

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Pursuant to P.A. 124 of 2007
Section 909
GED Certification Rates and Improvement Plan

2007-08 Challenges Faced by MDOC Education Program:

The expectation is that in the average two-to-three year sentence, teachers will advance these undereducated prisoners by half a dozen years to attain the GED. While public schools measure success by student advancement of one grade level in a year, prisoner students are regularly advanced by two or more grade levels in a year. Thousands of prisoners/students are transformed into GED graduates in a year. The teachers of MDOC meet the challenges this population presents, and prepare prisoners for return to their communities.

MDOC correctional educators instruct a unique and challenging population. For these prisoner students, the following barriers have been identified:

- Prisoners begin their correctional education with low grade level test scores, repeated public school failures, and require a significant amount of basic academic instruction before they can begin GED preparation.
- The vast majority of these students have a history of polysubstance abuse, which is known to result in memory loss and learning difficulties.
- Custody, security, transfers and other administrative priorities impact the continuity of the education delivery process.
- A significant number of prisoners/students have mental and physical health needs that create barriers to learning.
- Many students report a previous special education history, which indicates a potential impediment to the learning process.
- Previous negative education experiences can create a poor attitude toward learning.
- Short prison sentences present challenges to the education system to get prisoners through program when starting at low levels.
- The majority of these students have not developed study habits, work ethic, or testing strategies, all of which must be taught in addition to core curricula.

2007-08 Program Improvement Plan to Overcome Challenges and Increase GED Success

ADMINISTRATION Program Oversight

Year	Improvement Plan	Status
2005-06	Monitor and review programs for consistency through school audits.	All schools were audited, received reports and developed plans to correct deficiencies.
2006-07	Begin new audit cycle with improved audit factors.	Audit schedule for 06/07 implemented.
2007-08	Continue the audit cycle	Ongoing
2005-06	Maintain curriculum committees to review/recommend program improvements.	Completed
2006-07	Restructure committees to better meet goals and objectives of education and the department	Committees restructured as of January 2007.
2007-08	Review current membership and chairs to maintain continuous improvement	Ongoing
2005-06	Focus teaching resources on effective GED preparation.	Grant funding used to standardize and expand materials.
2006-07	Require use of purchased resources that have been determined to best meet GED requirements.	School budgets and approved materials list are established to guide expenditures.
2007-08	Research best available resources for effective GED preparation	Academic committee will monitor the status of newly-distributed resource materials
2005-06	Ensure program standardization to provide minimal disruption when prisoners are transferred.	Completed
2006-07	Monitor through the audit process.	Ongoing
2007-08	Monitor through the audit process.	Ongoing
2005-06	Develop a "Fast Track" GED process where prisoners identified as high functioning are GED tested without delay.	Completed
2006-07	Enhance materials and process to optimize the "Fast Track" system.	Materials/process under review by Academic Curriculum Committee.
2007-08	Implement GED half test and GED testing at RGC and monitor effectiveness of distributed materials	In pilot status
2005-06	Establish tester positions by geographic locations to increase efficiency of testing operations.	Initial positions filled / Ongoing as needed.
2006-07	Continue to establish tester positions by geographic locations.	Ongoing positions filled as needed.
2007-08	Continue to establish tester positions by geographic locations.	Ongoing positions filled as needed.
2005-06	Maintain liaison with GED and state Adult Education offices (DLEG).	Collaboration included cross training and participation in numerous DLEG (Adult Education) statewide task forces. (Ongoing).
2006-07	Maintain active participation in DLEG task forces that impact the MDOC education system.	Ongoing
2007-08	Continue participation in the task forces and curriculum partnership	Ongoing
2005-06	Establish a goal for increased GED completions, based on school enrollment and staffing.	Completed
2006-07	Increased pass rate goal for each school.	Monitor through the school audit process.
2007-08	Maintain increased pass rates for each school. Percentage may increase or decrease depending on school staffing.	Monitor through the school audit process.

