003.428, Florida Statutes (A++ Secondary Reform)—This bill supports transition goals, specifically, requiring students to declare a high school major; defines the Florida Ready to Work Certification Program to enhance students' workplace skills; and defines requirements for middle school promotion, high school graduation, and professional development plans.

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), (P. L. 107-110)—The overall purpose of this act is to ensure that every student has well-prepared teachers, research-based curricula, a safe learning environment, and a fair and equal opportunity to reach proficiency in state academic achievement standards and statewide academic assessments.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA-2004) (Section 1407, 20 U.S.C. [2004])—IDEA promotes the concept that every child is entitled to a free appropriate public education and mandates that eligible children with disabilities have available to them specially designed instruction and related services to address their unique educational needs and prepare them for post-secondary education, employment, and independent living.

Section 1003.51, Florida Statutes (Other Public Educational Services)—This statute describes the State Board of Education's role in articulating expectations for effective education programs for youth in Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) programs and identifies the requirement for QA of all juvenile justice education programs.

Section 1003.52, Florida Statutes (Educational Services in Department of Juvenile Justice [DJJ] Programs)—This statute describes the importance of educational services for students in juvenile justice facilities and outlines the Department of Education (DOE) and the DJJ responsibilities that pertain to the provision of these services.

Section 1003.53, Florida Statutes (Dropout Prevention and Academic Intervention)—This statute describes alternative education programs and eligibility criteria for students to attend these programs.

Florida Course Code Directory and Instructional Personnel Assignment—The State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.09441, FAC., requires that programs and courses funded through the Florida Education Finance Program offered for credit be listed in the *Course Code Directory*.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Nondiscrimination under Federal Grants and Programs—Section 504 mandates a free appropriate education, including individually designed programs for applicable students. "Appropriate" means an education comparable to the education provided to nondisabled students. A student is eligible for Section 504 services as long as he/she has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, which includes but is not limited to caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working. Exceptional student education (ESE) and non-ESE students may receive Section 504 services.

Rule 6A-6.05281, FAC. (Educational Programs for Youth in Department of Juvenile Justice Detention, Commitment, Day Treatment, or Early Delinquency Intervention Programs)— This rule relates to the many areas juvenile justice educational programs are required to address that include, but are not limited to, student eligibility, ESE, content and transfer of student records, student assessment, individual academic plan (IAP) development, transition services, academic expectations, qualified teachers, funding, contracts with private providers, intervention/sanctions, and interagency collaboration. Many of the educational QA standards are derived from this rule.

Quality Assurance Review Methods

QA Review Protocol

The 2008-2009 quality assurance (QA) reviews are based on self-reported information and a two- to three-day on-site visit. Larger programs may require a longer review with a team of reviewers, including peer reviewers as needed. When the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) reviews and the Juvenile Justice Educational Enhancement Program (JJEPP) educational reviews are conducted simultaneously, all of the reviewers discuss their findings.

The on-site review focuses on student services and ensures that state and federal laws regarding juvenile justice education are being implemented appropriately. Reviewers conduct ongoing debriefing conversations with educational personnel regarding preliminary findings, recommendations, and clarifications of any issues related to the review outcome. This provides the opportunity for the program to identify problematic areas and present additional information that may impact their preliminary ratings.

Reviewers conduct a formal exit meeting on the final day of the review to present findings and preliminary (*Superior, Satisfactory, or Partial*) ratings. Numerical scores are not assigned at this meeting.

Self-Reporting

Much of the information required for rating QA standards is provided in each program's self-report and supporting documentation. All programs (regardless of exemplary status) are required to submit pertinent self-report information and supporting documents to the JJEPP offices by July 18, 2008.

Failure to submit self-report information in a timely manner may negatively affect the QA rating of the indicator for school district monitoring, accountability, and evaluation.

Self-reported information is confirmed and/or updated via telephone conversations with the program's lead educator and/or school district contract manager the week prior to the on-site visit. Final verification of the accuracy of this self-report information is made during the on-site QA review.

Requested self-report information may include teacher certifications and qualifications, professional development training records, courses taught by each teacher, qualifications and duties of all educational support personnel, assessment information, program characteristics (i.e., size, location, provider, career education level designated by the DJJ, security level, program type, and age range of students), school names and numbers under which diplomas are reported, course offerings, class schedules, bell schedules, school calendars, and sample educational forms.

For complete information on self-reporting requirements and timelines, visit the JJEPP Web site at <http://www.criminologycenter.fsu.edu/> or contact JJEPP at (850) 414-8355.

Exemplary Programs

In 2005, the Juvenile Justice Educational Enhancement Program (JJEEP) instituted a process of assigning *exemplary* status to acknowledge high performing programs based on previous overall quality assurance (QA) scores.

Exemplary programs are required to submit all self-report information and participate in a review of only the critical benchmarks, which are rated *pass* or *fail*. Deficiencies and recommendations regarding one failed benchmark are addressed in the QA report.

Exemplary programs that fail more than one critical benchmark lose their exemplary status and receive a full on-site QA review the same year, and all exemplary programs participate in a full educational QA review the year following a change in the educational provider.

Exemplary I—An educational program with an overall average QA score of 7.0 or higher receives *Exemplary I* status and will not have an on-site QA visit for one year. A JJEEP reviewer will call the school district contract manager to confirm the program’s self-report information. During the subsequent second and third years, these programs will submit self-reports and receive one-day reviews of only critical benchmarks.

Exemplary II—An educational program with an overall average QA score of 6.5 or higher receives *Exemplary II* status and will participate in abbreviated (one-day) reviews of only the critical benchmarks for the next two years.

For state agency and annual reporting purposes, the QA scores for those programs that receive exemplary status are carried over each year for the duration of their exemplary status until they receive another full educational QA review.

QA Review Methods

The JJEEP QA review process is evidence-based, using the same data sources to evaluate the quality of educational services provided in each Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) educational program. To determine QA ratings, reviewers consider the preponderance of evidence from multiple sources, such as self-report documents; files maintained on site; interviews of educational program and school district administrators, support personnel, teachers, and students; and observation of classrooms, educational activities, and services.

Daily communication with stakeholders is a crucial component of the on-site review; discussion of preliminary findings occurs informally throughout the review process. Reviewers identify issues, make recommendations, and answer questions related to educational standards. This provides all stakeholders the opportunity to identify problematic areas and provide the reviewer with additional information that may impact the preliminary ratings.

