

Education Based Incarceration

Changing the way we Incarcerate

Education Based Incarceration is a component of the criminal justice system that is focused on deterring and mitigating crime by investing in its offenders through education and rehabilitation. By providing substantive and intellectual education in jails, and being supportive rather than punitive in efforts to reduce crime related behavior, the likelihood to recidivate is lowered while success and stability in the community occurs.

Holding lawbreakers accountable for their actions is the main priority of Education Based Incarceration, and incarceration is the chief means of imposing accountability for acts that threaten public safety. The investment made through Education Based Incarceration is an endeavor in safer and more stable communities.

Sheriff Baca's vision, "The uneducated mind will predictably live in a threatened and limited way" provides opportunity for the following principles to be the foundation for which Education Based Incarceration operates from. The outcome of this fully implemented system within the jails is the unlimited capability and appreciation for a productive life.

Principle 1: Evaluate and Assess both the Educational and Trade Skills of All Offenders

This multi-phased educational process will be accomplished through a collaborative effort between the Offender Services Bureau, Inmate Reception Center, and the implementation of a validated risk and needs assessment. This comprehensive assessment will be completed at the entry point of incarceration and will conclude with a reentry action plan. The assessment will aid in assessing risk, needs, developing behavior management plans, delivery of programs, preparation for reentry, transition, follow-up and evaluation.

Using a concept whereby like people are housed together (i.e., U.S. Military Veteran offenders, substance abusers and domestic violence offenders), expanded housing plans will be explored where appropriate level and labor market education, life, and vocational skills will produce the best outcomes for participants.

Principle 2: Develop a System of Educating Los Angeles County Prisoners who Inevitably will serve Time in the State Prison System that Begins and Ends in the Los Angeles County Jail

Three institutional processes will be linked when a Los Angeles County inmate becomes a convicted State Prison felon. These processes are the County Jail, State Prison, and Reentry. Many state felons will complete their time in the custody of the Los Angeles County jail due to short sentences and a shortage of housing within the State Prison system. During classification it may not be known if an offender will be sentenced to State Prison or County Jail. Therefore,

all offenders entering the criminal justice system will be assessed, and information will be updated regularly in the Education Based Incarceration System.

Principle 3: The Development and Implementation of Proper Educational and Preparation Skills for Prisoners will Reduce the Likelihood of Recidivism

The inmate assessment will be linked to a case management system and allow for individuals who need and choose to refine education, life, and vocational skills while incarcerated to be managed. Effective case management is the linchpin of the reentry action plan. The information captured through both the assessment and case management system will be provided to the offender's destination once released from the Los Angeles County jail. If the offender is transferring into the State Prison system or a community program, a transfer summary will be completed and transferred with the inmate and progress monitored.

Principle 4: Strengthen and Systematize the Partnership with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)

Los Angeles County residents who in fact are transferred to the State Prison system will be equipped with an educational transfer summary as well as an opportunity to continue core education classes while completing their sentence at CDCR. Through closed circuit programming, educational opportunities will be provided at off-site institutions where beginning, continuing or completing a degree program is achievable.

Principle 5: Develop Curriculum that puts into Action Learning Programs that are Both Structured and Unstructured

Just as the jail system is diversified in many ways, so should the education and rehabilitation provided to the inmates. The Education Based Incarceration participants will utilize various models of engagement that reflect different learning styles such as traditional instructor led programs, peer education, distance learning, and through education based cable channels on inmate televisions.

Whether interactive or individualized learning is employed, the responsibility for learning is placed in the hands of the participants and helps them develop as critical thinkers.

Principle 6: Transform the Custody Division and State Correction's Cultural Thinking to Support and Embrace the Principles of Education Based Incarceration

A team of individuals highly knowledgeable in the creation and implementation of an evidence based system will likely reflect in meeting the guiding principles. Identifying the right people to become the ambassadors for Education Based Incarceration is critical to its success. The

identification of a well educated, systematic Lieutenant will be the basis for the kick-off of this project.

The Education Based Incarceration System will be relevant by documenting and verifying results, thus becoming an evidence-based system. With the scientific research assembled, findings will be crafted in a way for implementation of the guiding principles. The implementation will be studied, identifying quality practice and science. The refinement and the study of outcomes will produce the base for evidence.

The cycle of refinement will drive policy formulation and management decisions. The formation and refinement will create longevity, eventually anchoring the Education Based Incarceration System throughout the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.