



# OREGON YOUTH AUTHORITY

## Policy Statement

### Part II – Youth Services (Facilities)



*Subject*

#### Post-secondary Education in OYA Facilities

*Section – Policy Number:*

**E: Programming – 10.0**

*Supersedes:*

**II-E-10.0 (8/22)**  
**II-E-10.0 (4/18)**  
**II-E-10.0 (12/14)**

*Effective Date:*

**08/04/2025**

*Date of Last Review/Revision:*

**None**

#### Related Standards and References:

- [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#) (FERPA)
- [ORS 420.060 - 420.074](#) (Employment Program)
- [ORS 420A.010](#) (Creation and duties)
- [ORS 420A.125](#) (Adjudicated youths; intake assessments; reformation plan; placement)
- [ORS 326.695 - 326.712](#) (Youth corrections and juvenile detention education programs)
- [ORS 350.009](#) (Fundamental goals of public higher education)
- [OYA policy](#): I-A-11.0 (Assessment, Multidisciplinary Teams, and Case Planning)  
I-B-3.0 (Youth Trust Accounts)  
II-F-1.0 (Youth Rights [Facility])
- [OYA form: YA 4903 Application for VESoy Funds](#)

#### Related Procedures:

- None

#### Policy Owner:

Facilities Services Assistant  
Director

#### Approved:

  
Jana McLellan, Interim Director

## I. PURPOSE:

This policy sets standards for OYA facilities to offer youth access to post-secondary education.

## II. POLICY DEFINITIONS:

**College Funding Committee:** A committee that reviews youth requests for VESoy funds to pay for post-secondary education. The committee consists of at least one statewide education/vocation coordinator, a designated principal, the referring facility's superintendent or camp director, and a Facility Services or Development Services staff member.

**MOOC** (Massive Open Online Course): A course of study made available over the Internet without charge and available to many people (e.g., Study.com, and OYA's RACHEL server).

**Post-secondary education:** Any education beyond high school, including college and vocational courses.

**Vocational Education Services for Older Youth (VESOY):** A program that provides educational services to youth who reside in close-custody facilities and are no longer eligible for YCEP.

**Youth Corrections Education Program (YCEP):** A program that provides educational services to youth who reside in close-custody facilities who do not have a high school diploma or are 21 years old or younger.

### **III. POLICY:**

Youth who participate in post-secondary education gain the knowledge, skills, and proficiencies for employment or further education upon return into the community. OYA strives to offer a variety of post-secondary education opportunities for youth who reside in its facilities.

### **IV. GENERAL STANDARDS:**

#### **A. Course Offerings**

1. Each OYA facility must offer eligible youth who are not enrolled in high school at least one college class or college preparatory class or vocational training course and access to MOOC courses each academic semester.
2. The superintendent or camp director must ensure youth have access to a computer and other education materials for post-secondary education purposes outside regular high school operating hours, as needed.
3. The superintendent, camp director, or designee must ensure participating youth follow any legal requirements of courses offered with out-of-state instructors or institutions (e.g., sex offense registration laws).

- B. The superintendent, camp director, or designee must ensure VESOY staff or contractors counsel youth on post-secondary education by offering a college orientation and information on available courses, vocational training, and certificate programs.

Guidelines for youth to attain at least an associate's degree must be available.

- C. The multidisciplinary team (MDT) must review each youth's education goals during regularly scheduled MDT meetings.

1. The MDT must refer youth to VESOY staff or contractors for post-secondary education counseling as appropriate.

2. If a youth will be denied the option to take a college class or has been suspended from taking a college course, the MDT will work collaboratively to develop a plan for the youth to resume taking the course.

OYA's education and vocational coordinator must be notified when a youth is denied access to or suspended from college courses and included in the plan for the youth to resume taking courses. A youth may not be permanently removed from taking college classes.

#### D. Student Aid

1. Some youth may qualify for post-secondary education student aid. Staff may contact the Development Services education coordinator regarding possible student aid options for youth.
2. VESoy funding may be provided to help pay for post-secondary education if the superintendent, camp director, or designee can verify that a youth has applied for student aid (FAFSA), been denied, and appealed the denial.
3. OYA's education and vocational coordinator must notify educational contractors that they may use their VESoy budget to pay for an individual youth's course when youth are not eligible for FAFSA or other sources of aid following the same guidelines as listed below.
4. If sufficient funds do not exist in the educational contractor's VESoy budget, the superintendent, camp director, or designee, must refer qualified cases to the College Funding Committee for review and final approval by submitting a completed YA 4903 Application for VESoy Funds to the committee.
  - a) The College Funding Committee must review each youth request for VESoy funding.
  - b) The College Funding Committee must determine a funding agreement with each youth who receives VESoy funding to help pay for post-secondary education costs. The agreement must address the youth's commitment to finishing the class.
  - c) The College Funding Committee must ensure that youth who receive VESoy funding to help pay for post-secondary education participate in the following to reduce costs: MOOC courses; classes that are taught in person at the facility; borrow books; search and apply for scholarship money (e.g., the Oregon Promise Grant).
  - d) The College Funding Committee must ensure that youth who receive VESoy funding to help pay for post-secondary education initially are only offered one class. If the youth

successfully completes the class, the youth may take additional classes at a rate appropriate for that youth but not more than two classes per term may be paid for with VESoy funding

The committee must notify youth that they may use their trust fund accounts or family funds to pay for additional classes each term if they are able to be successful in a higher number of classes.

- e) The superintendent, camp director, education contractor or designee must ensure that VESoy funding is not used to pay for higher education credits beyond a bachelor's degree.
- f) Staff may contact the Development Services education coordinator to explore further options for funding a youth's graduate-level education (e.g., networking, scholarships, funding).
- g) To the greatest extent possible, one in-person or hybrid contracted college or vocational class must be offered to youth each term. When contracted courses are offered, tuition must not also be charged to youth for those courses.

#### E. Contributions to Youth Post-secondary Education Costs

1. Living unit managers must ensure money received for payment toward a youth's post-secondary education costs is handled according to OYA policy I-B-3.0 Youth Trust Accounts, section IV.D.3 (Special Account).

2. OYA New Beginnings Scholarship

The Oregon Student Access Commission (OSAC) administers the OYA New Beginnings scholarship fund that specifically benefits youth residing in OYA facilities. Any person may donate to this scholarship fund.

Staff may refer interested parties to the scholarship fund by giving the following information:

- a) Online donations:  
<https://oregonstudentaid.gov/donate.aspx>  
Select from scholarship dropdown list: Oregon Youth Authority New Beginnings.
- b) Donation by mail:  
Mail a check payable to "Oregon Student Access Commission" with "program #596" on the memo line to:  
Oregon Student Access Commission  
Attention: Scholarships  
1500 Valley River Drive, Ste. 100

3. OYA policy II-F-1.0 (Youth Rights [Facility]) prohibits OYA from requiring a youth to make a public statement of gratitude regarding contributions received.

F. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#) (FERPA) is a federal law that protects students' privacy by prohibiting disclosure of education records without adult consent. Advance written permission is required to release student-level information, such as student coursework, class discussions, recorded comments, and grades, if they are linked to any information that would enable a member of the school community to identify the student. Exceptions in the law allow individuals such as teachers and administrators with a legitimate educational interest in the student's record to access personally identifiable student data without prior consent.

Staff must ensure youth education records or information are not inappropriately disclosed to visitors, stakeholders, volunteers, education partners, or others who may have contact with youth. Staff may contact the Development Services education coordinator if they have questions about FERPA.

**V. LOCAL OPERATING PROTOCOL REQUIRED: NO**