



Local School District Partnerships

Ruel "Sonny" Peacock, Assistant Secretary, Probation
Julie Orange, Director, Office of Education
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
Florida Organization of Instructional Leaders (FOIL) Conference
May 16, 2024



Mission Statement

To enhance public safety through high-quality effective services for youth and families delivered by world-class professionals dedicated to building a stronger, safer Florida.

Impact Statement

Florida's juvenile justice system will continue to pursue comprehensive system improvement and deploy proven practices that solidify our place as the leading system in the nation.



The 5 Guiding Principles to Service Excellence



Dedication to the Success of Youth & Families
Provide exceptional customer service with dignity and respect at every encounter.

Develop a World-Class Team
Dedicated to promoting the professional and personal growth of each individual.

Excellence Through Leadership
Cultivate high-impact leaders, regardless of position, with an expectation of excellence and accountability in everything we do.

Data and Evidence Driven
Use of high-quality data to inform decisions and effective implementation of evidence-based practices.

Commitment to Results
Achieve extraordinary outcomes to strengthen youth, families, and communities.

The 4 Cornerstones to Service Excellence



The Education-Delinquency Connection

School attachment and performance has been well established in the “What Works” literature as one of the top dynamic (changeable) risk factors for delinquency, and as such is recognized as an important focus of intervention for at-risk and delinquent youth. A DJJ study of youth served in prevention found that commitment to education is the most consequential risk factor for future system involvement. Another study, conducted by Florida State University researchers, found that among youth in residential treatment, commitment to education is one of the top dynamic risk factors predictive of reoffending.

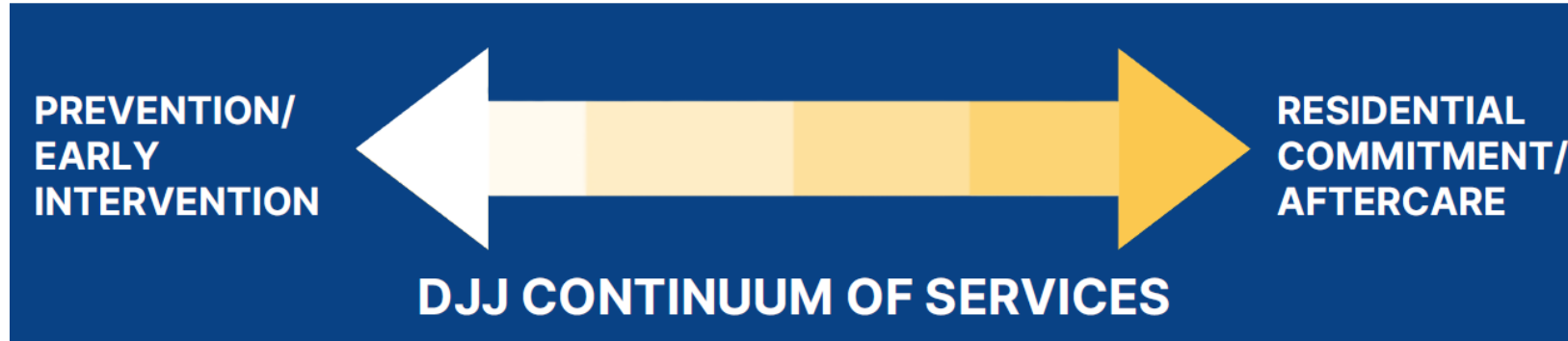


Local School District Partnership Goals

- Increase student enrollment.
- Increase student attendance.
- Improve student behavior.
- Improve student performance.
- Ensure the continuity of education services for youth in Florida's juvenile justice continuum.



Florida's Juvenile Justice Continuum



Probation and Community Intervention serves youth during:

- Pre-arrest and post-arrest diversion
- Detention and intake screening
- Community supervision
- Residential case management
- Transitional planning

How can DJJ help local school districts?

- Promote academic achievement by providing any support needed to meet the individual education needs of students and encouraging family involvement in the youth's education.
- Ensure the continuity of education for youth transitioning from secure detention or a residential facility by coordinating with the school district prior to the youth's release.
- Hold youth accountable for enrollment, attendance, and behavior through effective use of the Graduated Response Matrix.
- Respond to requests for assistance with a sense of urgency.
- Provide opportunities for school officials to attend and participate in meetings, trainings, and presentations with local DJJ staff.



