Help Oregon’s most at-risk youth build better futures for themselves and their families — and make communities safer.

Reducing Crime Through Education: A Common Sense Approach

Increased public safety begins with practical solutions that divert young people from crime, help them thrive, and pave the way for stronger communities.

The justice system is like a bicycle — it works best when it can use different gears for different terrain. By using all the gears available to us, we can better reach our destination: youth who are crime-free, productive members of their communities.

One of the most effective gears to use is education. Research shows that incarcerated people who participate in educational and vocational training programs are 43 percent less likely to be arrested for another crime than those who do not. They’re also more likely to find jobs when they leave custody.*

That’s why the Oregon Youth Authority emphasizes education for youth. Using that gear helps us all get where we want to go: safer communities.

Each of OYA’s nine close-custody facilities statewide has an accredited school where students may work toward a high school diploma, GED, or college degree.

*Source: “Evaluating the Effectiveness of Correctional Education” by Lois M. Davis et al., RAND Corporation, 2013.
How You Can Help

Donate to New Beginnings

New Beginnings is a scholarship program that helps youth with no other resources pay for online college classes.

Not all youth are eligible for PELL or other education grants. New Beginnings bridges the gap between the desire to learn and the resources available. It helps youth go to college.

Your donation can make all the difference.

What kinds of classes do youth take?

Youth in the care and custody of the Oregon Youth Authority have access to all the same online classes as students anywhere. Youth get degrees in business, accounting, art, and even law. And New Beginnings can help.

College Partnerships

OYA partners with many colleges and universities to provide higher education courses and advanced training.

Chemeketa Community College
Eastern Oregon University
Lane Community College
Linn-Benton Community College
Oregon State University
Portland Community College
Portland State University
Rogue Valley Community College
Tillamook Bay Community College
Treasure Valley Community College
University of Oregon

How do I contribute?

To make a positive difference in the lives of youth in close custody, you can make a tax-deductible contribution to the New Beginnings scholarship fund. The fund is managed by the Oregon Student Access Commission (OSAC), which oversees more than 400 different types of scholarships. OSAC’s federal identification number is 93-6015581.

Donate by check:
Oregon Student Access Commission
Attn: Scholarships, Code 596
1500 Valley River Drive, Suite 100
Eugene, OR  97401

Donate online:
bit.ly/OYANewBeginnings
(Look for “Oregon Youth New Beginnings” in the dropdown menu.)