Recommendations and commendations, as appropriate, are identified in the QA report mailed to the school district superintendent, school district contract manager, and the lead educator.

QA Rating Guidelines

The educational QA process evaluates the quality of educational services provided to students since the last QA review or for the entire year, depending on the review schedule. External factors affecting educational quality may be identified in the QA report. Educational personnel should retain documentation to verify situations or circumstances beyond the control of the educational provider and the school district.

Preliminary QA ratings presented on the last day of the on-site review are subject to final determination upon review by additional Juvenile Justice Educational Enhancement Program (JJEPP) staff and Department of Education (DOE) personnel. To ensure consistency among reviewers, at least two other JJEPP reviewers and the QA review director reviews each QA report.

Prior to assessing the **overall quality** of an indicator, reviewers determine whether minimum requirements are met in each benchmark. Failure to meet minimum requirements for a single **critical** benchmark (identified by boldfaced type) results in a *Partial* or *Nonperformance* (3-0) rating.

These 10 benchmarks have been identified as **critical** to satisfactory performance:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <u>1.1</u> Enrollment | <u>4.2</u> Exceptional student education (ESE) process |
| <u>2.1</u> Entry academic assessment | |
| <u>2.3</u> Individual academic plans (IAPs) | <u>5.1</u> Adequate instructional time |
| <u>2.4</u> Individual educational plans (IEPs) | <u>6.1</u> Teacher certification |
| <u>3.1</u> Substantial academic curriculum | <u>9.2</u> Data management |
| | <u>9.4</u> Contract management oversight |

Additionally, an indicator may receive a *Partial* rating (even if all critical benchmarks are met) if the overall quality of the indicator is not satisfactory. Failure to meet minimum requirements for a single *noncritical* benchmark results in an indicator rating of no higher than a *Satisfactory* 5.

QA Rating Scale

Superior Performance – Rating of 7, 8, or 9

The expected outcome of the indicator is clearly being met; the program exceeds the overall requirements of the indicator through an innovative approach, extended services, or demonstrated program-wide dedication to the overall performance of the indicator.

Satisfactory Performance – Rating of 4, 5, or 6

The expected outcome of the indicator is clearly being met; some minor exceptions or inconsistencies in meeting specific benchmarks may be evident.

Partial Performance – Rating of 1, 2, or 3

The expected outcome of the indicator is not being met, and frequent exceptions and inconsistencies in meeting specific benchmarks are evident.

Nonperformance – Rating of 0

The expected outcome of the indicator is clearly not being addressed.

If a school district contract manager or educational provider feels the educational QA review was conducted unfairly, he/she may submit a letter to the JJEPP QA Review Director stating specific concerns. JJEPP and DOE staff, as necessary, will address these concerns, and the QA review director will notify the school district contract manager and the educational provider of the outcome.

System Improvement Process

The purpose of the system improvement process is for the Juvenile Justice Educational Enhancement Program (JJEED) staff to increase time for technical assistance (TA) to lower-performing programs to improve their educational services and student performance. To meet this goal, JJEED and the Department of Education (DOE) have developed and implemented a comprehensive system of corrective action and TA. Technical assistance, which is guided by research in current best practices, is integrated into all of JJEED's activities.

Procedures to address deficiencies that do not require corrective action

The JJEED reviewer will report deficiencies that may result in a failing indicator score(s) to the educational program and school district personnel present at the exit meeting the last day of the quality assurance (QA) review.

- Programs that receive a *Partial* (0 to 3) rating in any indicator, but receive *Satisfactory* standard ratings, will receive written documentation of educational deficiencies and specific and direct corresponding recommendations in their QA reports from DOE.
- Programs should utilize all available resources (i.e., school district and DOE resources) to assist them in correcting deficiencies.
- The school district and the program are expected to address all deficiencies and corresponding recommendations noted in the QA report prior to the following year's QA review.

Corrective Action Process

This process facilitates the collaborative efforts of program and school district personnel to identify and correct systemic problems that are contributing to unsatisfactory QA ratings.

Programs that receive a below satisfactory rating in one or more of Standards 1, 2, or 3 will receive a corrective action plan (CAP).

School districts that receive a below satisfactory rating for Standard 4 for two or more consecutive years will receive a CAP.

To complete a CAP, programs and/or school districts must establish a corrective action team that includes the lead educator, the school district contract manager (or official designee), and others who relate to the identified areas requiring corrective action. JJEED and DOE staff provide assistance as needed.

The school district is responsible for ensuring that CAPs are completed and returned to JJEED within 90 days of the date of the official notification letter from DOE. School districts must meet the State Board of Education (SBE) rule timelines for the implementation of CAPs.

If a program fails to submit its CAP by two weeks after the due date, the QA review director sends a letter informing the lead educator, the contract manager, the school district superintendent, and the DOE that the CAP has not been submitted. DOE staff will send a follow-up letter to the contract manager and the superintendent if a response has not been received four weeks after the original CAP due date.

The school district superintendent verifies that the CAP has been implemented by signing the CAP implementation form and submitting it to the QA director at JJEED. This form must be submitted within six months of the date of the official notification letter from DOE.

Juvenile Justice Educational Enhancement Program (JJEEP) staff conduct a final follow-up of corrective action plan (CAP) implementation during the following year’s quality assurance (QA) review and note in their QA reports progress that school districts and programs are making in areas identified in their CAPs.

Programs that fail overall or fail the same standard two consecutive years will receive more intensive follow-up or assistance from the Department of Education (DOE).

The following tables outline the corrective action process for programs and school districts.

Program CAPs		
QA Review Cycle	Trigger	Action
Year 1	Fail Standard 1, 2, or 3	CAP required
Year 2	Fail the same standard for two consecutive years	CAP required DOE notified to provide assistance/intervention and/or sanctions
Year 3+	Fail the same standard for three (or more) consecutive years	CAP required Program remains on DOE list for assistance/intervention and/or sanctions

School District CAPs		
QA Review Cycle	Trigger	Action
Year 1	Fail Standard 4	Deficiencies noted in QA report
Year 2	Fail Standard 4 for two consecutive years	CAP required
Year 3	Fail Standard 4 for three consecutive years	CAP required DOE notified to provide assistance/intervention and/or sanctions
Year 4+	Fail Standard 4 for four (or more) consecutive years	CAP required School district remains on DOE list for assistance/intervention and/or sanctions

JJEEP and/or DOE staff will provide TA to a program and/or a school district required to complete a CAP.

