

# How Can I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL WHILE INCARCERATED?

**Remember, you are your child's best advocate, and you often have the right to be involved in your child's education while at the facility.**

- If your child has an IEP or 504 Plan, follow up with your child's school district about providing a copy to the facility.
- Parents who remain involved in their child's education are better equipped to provide needed support when their child exits the facility and returns to the community and/or school.
- Let facility school staff know that you believe they can help your child get back on track to complete her/his education, graduate, move toward independence, and prepare for work.
- Make a special effort to connect with your child frequently while they are at the facility.
  - Be positive and friendly at each visit.
  - Remember that attention makes your child feel loved and appreciated.
- Ask about your child's schoolwork and classes.
- Very early during your child's stay at the facility, figure out who is the best person to ask questions or share information about your child. Get the name of that person and his or her title, phone number, e-mail address, and office hours.
- Tell the appropriate facility school staff the names of any medications your child takes, how well the medications are working, when your child takes the medications. Also, inform them about any side effects you have noticed and how they might affect your child's school performance.
- Find out if there is a family or parent liaison who can assist you and your family. Get the person's name and phone number. Contact this person early during your child's stay at the facility.

## Additional Valuable Resources to Support Youth in Juvenile Corrections:

[Family Guide to Getting Involved in Your Child's Education at a Juvenile Justice Facility](#)

[Free Appropriate Public Education \(FAPE\)](#)

[504 Plans & Individualized Education Plans \(IEPs\)](#)

[Correctional Education Guidance](#)

[Educational Disagreements: Complaint, Mediation, Due Process](#)

[Reentry Transition Plan](#)

[Students with Disabilities \(SWD\) in Adult Corrections](#)

[The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#)

“ Sometimes, out of embarrassment or fear, parents just take the information [without asking for explanations they can understand] and later, when something comes up, they do not know what to do with it. ”

– Ernest Johnson (parent)

This document was produced under grants from the U.S. Dept. of Education, (Parent Training & Information Centers), and is a product of collaboration between the following agencies:

