

Juvenile Justice Transition Protocol

The Improving America's School Act (IASA) of 1994 (Public Law 103-382) amended the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to promote active information sharing by educators. IASA permits educators to share information with juvenile justice system personnel on juveniles prior to adjudication pursuant to State statute. (February 2000 Juvenile Justice Bulletin, From the Courthouse to the Schoolhouse: Making Successful Transition)

1. Transition planning, to include designation of a transition coordinator and development of a transition plan, will commence as soon after incarceration as possible, in all cases where a child will be detained for fifteen school days or more, and in all other cases as appropriate.
2. A student Transition Plan will be developed and will include provisions for the following: assessment of youth's risk to re-offend, release date, family involvement in transition activities including furloughs, supervision and monitoring to be used such as house arrest, parole requirements, school the youth will be transitioned into, pre-release school visits, details, including extent and frequency of supportive services that will be in place at the time of release, and a description of the counseling, treatment, and general progress of the youth while detained, as well as victim protection provisions.
3. Transition planning will be facilitated by the Community Resource Coordinator at Juvenile Court who is assuming the responsibilities of a Transition Coordinator. See "Transition Coordinator Responsibilities" for a listing of specified tasks.
4. School notification and requests for school work to be done by institutional instructional leader or designee as soon as it is known a youth will enroll in JDC School.
5. Each school building will designate a staff member to be responsible for collecting academic records and current schoolwork within 48 hours of notification when requested by JDC and Mary Haven staff.
6. JDC and Mary Haven staff will see that a school counselor or appropriate school staff designee receive a copy of the Transition Plan as well as a summary of any risk assessments completed in JDC or Mary Haven during a student's detention within 48 hours of a student's release.
7. A pre-release interagency transition meeting which includes parents, student, guidance counselor, mental health counselor or case manager, transition coordinator, and probation officer should be held to distribute and review the Transition Plan prior to a youth's release.