Most TA is provided during the on-site QA review and through the recommendations in the written QA reports. Contact with program and school district staff is ongoing via mail, fax, telephone, and e-mail (answering questions, clarifying Florida policies, assisting programs in networking with other programs, and providing samples of exemplary forms and processes used by other Department of Juvenile Justice [DJJ] programs).

Technical Assistance Criteria

New Programs

School district contract managers are responsible for notifying the Juvenile Justice Educational Enhancement Program (JJEED) within 30 days of notification that a new Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) program is being placed in their school districts.

To provide technical assistance (TA) a JJEED reviewer may:

1. Be assigned to a new program by the JJEED QA Training Director
2. Complete a TA request form and contact program and school district personnel to determine program needs and to plan the on-site visit
3. Conduct initial TA and a mock QA review and submit a written report to the QA Training Director who sends it to the Department of Education (DOE)
4. Identify needs for TA follow-up and develop a schedule for delivering support services as needed

The first full QA review for a new program should not occur earlier than six months following the mock QA review or the last on-site TA visit. (The same reviewer will not conduct both the mock QA review and the program's first full review.)

Education Provider Change

School district representatives should inform JJEED within two weeks of notification of an educational provider change.

A program with an educational provider change may receive TA prior to its QA review based on the identified needs of the educational program.

Corrective Action Follow-up

A program that fails one of Standards 1, 2, or 3 but has a passing overall average score (4.00 or higher) will receive a corrective action plan (CAP) and follow-up TA.

The reviewer (and peer reviewers when appropriate) will provide intervention strategies, networking, and other resources based on the needs of the program and may contact school district personnel if the program needs additional assistance.

A school district that fails Standard 4 for two consecutive years will receive a CAP and follow-up TA.

Failing Programs

A program with an average overall score of less than 4.00 will receive a CAP and a TA visit in which:

1. The JJEED reviewer and a DOE representative (as appropriate) meets with the CAP team to assist with plans to correct the deficiencies identified in the QA report
2. The reviewer may conduct a needs assessment with school district and program administrators, teachers, and students and report the results to the school district and the program
3. The reviewer conducts follow up TA as needed

DOE Assistance

A program that fails the same standard for two consecutive years will receive a corrective action plan (CAP) and may receive assistance/intervention and/or sanctions by the Department of Education (DOE). A program that fails the same standard for three or more consecutive years will receive a CAP and remain on the DOE intervention/sanctions list.

A school district that fails Standard 4 for three consecutive years will receive a CAP and may receive assistance/intervention and/or sanctions by the DOE. A school district that fails Standard 4 for four or more consecutive years will receive a CAP and remain on the DOE intervention/sanctions list.

When a program and/or school district is identified as needing assistance/intervention and/or sanctions, Juvenile Justice Educational Enhancement Program (JJEPP) staff may facilitate meetings with all relevant parties, including JJEPP administrators, DOE representatives, school district officials, provider personnel, program leadership, and Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) staff when appropriate. Through this collaboration, programs and school districts should identify the systemic problems associated with poor performance, appropriate solutions, and parties responsible for implementation of the CAP. This process may result in a monitoring plan from the DOE.

Intervention and sanctions referenced in the State Board of Education Rules

Rule 6A-6.05281(10), Florida Administrative Code (FAC.), provides for intervention and sanctions.

Intervention

- Technical assistance to the program
- Follow-up educational program review

Sanctions

- Public release of unsatisfactory findings, assistance/interventions, and/or corrective actions proposed
- Assignment of a monitor, a master, or a management team to address identified deficiencies paid for by the local school board or private provider (if included in the contract)
- Reduction in payment or withholding of state and/or federal funds

Should these sanctions prove to be ineffective in improving the quality of the program, the State Board of Education may require further actions, including revocation of current contracts, requirements for specific provider contracts, and/or transfer of responsibility and funding for the educational program to another school district.

Educational Standard One: Transition

The transition standard is composed of two indicators that address entry, on-site, and exit transition activities. Transition activities ensure that students are placed in appropriate educational programs that prepare them for successful reentry into community, school, and/or work settings.

Indicator 1: Transition Services

The expected outcome of this indicator is that the program assists students with reentry into community, school, and/or work settings through guidance and transition services.

Indicator 2: Assessment and Planning

The expected outcome of this indicator is that assessments are used to identify students' academic and career and technical strengths, weaknesses, and interests to address the individual needs of the students and that academic and transition planning is designed and implemented to assist students in maximizing academic achievement.

Indicator 1: Transition Services

Notes

Intent

The expected outcome of this indicator is that the juvenile justice school assists students with reentry into community, school, and/or work settings through guidance and transition services.

Process Guidelines—The following benchmarks represent the major elements of the indicator used to gather evidence to determine whether the indicator’s intent is being met.

The program has transition activities that include:

- 1.1** Enrolling students in a temporary schedule upon entry; changing students’ enrollment to permanent status by their 22nd school day in the program; enrolling students in appropriate courses based on past records, entry assessments, Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) scores, and student progression requirements (Management information system [MIS] enrollment should include elementary, middle, and high school courses that address English/language arts, math, social studies, and science curricula as needed to address individual students’ needs for student progression or high school graduation.)
- 1.2 Providing daily Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) population reports to the lead educator, teachers, school registrar, and other educational support staff to inform them of students’ status (i.e., awaiting placement into a commitment programs or release to their respective communities) and expected release dates
- 1.3 Documenting participation of an educational representative who is familiar with the students’ performance in detention hearings or staffings to determine the status of students in the detention center and to assist students with successful transition to their next educational or career/technical placements
- 1.4 Documenting transmittal of educational records for students who are returning to “in-county” schools that include school district withdrawal forms with numerical grades in progress to the next educational placements at the time of exit (Students’ days in attendance and current transcripts should be accessible via the MIS.)
- 1.5 Documenting the transmittal of current educational records for students transferring to “out-of-county” schools/residential programs/private schools that include cumulative transcripts, individual educational plans (IEPs), individual academic plans (IAPs), and/or progress monitoring plans, assessment data, and school district withdrawal forms with numerical grades in progress to students’ next educational placements, transportation personnel, or juvenile probation officers (JPOs) at the time of exit

QA Review Methods

- Review student educational files, closed commitment files, educational exit packets, records requests, MIS enrollment, course schedules, prior records, documented transmittal of records (e.g., fax or mail receipts), progress monitoring plans, IAPs, transition plans, and other appropriate documentation
- Interview transition specialist, registrar, guidance counselors, treatment team members, other appropriate personnel, and students
- Observe detention hearings or staffings, when possible

Clarification

Documented requests for students’ most current educational records (by fax or electronic access) must be made within five school days of student entry unless the program documents that records were received prior to the student’s enrollment. (Fax transmittal receipts should be retained.) Electronic files of educational records maintained on site are acceptable. Withdrawal grades from the student’s previous school should be averaged into current semester grades from the program.

