

## Education Outcomes Task Force

### Endorsement of Recommended Juvenile Detention Standards for Education Services May 20, 2015

#### **Introduction:**

The existing Indiana Juvenile Detention Facility Standards first developed in the 1990's are due to expire at the end of this year. The revised standards include enhancements to the original six (6) standards and add four (4) new standards. The revisions are based upon nationally recognized best practices in secure confinement as recognized by the American Correctional Association and the Annie E. Casey Foundation's, Conditions of Confinement standards. The revised standards also align with the *Guiding Principles for Providing High-Quality Education in Juvenile Justice Secure Care Settings*, recently published by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Justice.

Revisions to the Juvenile Detention Standards were prepared by the Standards Advisory Committee; members included representatives from child care professionals and juvenile justice stakeholders.

A Public Hearing on the new Indiana Juvenile Detention Standards was held on October 31, 2014, with no opposition. A second public hearing will be scheduled this summer.

#### **Standards Overview:**

**(New) Standard # 1:** A written agreement exists between the superintendent of the local school corporation where the detention center is located and either the juvenile court judge, or the agency director. The written agreement must describe the method of delivery of a juvenile detention education program.

**(Updated) Standard # 2:** Juveniles are provided with a comprehensive education program. A comprehensive education program is defined as: 210 instructional days per year; at least: six (6) hours of programming for juveniles grades 7 – 12, and five (5) hours of programming for juveniles in grades 6 and lower; education programs include an on-site teacher, an approved online instructional program or coursework assigned from the juvenile's home school with teacher oversight, or an approved virtual learning program; education personnel are licensed or are supervised by a licensed teacher; an education screening is completed and juveniles begin participation in programming within three (3) days of admission; school records are obtained; programming is held in a classroom setting; and juveniles who are in isolation are able to continue their educational program, and return to the classroom environment as soon as safely possible.

**(Updated) Standard # 3:** Education staff shall determine the need and provide remedial reading services for juveniles who have not attained basic literacy skills.

**(Updated) Standard # 4:** Juveniles must take the courses necessary to progress toward their high school diploma, IEP goals, or high school equivalency exam.

**(New) Standard # 5:** Special Education programs and services are available.

**(New) Standard # 6:** Juveniles are provided access to high school equivalency programs, preparation, and testing.

**(New) Standard # 7:** Maintenance and access to education records ensure a juvenile's rights to privacy and confidentiality; and provide progress data to a juvenile's home school within seven (7) days of discharge.

**(Updated) Standard # 8:** An annual evaluation exists to measure the effectiveness of the detention education program.

**(Updated) Standard # 9:** Juveniles are not required to participate in uncompensated work assignments, unless performing housekeeping tasks, vocational programs, or an approved community service project.

**(Updated) Standard #10:** Juveniles are not permitted to perform work prohibited by child labor laws.