How can local school districts help DJJ?

- Provide access to educational records to help DJJ make informed decisions when recommending education-related court-ordered sanctions and identifying appropriate residential placements.
- Provide access to educational records to help DJJ encourage academic achievement and enforce education-related sanctions.
- Participate in the planning process for youth transitioning from secure detention or a residential facility.
- Identify points of contact at the school district office and individual schools to support the local partnership.
- Work with the Chief and/or Assistant Chief Probation Officer to identify and mitigate roadblocks to a successful local partnership.



Section 1002.221(2)(c), Florida Statutes

In accordance with the FERPA and the federal regulations issued pursuant to the FERPA, an agency or institution, as defined in s. 1002.22, may release a student's education records without written consent of the student or parent to parties to an interagency agreement among the Department of Juvenile Justice, the school, law enforcement authorities, and other signatory agencies. Information provided pursuant to an interagency agreement may be used for proceedings initiated under chapter 984 or chapter 985.



Section 1003.52(10)(b), Florida Statutes

For the purpose of transition planning and reentry services, representatives from the school district and the one-stop center where the student will return shall participate as members of the local Department of Juvenile Justice reentry teams. The school district, upon return of a student from a juvenile justice education program, must consider the individual needs and circumstances of the student and the transition plan recommendations when reenrolling a student in a public school. A local school district may not maintain a standardized policy for all students returning from a juvenile justice program but place students based on their needs and their performance in the juvenile justice education program, including any virtual education options.



DJJ Contacts for Local School Districts

Probation and Community Intervention

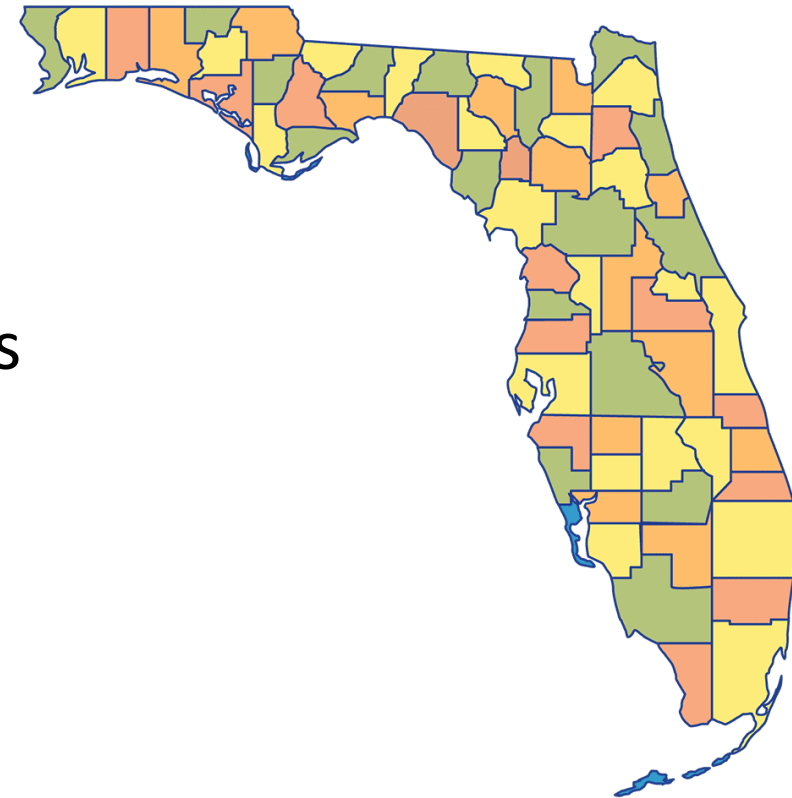
www.djj.state.fl.us/contact-us/probation-community-intervention/chief-asst.-chief-probation-officers

- Chief Probation Officer
- Assistant Chief Probation Officer
- Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisors
- Juvenile Probation Officers
- JPO Detention Coordinators

Office of Education

www.djj.state.fl.us/contact-us/education-development

- Regional Education Coordinators



DJJ Headquarters Contacts

Ruel “Sonny” Peacock, Assistant Secretary
Probation and Community Intervention

✉ ruel.peacock@fldjj.gov

☎ 850-717-2568

Julie Orange, Director
Office of Education

✉ julie.orange@fldjj.gov

☎ 850-717-2708