Out-of-county students’ records should be requested through multiple sources, such as Florida Automated System for Transferring Educational Records (FASTER), the student’s probation officer, detention centers, the previous school district, and/or the student’s legal guardian.

Records requested should include the most current transcripts, academic plans, withdrawal forms, progress monitoring plans, entry assessments, school district course schedules, Section 504 plans, and exceptional student education (ESE) records. Follow-up requests should be made and documented.

Programs must provide courses for credit and/or student progression leading toward high school graduation throughout the 250-day school year, including summer school. Middle school students must be enrolled in language arts, math, science, and social studies. Requirements for high school graduation now include four credits in math and selection of a major area of interest beginning with 9th grade students enrolled in 2007.

Students in detention centers should earn grades for every day they are enrolled in school.

The program should maintain documentation of transmittal of students’ records directly to their next educational programs, to transportation personnel, or to students’ juvenile probation officers (JPOs) for inclusion in commitment packets at the time of exit. This will help ensure that a continuum of educational services is provided throughout the students’ educational placement in the juvenile justice system.

Educational personnel in detention centers should not wait on records requests to send students records to receiving schools. Students’ next educational placement should be verified at detention hearings or through Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) personnel to determine where records should be sent.

Parent involvement should be solicited, and parents should be informed about their child’s needs before the student exits back to the home, school, and community. For more information, refer to the *Transition Guidebook for Educational Personnel in Juvenile Justice Programs*
<http://www.criminologycenter.fsu.edu/jjeep/tech-publications.php>.

For school district transition contacts, access <http://www.criminologycenter.fsu.edu/jjeep/contacts-transition.php>

Each school district is responsible for updating its transition contact information. To make changes, go to <http://www.criminologycenter.fsu.edu/jjeep/contacts-transition.php>.

Performance Rating

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior Performance	7	8	9
<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory Performance	4	5	6
<input type="checkbox"/> Partial Performance	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonperformance			0

Indicator 2: Assessment and Planning

Notes

Intent

The expected outcome of this indicator is that entry assessments are used to identify students' academic, career, and technical strengths, weaknesses, and interests to address the individual needs of the students and that academic and transition planning is designed and implemented to assist students in maximizing academic achievements.

Process Guidelines—The following benchmarks represent the major elements of the indicator used to gather evidence to determine whether the indicator's intent is being met.

The program's assessment and planning practices include:

- 2.1** Administering an assessment for reading, writing or language arts, and mathematics within 10 school days of student entry into the facility and using the results to guide instruction
- 2.2** Administering career aptitude/interest assessments within students' first 22 school days to enhance employability, career, and technical instruction
- 2.3** Developing for all non-exceptional student education (ESE) students written age/grade-appropriate individual academic plans (IAPs) that
 - Are based on entry assessments, past records, and post-placement goals
 - Are developed within 22 school days
 - Include specific, individualized, and measurable long-term goals for reading, writing/language arts, and math
 - Include at least two short-term instructional objectives per goal
 - Identify remedial strategies
 - Include a schedule for determining progress
- 2.4** Developing for all special education students measurable annual individual educational plan (IEP) goals and short-term objectives or benchmarks that directly relate to students' identified academic, behavioral, and/or functional deficiencies and needs
- 2.5** Reviewing students' academic progress toward achieving their IAP and/or IEP goals and objectives/benchmarks, revising IAPs when appropriate, and providing IEP progress reports to parents as often as progress reports are sent home for all students
- 2.6** Advising students with regard to their abilities, aptitudes, educational and occupational opportunities, personal and social adjustments, diploma options, and post-secondary opportunities and communicating to students their educational status and progress.

QA Review Methods

- Review student educational files, assessment tests, management information system (MIS) records, and other appropriate documentation
- Interview personnel responsible for testing procedures, other appropriate personnel, and students
- Review student educational files, IAPs, IEPs, treatment files, and other appropriate documentation
- Interview instructional, guidance, and transition personnel; other appropriate personnel; and students

Clarification

Detention centers may administer any entry academic assessments for reading, writing/language arts, and math and are not required to report the results through the management information system (MIS). Assessment results should be used to create the foundation for developing the student’s educational program. **Detention centers should not administer the Basic Achievement Skills Inventory (BASI) at any time, to any students.**

Entry assessments should be re-administered (as appropriate based on test administrator guidelines) if results do not appear to be consistent with the students’ reported performance levels. Instructional personnel should have access to assessment results and records in student files and be well informed about students’ needs and abilities. Career and technical assessments are used to determine students’ career interests and assess their career and technical aptitudes. These assessments also should be used to guide students in future career decision-making. Students under the age of 12 are not required to complete a career assessment.

Individual academic plans (IAPs) should document students’ needs and identify strategies to assist them in reaching their potential. Students should participate in the development and the revision of their IAPs. Long-term educational goals and short-term instructional objectives for non-exceptional student education (ESE) students may be found in each student’s performance contract, treatment plan, IAP, or other appropriate documents.

Students performing at or above grade level must have appropriate goals and objectives on their IAPs; remedial strategies are not required for these students. Students who have high school diplomas or the equivalent are not required to have academic plans; however, these students’ curricular activities must address their individual needs.

Individual educational plans (IEPs) for students assigned to ESE programs should be individualized and include all information required by federal and state laws. IEPs should address academic, behavioral, and/or functional goals and objectives as appropriate. Instructional personnel should have access to their students’ IEPs.

IAPs, IEPs, and progress monitoring plans should document at least two objectives per goal. Instructional personnel should use IAPs, IEPs, or progress monitoring plans for instructional planning and for tracking students’ progress.

Student progress toward the completion of their IEP goals should be documented on IEP progress reports and provided to parents on the same schedule as reporting of progress for general education students.

Proper tracking and documentation of student progress may also assist in offering performance-based education that will allow students who are performing below grade level the opportunity to advance to their age-appropriate placement.

