

Technical Education for Adult Inmates

Legislative Planning Committee
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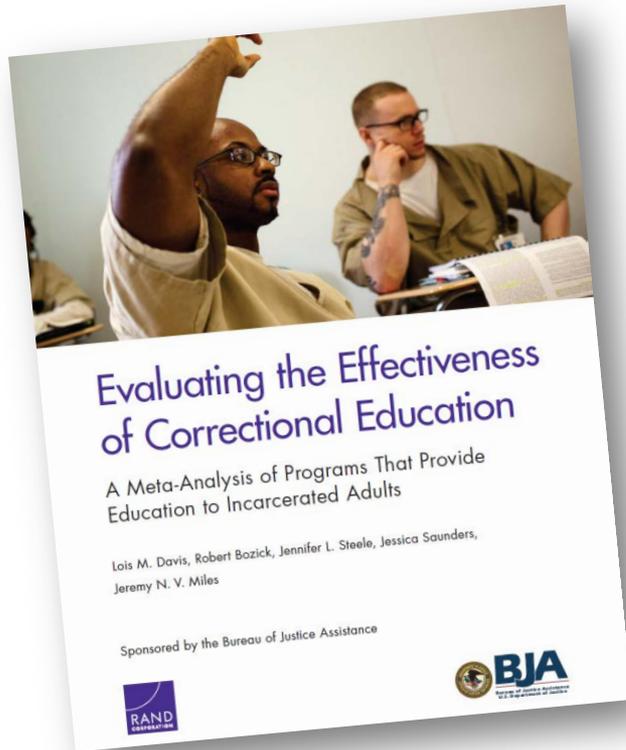


Approach

- Interest & need for postsecondary technical education for adult inmates
- Systemic approach:
 - Review current programs and curriculum
 - Identify possible opportunities
 - Involve all applicable agencies (DOC, DOE, DLR, SD Housing, DSS)



What do we know?



High-quality, comprehensive correctional education programs work.

43% LOWER ODDS of RECDIVISIM

28% INCREASED ODDS of POSTRELEASE EMPLOYMENT

EQUAL GAINS in ACADEMICS between FACE-TO-FACE and COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION



What do we know?

High-quality, comprehensive correctional education programs are cost effective...



...without considering indirect costs, emotional gains, and effects on recidivism after 3 years postrelease.



What do we know?

- Comprehensive, Wrap-Around Services Create Quality:
 - Whole-person support
 - Treatment, counseling, and coaching/mentorship (assessed needs)
 - Case Management
 - Work-readiness skills
 - Academic and technical skills
 - Transition services as inmates and parolees



What do we know?

- **Correctional Education:**
 - **Adult Basic Education (ABE):** Basic skills instruction in math, reading, writing, and ESL (if needed)
 - **Adult Secondary Education:** Instruction to complete high school or equivalent
 - **Career & Technical Education (CTE):** Employability and soft skills instruction and technical training; may earn industry-recognized certifications
 - **Postsecondary Education (PSE):** College-level instruction to earn college credit toward a diploma or degree



SD Corrections Training Programs

- Adult Basic Education
- GED
- Work-readiness
- Springfield Vocational Industries
- Governor's House Apprenticeship Programs
- Women's Prison



