Building Brighter Futures

Tools for Improving Academic and
Career/Technical Education in the
Juvenile Justice System

A Pennsylvania Example

Tool I:
PACTT Components Checklist

Juvenile Law Center

2015

PACTT Components Checklist

Use this checklist to assess which of the PACTT initiative elements already exist in your jurisdiction and which would be most helpful to add.

Ensuring Academic Excellence

☐ Align curricula with state standards;

☐ Provide professional development trainings for correctional educators, including literacy strategies training;

☐ Offer math and literacy remediation/tutoring;

☐ Create and implement a literacy improvement plan;

☐ Integrate both math and literacy strategies across the curriculum so academics subjects are emphasized throughout the facility in all subject matter;

☐ Explicitly connect academic course content to CTE offerings;

☐ Expand safe access to technology in secure placements;

☐ Provide credit retrieval and acceleration opportunities within juvenile justice education programs;

☐ Provide access to computer-based learning to support highly qualified teaching staff.

Linking Youth with an Appropriate Course of Study

☐ Prioritize high school diplomas over GEDs and alternatives;

☐ Ensure that GED preparation connects youth to postsecondary training and careers;

☐ Foster relationships with community and technical colleges and provide other opportunities for post-secondary education and training through online courses and other methods.

Supporting High Quality Career and Technical Education

☐ Develop base requirements for a career and technical education, including required hours of work;

☐ Offer at least one CTE track, aligned with industry standards that is able to be taught inside a facility and ideally has been identified as high priority and/or high employment and complete a list of industry competencies that can follow youth at time of discharge and reflect the progress youth has made;

☐ Provide opportunities for youth to complete at least one of the following basic certifications such as OSHA 10 or ServSafe;

☐ Recognize needs of the market and tailor CTE opportunities to those needs;

☐ Integrate academics with CTE programs and CTE programs with academics.

Developing Employability and Soft Skills

☐ Develop a manual that establishes the goals for youth employability and soft skills;

☐ Subsidize and support work experience opportunities for youth in juvenile justice placements;

☐ Establish an active relationship with a local career counseling center and teach youth to use it;

☐ Offer services that assist youth to access career/technical training, postsecondary education and job placement.

Seamless Transitions and Effective Re-entry

☐ Align curricula with the graduation requirements of the student's home district;

☐ Use specific course titles aligned with those in the state data system;

☐ Develop portfolios for youth to track interests and successes in academic and career/technical education;

☐ Ensure prompt transfer of educational records, requiring facilities to seek records immediately from home schools and send records to receiving schools well in advance of a youth's departure from a juvenile justice placement.

Tracking Data

☐ Establish clear outcomes to achieve, and the indicators used to measure progress towards those outcomes;

☐ Develop a data collection system that takes baseline measurements and then tracks these indicators over relevant time periods;

☐ Create a culture of accountability through the establishment of strong evaluation systems for each of the participating agencies and their collaborative efforts;

☐ Use data collection, sharing and reporting to ensure that evidence-based programs are implemented with fidelity to the model;

☐ Ensure compliance with all state and federal information-sharing laws;

☐ Develop the data measures necessary to evaluate and improve the current rate of young people successfully returning to school or other educational programs upon reentry from correctional facility.