All students should have easy and frequent access to guidance/advising services, and these services should be aligned with transition and treatment activities. Guidance activities should be based on the *Florida Course Code Directory and Instructional Personnel Assignments*, the school district’s student progression plan, state- and district-wide assessments, and requirements for high school graduation, including all diploma options and post-commitment career and technical educational options. Students will be expected to have knowledge of their credits, grade levels, and diploma options to verify that individuals who are delivering guidance services are communicating this information to students.

Performance Rating

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior Performance	7	8	9
<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory Performance	4	5	6
<input type="checkbox"/> Partial Performance	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonperformance			0

Educational Standard Two: Service Delivery

The service delivery standard is comprised of two indicators that address curriculum, instructional delivery, exceptional student education (ESE), and educational support services. Service delivery activities ensure that students are provided with educational opportunities that will best prepare them for successful reentry into community, school, post-commitment programs, and/or work settings.

Indicator 3: Curriculum and Instruction

The expected outcome of this indicator is that students have the opportunity to receive an education that focuses on their assessed educational needs and is appropriate to their future educational plans, allowing them to progress toward obtaining a high school diploma or the equivalent.

Indicator 4: Specially Designed Instruction and Related Services

The expected outcome of this indicator is that programs provide equal access to education for all students, regardless of functional ability, disability, or behavioral characteristics.

Indicator 3: Curriculum and Instruction

Notes

Intent

The expected outcome of this indicator is that students have the opportunity to receive an education that focuses on their assessed educational needs and is appropriate to their future educational plans, allowing them to progress toward obtaining high school diplomas or the equivalent.

Process Guidelines—The following benchmarks represent the major elements of the indicator used to gather evidence to determine whether the indicator’s intent is being met.

The program offers academic curriculum and instruction through:

- 3.1** A substantial year-round curriculum designed to provide students with educational services based on the Florida Course Code Directory and Instructional Personnel Assignments, descriptions of the courses in which students enrolled, and the Florida Sunshine State Standards (FSSS)
- 3.2 Literacy skills activities, tutorial and remedial strategies, and social skills programs **for students in the detention center 21 school days or fewer**
- 3.3 Individualized instruction and a variety of instructional strategies that are documented in lesson plans and demonstrated in all classroom settings **for students in the detention center 22 school days or more** (Such strategies should address instruction that is aligned with individual academic plans [IAPs] and individual educational plans [IEPs] and students’ academic levels in reading, writing, and mathematics in all content areas being taught and provide a variety and balance of targeted and appropriate teaching strategies to accommodate students’ auditory, visual, kinesthetic, and/or tactile learning styles.)

QA Review Methods

- Review students’ educational files, work folders, course schedules, class schedules, curriculum documents and materials, lesson plans, IAPs, IEPs, Section 504 plans, and other appropriate documentation
- Interview instructional personnel, educational administrators, other appropriate personnel, and students
- Observe educational settings, activities, and instruction

Clarification

Courses and activities should be age-appropriate and based on student’s individual needs and post-placement goals. Programs should prepare each student so that he or she has the opportunity to obtain a high school diploma through his or her chosen graduation program.

A substantial curriculum will be used to meet state course descriptions and will not consist only of supplemental materials. The curriculum may be offered through a variety of scheduling options, such as block scheduling, performance-based education, or offering courses at times of the day that are most appropriate for the program’s planned activities.

All curricula must address students’ multiple academic levels. Instructional personnel should use long-term goals and short-term instructional objectives in students’ individual academic plans (IAPs) and individual educational plans (IEPs) to guide individualized instruction and to provide educational services. Teachers should have knowledge of the content of their students’ IEPs and/or IAPs.

Individualized instruction should include direct instruction (teacher-led instruction through explanation or modeling, followed by guided practice and independent practice) and be delivered in a variety of ways, including one-on-one instruction, computer-assisted instruction (CAI), thematic teaching, team teaching, experiential learning, cooperative learning, audio/visual presentations, lectures, group projects, and hands-on activities.

Performance Rating

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior Performance	7	8	9
<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory Performance	4	5	6
<input type="checkbox"/> Partial Performance	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonperformance			0

Indicator 4: Specially Designed Instruction and Related Services

Notes

Intent

The expected outcome of this indicator is that programs provide equal access to education for all students, regardless of functional ability, disability, or behavioral characteristics.

Process Guidelines—The following benchmarks represent the major elements of the indicator used to gather evidence to determine whether the indicator’s intent is being met.

The program provides educational support services to all students as needed, including:

4.1 Documenting the initiation of the exceptional student education (ESE) process

4.2 Completing the ESE process:

- Reviewing current individual educational plans (IEPs) for students with disabilities and educational plans (EPs) for gifted students to determine whether they are appropriate
- Convening IEP/EP meetings or following required procedures to amend the plans as soon as possible when the IEP/EP services are not appropriate to meet the students’ goals and objectives as written
- Soliciting and documenting participation from parents in ESE staffings and IEP development; mailing copies of IEPs/EPs to parents who do not attend the meetings
- Ensuring that all transition-related requirements (including career plans) for students who are 14 years or older are addressed in their IEPs
- Providing an educational representative who is knowledgeable of the educational resources within the local school district to serve as the local education agency (LEA) representative (The LEA representative must meet the criteria noted in the clarification on p. 29.)

4.3 Implementing specially designed instruction and related services that are outlined in students’ IEPs

4.4 Providing services as outlined in the students’ plans for English language learners (ELL), students eligible under Section 504, and gifted students

QA Review Methods

- Review IEPs, EPs, Section 504 plans, limited English proficiency (LEP) plans, cooperative agreement and/or contract, student files, records requests, support services consultation logs, and other appropriate documentation
- Interview ESE personnel, educational administrators, instructional and support personnel, other appropriate personnel, and students

Clarification

Students participating in exceptional student education (ESE) programs should be provided all corresponding services and documentation (i.e., written parental notification and procedural safeguards) required by federal and state laws. Initiation of the ESE process may include continuing ESE services for in-county students, developing course schedules based on their current individual educational plans (IEPs) and educational plans (EPs), enrolling students, recording class attendance, notifying appropriate personnel of students who require ESE services, and notifying parents regarding IEP/EP review meetings or request to amend IEPs.