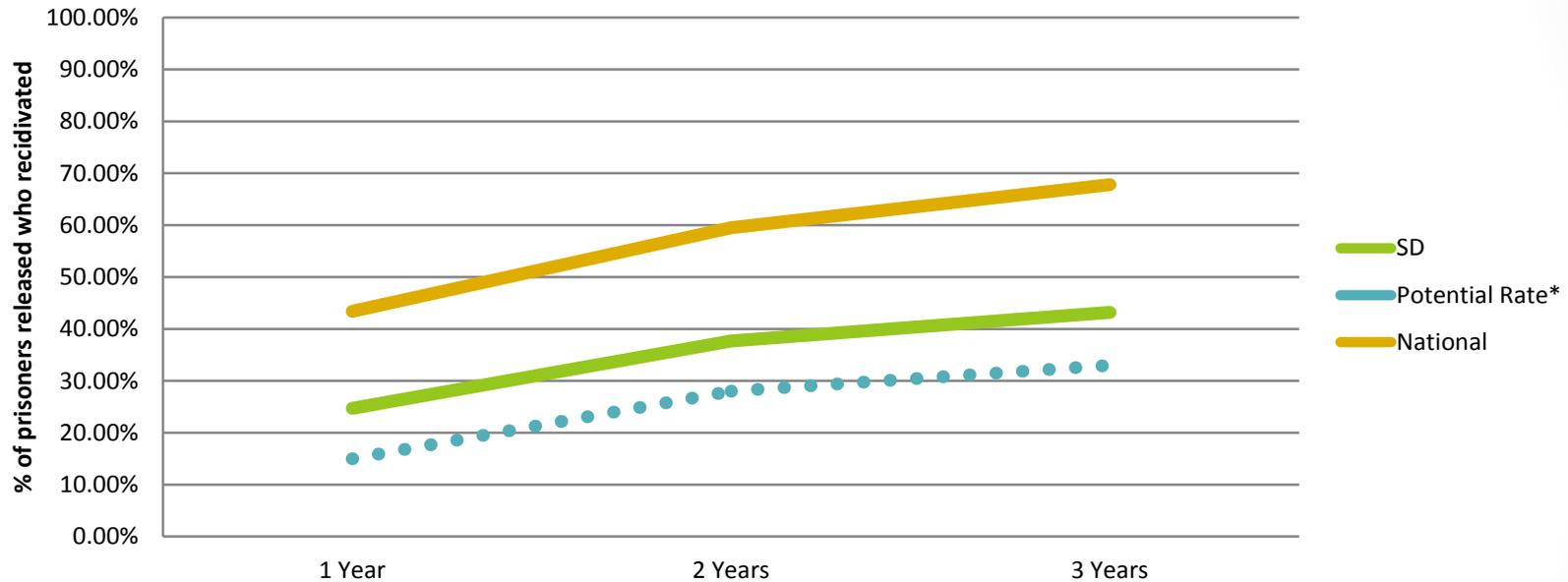
Corrections Education Funding

- Adult Basic Education & GED
- Springfield Vocational Industries
- Grant funds (past)



Current Outcomes

Rates of Recidivism



**for those with Comprehensive Correctional Education*

Sources: SD Department of Corrections (2015) and U.S Department of Justice (2005)
<http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/rprts05p0510.pdf>



Assumptions for Proposal

- Align with the state's high-demand workforce areas
- Lead to careers which would garner living wages
- Provide wrap-around services while inmates are incarcerated, during transition to community life, and throughout parole
 - Ex. counseling, behavior treatment, academic support, employment support, coaching, mentorship
- Work toward a credential or degree to validate their skills and have value for employers
 - Lead to a wage premium for inmates who complete
- Take less than one year to complete



Assumptions for Proposal

- Offer programs where inmates would be eligible to secure employment because of their criminal record
 - Ex. Not likely in healthcare or information technology (IT) programs
- Meet minimum expectations for postsecondary, credit-awarding programs
 - Ex. High school diploma or GED at a base with possible additional requirement
- Adult programs only



Ideas to Proceed

- In-depth review of current programs:
 - Alignment to workforce needs?
 - Curriculum alignment to postsecondary expectations?
Equipment? Facilities? Instructor qualifications?
- Additional program opportunities?
 - Postsecondary technical training programs
 - Non-degree certification programs
- Address major questions and challenges
- Policy and funding requirements?
- Identify measures of success



Questions to Consider

- Number of possible participants ?
- Cost of comprehensive programs? Who bears that cost?
- Impact of education programs on parole agreements?
- Inmate placement to access & complete technical training programs?
- Eligibility for training programs?
- Potential for minimum security inmates to go to training in Sioux Falls, Rapid City or Yankton?
- Transition from adult basic ed to technical training?
- Programs for men vs. women?



Challenges to Overcome

- Needed correctional staff (open positions)
- Inmate placement for completion
- Inmate access to technology/computers
- Transitions services and assistance with employment (recommendations, validation of skills, etc.)
- Facilities and resources (instructors, equipment, etc.)
- Stigma of criminal records in employment search



Technical Programs – Current

Technical Program	Location	Alignment to Workforce
Welding	Springfield Vocational Industries	High Demand
Auto Mechanic	Springfield Vocational Industries	High Demand
Autobody/Upholstery	Springfield Vocational Industries	High Demand
Construction Tech	Springfield Vocational Industries	High Demand
Horticulture/Landscape	Springfield Vocational Industries	
Building Trades	Governor's House Project	High Demand
Electrical	Governor's House Project	High Demand
Plumbing	Governor's House Project	High Demand
HVAC	Governor's House Project	High Demand



Technical Programs – Potential

- Expand training/certification in Pheasantland Industries:
 - Cabinetmaking and Carpentry
 - Machining
- Postsecondary Programs:
 - Industrial Maintenance
 - Diesel Technology
 - Office Professional
 - Culinary Arts



Technical Programs – Potential

- Industry-Recognized Certifications:
 - National Career Readiness Certification
 - OSHA General Industry
 - OSHA Construction
 - Microsoft IT Academy
 - Automotive Service Excellence
 - National Center for Construction Education & Research
 - American Welding Society
 - Commercial Drivers License
 - ServSafe



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