The program must document solicitation of parent involvement and reasonable notification (10–14 days prior) to attend IEP/EP meetings. The IEP/EP team must include the parents, the local education agency (LEA) representative, the student’s ESE teacher, a general education teacher of the student, the student (as appropriate for gifted students) beginning at age 14, and one who can interpret instructional implications of evaluation results (and who may serve in other roles as well). The meeting may be held without the parent if at least two notices were provided or if the parent responded to the first notice. The program must document (with dates) the mailing of IEPs/EPs to parents who do not attend the meetings.

According to *Rule 6A-6.03028, Florida Administrative Code (FAC.)*, IEPs must include a statement of diploma options for students in the 8th grade or older, planning for transition services on or before a student’s 14th birthday, and a statement of transition service needs. By age 16, IEPs must include appropriate measurable post-secondary goals based on age-appropriate transition assessments related to training/education, employment, and, if appropriate, independent living skills, and transition services (including courses of study) needed to assist the students in reaching those goals. Transition plans may be written for students before age 14 who are at risk of dropping out of school or who have significant disabilities or complex needs. The transition statements/plans in students’ IEPs cannot be used in place of exit transition plans.

According to *Rule 6A-6.03028, FAC.*, and *Section 300.321 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations*, an LEA representative is a “representative of the school district who is qualified to provide or supervise the provision of specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities, is knowledgeable about the general curriculum, and is knowledgeable about the availability of resources of the school district.” The student’s ESE teacher may also serve as the LEA representative if he/she meets the criteria; non-school district employees must obtain written approval from the school district ESE director to serve as the LEA representative.

ESE teachers cannot serve as both the ESE teacher and the general education teacher in the same classroom.

Students who are on the special diploma track must be served in an appropriate model: co-teaching, ESE support facilitation, or self-contained classroom. For more information on ESE service delivery models, refer to the Florida Course Code Directory.

Students who are English language learners (ELL), eligible under Section 504, or gifted who have corresponding plans to address these needs, must be provided all of the services indicated on those plans, including mental and physical health services. Students’ support and educational services should be integrated, and related services, accommodations, and modifications for appropriate students should be documented. ELL students should have current limited English proficiency (LEP) plans to address their language needs. Consultative services should be provided to instructional personnel serving students assigned to ESE programs and to students in accordance with their IEPs. Consultative logs should document specifically how the student is progressing and what strategies are used to assist the student.

The decision to change services must be addressed during IEP team meetings or by following required amendment procedures based upon current, documented information regarding the student’s progress and need for services. A determination regarding gifted services would be an EP team decision. The parent must be provided prior written notice of a proposed change in services before the change occurs, and the IEP/EP must be revised, as appropriate.

Performance Rating

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior Performance	7	8	9
<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory Performance	4	5	6
<input type="checkbox"/> Partial Performance	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonperformance			0

Educational Standard Three: Educational Resources

The educational resources standard is comprised of four indicators that are designed to ensure that students in juvenile justice educational programs are provided with educational personnel, services, materials, and environments necessary to successfully accomplish their educational goals and to ensure collaboration and effective communication among all parties involved in the educational programs of juvenile justice facilities.

Indicator 5: Collaboration

The expected outcome of this indicator is that facility staff and school district personnel collaborate to ensure that high quality educational services are provided to at-risk students.

Indicator 6: Educational Personnel Qualifications

The expected outcome of this indicator is that the most qualified instructional personnel are employed to educate students in juvenile justice schools.

Indicator 7: Professional Development and Teacher Retention

The expected outcome of this indicator is that instructional personnel are provided continuing education that will enhance the quality of services provided to at-risk and delinquent students and that strategies are in place to retain highly qualified instructional personnel.

Indicator 8: Learning Environment and Resources

The expected outcome of this indicator is that funding provides for substantial educational services and that students have access to high-quality materials and resources to maximize their academic achievement and prepare them for a successful return to school and the community.

Indicator 5: Collaboration

Notes

Intent

The expected outcome of this indicator is that facility staff and school district personnel collaborate to ensure high-quality educational services are provided to at-risk students.

Process Guidelines—The following benchmarks represent the major elements of the indicator used to gather evidence to determine whether the indicator’s intent is being met.

The program facilitates collaboration to provide:

- 5.1** A minimum of 300 minutes of daily instruction or the weekly equivalent
- 5.2 Demonstrated and documented communication among school district administrators, facility administrators, facility staff, and school personnel on a regularly scheduled basis
- 5.3 Varied community involvement that is solicited, documented, and focused on educational and transition activities
- 5.4 Classroom behavioral management procedures that are followed by educational personnel and facility staff, are understood by all students, and include consistent use of reinforcement for positive student behavior

Student participation in off-site community activities is not required for detention centers.

QA Review Methods

- Review the annual school calendar, bell schedule, faculty meeting agendas, management meeting minutes, educational written procedures, volunteer participation documentation, behavior management plan, and other appropriate documentation
- Interview school district administrators, on-site administrators, instructional personnel, students, and other appropriate personnel
- Observe educational settings and faculty meetings, when possible

Clarification

Programs must provide a minimum of 240 days per year of 300 minutes daily instruction (or the weekly equivalent). Time for student movement is not included in the 300 minutes and should be reflected on the schedule. Facility staff and educational personnel should collaborate to ensure that students are in school on time and receive the required instructional minutes. Educational administrators should document steps taken to address issues when facility staff are not transitioning students according to the bell schedule.

Programs must have and follow a plan to provide continued access to instruction for students who are removed from class for an extensive amount of time due to behavior problems. Exceptional student education (ESE) students who are removed from class must be able to participate in the general educational curriculum and work toward meeting their individual educational plan (IEP) goals and objectives.

It is the responsibility of the on-site educational administrators to ensure that all educational staff are informed about the program and the school district’s purpose, policies, expected student outcomes, and school improvement initiatives. Communication among relevant parties (the school district, the Department of Juvenile Justice [DJJ], providers, and educational and program staff) should be ongoing to facilitate smooth operation of the educational program.

Community involvement activities should be integrated into the educational program’s curriculum and can be aligned with school-to-work initiatives. Parent involvement should be evident; parents should be involved in successful transition of their student to school and/or employment. School advisory councils (SACs) should include members from the community and parents when possible.

Community involvement activities should be documented with dates and should be from a variety of sources, such as tutors, mentors, clerical and/or classroom volunteers, career days, guest speakers, and business partners to enhance the educational program and student involvement in the community. Student volunteerism within the program and mentoring/role modeling experiences are also examples of community involvement.

Classroom management should be incorporated into the program’s behavior management plan. The term “classroom” refers to any setting or location that is utilized by the program for instructional purposes. Equitable behavior/classroom management includes treating all students fairly, humanely, and according to their individual behavioral needs. Behavior and classroom management policies should be developed and implemented collaboratively by educational personnel and facility staff during instructional delivery activities.

Classroom management procedures should be designed to empower students to become independent learners and to promote positive self-esteem. Instructional personnel and facility staff members should provide positive reinforcement for appropriate student behavior. Where appropriate, individual functional behavior assessment and behavior intervention plans should be used.

Performance Rating

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior Performance	7	8	9
<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory Performance	4	5	6
<input type="checkbox"/> Partial Performance	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonperformance			0

Indicator 6: Educational Personnel Qualifications

Notes

Intent

The expected outcome of this indicator is that the most qualified instructional personnel are employed to educate students in juvenile justice schools.

Process Guidelines—The following benchmarks represent the major elements of the indicator used to gather evidence to determine whether the indicator’s intent is being met.

All instructional personnel:

- 6.1** In core academic areas have professional or temporary Florida teaching certification, a valid statement of eligibility, or proof of accepted application for teaching certification
- 6.2 In noncore academic areas (including social, employability, and career education courses) have teaching certification or document approval to teach through the school board policy for the use of noncertified instructional personnel based on documented expert knowledge or skill

QA Review Methods

- Review educational personnel files, teaching certificates, statements of eligibility, and other appropriate documentation
- Interview instructional personnel, educational administrators, and other appropriate personnel

Clarification

Instructional personnel are persons who are delivering instruction in the classroom; a *teacher of record* should be the full-time classroom teacher who delivers the instruction. Schools should hire and assign teachers in core academic areas according to their areas of certification. The *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) establishes specific requirements for “highly qualified teachers” (HQT) in the core academic areas (English/language arts, reading, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography).

A statement of eligibility and/or an application that confirms the applicant is *not eligible* for certification will not fulfill the requirements of this indicator.

All instructional personnel whose salaries are supported wholly or in part by Title I, Part A funds, must meet HQT requirements within the timelines prescribed in NCLB. For programs that receive Title I, Part A funds, documentation must be retained to indicate that parents have been notified by letter if their child’s teacher is teaching out-of-field for more than four weeks.

Reading teachers must have reading certification, documented evidence of the completion of the reading endorsement requirements, or documentation of the completion of at least two reading competencies for every year of teaching reading at the current program. New reading teachers should document enrollment in coursework leading toward reading endorsement or reading certification.

Teachers who pass the middle grades integrated curriculum exam may become certified to teach over 100 core courses (*excluding* reading).

Any teacher hired after the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year will not be able to use the high objective uniform state standard of evaluation (HOUSSE) option to meet HQT requirements. However, teachers who completed all HOUSSE requirements prior to the end of the 2006-2007 school year maintain their highly qualified status.

Programs and school districts should provide evidence that they are actively seeking qualified teachers when teacher positions are vacant or long-term substitutes are being used. Substitute teachers must be approved by the school district and comply with the requirements in Benchmark 10.1 for core academic subject areas if they fill a teacher vacancy for eight consecutive weeks or longer. After teaching eight consecutive weeks, substitute teachers must provide, at a minimum, documentation of an accepted application for teaching certification. Post-secondary instructors of dual enrollment students are not required to have K-12 teaching certifications.

The use and approval of noncertified personnel to teach noncore academic subjects must be documented and based on local school board policy.

Both the program provider and the school district should have input into hiring all instructional personnel through the hiring process or through the cooperative agreement and/or the contract. Teachers in school district-operated programs and teachers who are contracted with a private provider must meet the requirements of this indicator.

Performance Rating

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior Performance	7	8	9
<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory Performance	4	5	6
<input type="checkbox"/> Partial Performance	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonperformance			0

Indicator 7: Professional Development and Teacher Retention

Notes

Intent

The expected outcome of this indicator is that instructional personnel are provided continuing education that will enhance the quality of services provided to at-risk and delinquent students and that strategies are in place to retain highly qualified instructional personnel.

Process Guidelines—The following benchmarks represent the major elements of the indicator used to gather evidence to determine whether the indicator’s intent is being met.

All instructional personnel:

- 7.1 Develop and use written professional development plans that incorporate school improvement plan (SIP) initiatives to foster professional growth and participate in a beginning teacher program when appropriate
- 7.2 Receive continual annual professional development training or continuing education (including college course work) based on educational program needs, actual instructional assignments, professional development plans and/or annual teacher evaluations, and quality assurance (QA) review findings (Professional development training must be from a variety of sources on such topics as instructional techniques, reading and literacy skills development, content-related skills and knowledge, working with delinquent and at-risk youths, and exceptional student education [ESE] and English languages learners [ELL] programs.)

The educational program administration:

- 7.3 Has strategies in place to recruit and retain highly qualified instructional personnel

QA Review Methods

- Review educational personnel files, training records, professional development plans, SIPs, and other appropriate documentation
- Interview instructional personnel, educational administrators, and other appropriate personnel

Clarification

A++ legislation requires that professional development plans be established by district school boards and incorporate school improvement plans.

Professional development plans are used to lead teachers toward professional growth or development. Instructional personnel should develop or have input into creating their individual plans to address their strengths and weaknesses. Professional development plans should be used as a working document and an evaluation tool based on the school district's policy for human resource development.

Teachers should be provided the opportunity to attend professional development training to support their professional growth. Although routine training in such areas as policies and procedures, safety, and program orientation is important, the majority of professional development training should be related to instructional techniques, teaching delinquent and at-risk students, and the content of courses that instructional personnel are assigned to teach.

All instructional personnel (including noncertified personnel) should have access and opportunity to participate in school district professional development training on a continual annual basis. Professional development should qualify for inservice points for certification renewal.

Strategies to help retain highly qualified instructional personnel may include establishing a teacher mentor program, assigning teachers to teach in their certification areas, allowing time for teachers to collaborate with their colleagues, and creating positive work conditions or incentives for teachers to work in juvenile justice facilities.

Performance Rating

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior Performance	7	8	9
<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory Performance	4	5	6
<input type="checkbox"/> Partial Performance	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonperformance			0

Indicator 8: Learning Environment and Resources

Intent

The expected outcome of this indicator is that funding provides for substantial educational services and that students have access to high-quality materials, resources, and an environment that enhances their academic achievement and prepares them for a successful return to school and the community.

Process Guidelines—The following benchmarks represent the major elements of the indicator used to gather evidence to determine whether the indicator’s intent is being met.

The program’s educational environment and resources include:

- 8.1 An adequate number of instructional staff and educational support personnel
- 8.2 An adequate quantity of educational supplies and instructional materials that are appropriate to students’ ages and ability levels, including a variety of diverse instructional texts for core content areas and high-interest leisure reading materials for students (including fiction and nonfiction) that address the characteristics and interests of adolescent readers
- 8.3 Media materials, equipment, and technology for use by teachers and students
- 8.4 An environment that is conducive to learning
- 8.5 Access to the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) for instructional purposes when appropriate

QA Review Methods

- Review the cooperative agreement and/or contract, available media resources and technology, student-to-teacher ratio, curricula and instruction materials, Internet policy, and other appropriate documentation
- Interview school district administrators, on-site administrators, instructional personnel, other appropriate personnel, and students
- Observe educational settings
- Discuss findings with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) quality assurance reviewer when possible

Clarification

Depending on the type and the size of the program, support personnel may include principals, assistant principals, school district administrators who oversee program operations, curriculum coordinators, exceptional student education (ESE) personnel, guidance counselors, lead educators, registrars, transition specialists, or others. The student-to-teacher ratio should take into account the nature of the instructional activity, the diversity of the academic levels of students in the classroom, access to technology for instructional purposes, the need to individualize instruction, and the use of classroom paraprofessionals.

Technology and media materials should be appropriate to meet the needs of the program’s educational staff and student population. Leisure reading materials available should be aligned with school district policy.

Components that impact whether the environment is conducive to learning include, but are not limited to, facilities, school climate, organization, and appropriate materials, supplies, and technology.

All students should have access to computer technology to progress toward achieving career and/or educational goals, including access to the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) when students need courses for graduation that are not offered at the program. Additionally, programs should have a policy regarding students’ Internet use.

Performance Rating

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior Performance	7	8	9
<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory Performance	4	5	6
<input type="checkbox"/> Partial Performance	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonperformance			0

Educational Standard Four: Contract Management

The contract management standard consists of a single indicator that addresses the role and responsibility of school districts that serve juvenile justice students to ensure local oversight of juvenile justice educational programs.

Indicator 9: School District Monitoring, Accountability, and Evaluation

The expected outcome of this indicator is that the school district monitors and assists programs in providing high-quality educational services and accurately reports student and staff data for accountability and evaluation purposes.

Indicator 9: School District Monitoring, Accountability, and Evaluation

Notes

Intent

The expected outcome of this indicator is that the school district monitors and assists programs in providing high quality educational services and accurately reports student and staff data for accountability and evaluation purposes.

Process Guidelines—The following benchmarks represent the major elements of the indicator used to gather evidence to determine whether the indicator’s intent is being met.

The school district ensures that:

- 9.1 The program submits a self-report in a timely manner
- 9.2 The program is assigned an individual school number and accurately reports all management information system (MIS) data (grades, credits, student progression, certificates, entry and withdrawal dates, valid withdrawal codes, and diplomas earned)
- 9.3 Accurate attendance records document daily student attendance and are maintained in the MIS
- 9.4 The contract manager or designee provides appropriate oversight and assistance to the educational program that include conducting and documenting an annual evaluation of the educational program
- 9.5 There is a current and approved (by the Department of Education [DOE] and the Department of Juvenile Justice [DJJ]) cooperative agreement with the DJJ and a contract with the educational provider when educational services are not operated by the school district; the terms are being followed, including monitoring quarterly educational expenditure reports

QA Review Methods

- Review the cooperative agreement and/or the contract, educational evaluations, expenditure reports, MIS data, relevant correspondence between the school district and the program, and other appropriate documentation
- Interview school district administrators, on-site administrators, lead educators, and other appropriate personnel
- Review state assessment participation results based on state AYP calculations

Clarification

The school district and program personnel should collaboratively develop the self-report survey and review its contents for accuracy prior to submission to the Juvenile Justice Educational Enhancement Program (JJEPP) offices.

Each program should have an individual school number that is not shared with another school, including other Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) schools. Only enrolled students should be reported under the program’s unique school number, and adult county jail students should be reported under separate school numbers. All students’ information contained in Survey 1 through Survey 5 should be reported under the same school number, and the appropriate withdrawal code should be used for all existing students.

Quality assurance (QA) reviewers verify that student information is accurately reported in the management information system (MIS). Accountability issues should be clarified in the cooperative agreement and/or the contract and in the program’s written procedures. All students should have a valid withdrawal code each year unless they are still enrolled in the school at the end of the school year. Major discrepancies in attendance and full-time equivalent (FTE) membership are reported to Department of Education (DOE) and may affect the program’s QA review score.

Section 1003.52 (13), Florida Statutes (F.S.) requires each school district to negotiate a cooperative agreement with the DJJ regarding the delivery of educational programs to students under the jurisdiction of DJJ. *Section 1003.52(11), F.S.*, also authorizes school districts to contract with private providers for the provision of DJJ educational programs. Contracts and cooperative agreements must be completed prior to the October FTE week and submitted to the DOE.

The school district contract manager (or designee) is expected to ensure that appropriate educational services are provided. The contract manager should document annual evaluation of the educational program and share the results with the lead educator. Additionally, the contract manager ensures that issues documented in QA reports are addressed in a timely manner.

School district contract managers must notify the JJEPP offices within 30 days of notification that a new DJJ program will be placed in their school districts and/or when the district becomes aware that a program in their district is scheduled to close. Additionally, contract managers are responsible for notifying JJEPP at least 30 days prior to a change in a DJJ program’s educational provider.

The contract manager or designee should ensure that educational services are provided as required by the contract and/or the cooperative agreement and all applicable local, state, and federal education guidelines. If school districts contract with private providers for the educational services, an accounting of the expenditures identified in State Board Rule 6A-6.05281, *Florida Administrative Code (FAC.)*, shall be required by the local school board.

Performance Rating

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior Performance	7	8	9
<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory Performance	4	5	6
<input type="checkbox"/> Partial Performance	1	2	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonperformance			0



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Eric J. Smith, Commissioner

10208