ADMINISTRATION - Continued

Program Oversight

Year	Improvement Plan	Status
2005-06	Establish a goal of 70 percent overall GED passing rate to optimize testing economics and opportunities.*	Ongoing
2006-07	Maintain goal of 70%.	Ongoing
2007-08	Maintain goal of 70%.	Ongoing
2005-06	Prioritize work of the School Psychologists: first, special education evaluations; and second, GED testing accommodations to improve GED passing rates.	Completed
2007-08	Develop contract with Marquette General Hospital to provide testing	In pilot status
2005-06	Recommend a plan to transfer prisoners at facilities whose schools have enrollment space, thus minimizing wait lists.	Completed
2006-07	Continuously monitor and work with prisoner transportation office to maintain this system to the extent possible.	Ongoing
2007-08	Continuously monitor and work with prisoner transportation office to maintain this system to the extent possible.	Ongoing
2005-06	Support the Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative in all plans and provide resources to best ensure those entering the community through participation in the initiative have their GED.	Ongoing
2006-07	Curriculum Committee chairs to take active role in MPRI planning meetings and program development. Also, to include representative from Office of Re-Entry on appropriate committee(s).	Ongoing
2007-08	Invite MPRI representatives to all appropriate Education meetings	Initiate
2006-07	Increase frequency of testing, special education and academic staff in prisons where population has increased to improve education opportunities for prisoners. Additionally, increase Central Office staff by at least (1) Special Education Consultant and possibly (1) Department Technician position.	In Progress
2007-08	Create education staffing reorganization plan	Submitted for consideration.
2006-07	Review all policies and identify need for new policy/procedures or revisions.	Under Review
2007-08	Review all policies and identify need for new policy/procedures or revisions.	In progress
2006-07	Put closure to the proposed action plan(s) developed in response to the Prisoner Education Risk Assessment that was initiated by the Prisoner Education Office in February 2006. This was done with the hope of improving efficiency and effectiveness of prisoner education.	Proposed plans were provided to administration for consideration and appropriate action.
2007-08	Put closure to the proposed action plan(s) developed in response to the Prisoner Education Risk Assessment that was initiated by the Prisoner Education Office in February 2006. This was done with the hope of improving efficiency and effectiveness of prisoner education.	Submitted for consideration.
2006-07	Train teachers statewide to improve clear/measurable written goals and objectives for each prisoner. This is critical to the continuity of programming especially since transfers are so prevalent. This will be monitored and further individualized training provided as needed to ensure compliance.	Monitor through the school audit process.
2007-08	Prepare an Academic and Vocational (CTE) in-service training	Education Steering Committee plan for training.
2006-07	Establish enrollment priorities.	In Progress
2007-08	Establish enrollment priorities.	Completed
2006-07	Review school principal positions at isolated facilities and larger schools to improve efficiency and effectiveness of prisoner education program delivery and also to increase accountability in school leadership.	
2007-08	Develop a reorganization plan for school principals.	Included in the education reorganization plan and submitted for consideration

* This allows more prisoners to take the GED and increase the probability of more passing the test. An extremely high (i.e. 100% passing rate) could mean the GED was only administered to prisoners guaranteed to pass - creating a 100% passing rate.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING

Efficiency of Enrollment and Data Collection

Year	Improvement Plan	Status
2005-06	Improve data input and output collection.	Completed - Offender Education Tracking System (OETS) implemented statewide.
2006-07	In order to improve ability to respond to educational needs, track progress, and identify program strengths and weaknesses in a timely manner, will continue ongoing development/improvement of statewide education data collection system (OETS).	OETS workgroup of practitioners established to review and reconcile to further enhance the system.
2007-08	In order to improve ability to respond to educational needs, track progress, and identify program strengths and weaknesses in a timely manner, will continue ongoing development/improvement of statewide education data collection system (OETS).	OETS enhancements submitted to DIT - Ongoing
2005-06	Optimize the ability to establish and measure outcomes.	Completed - Ongoing Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) 9 & 10 / OETS implemented.
2006-07	Continue to improve OETS and the accuracy/availability of useful data through OETS workgroup efforts and staff training.	Ongoing
2007-08	Develop statewide OETS training to improve accuracy and standardization	On hold, awaiting DIT enhancement implementation
2005-06	Monitor and review programs for consistency through mandated data entry reporting.	Random reports of selected data pulled quarterly.
2006-07	Pull random reports and follow-up, correct deficiencies as needed.	Extract and analyze reports quarterly through OETS workgroup.
2007-08	Work with DIT and DLEG to increase the rate of successful transfer of data from MDOC to MAERS	Extract and analyze reports quarterly through OETS workgroup.
2005-06	Complete annual prisoner educational surveys, in compliance with Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) adult education program recommendations.	Survey developed and system implemented.
2006-07	N/A	Ongoing
2007-08	Complete annual prisoner educational surveys, in compliance with Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) adult education program recommendations.	Ongoing
2005-06	Compile data on prisoner annual education program surveys to identify potential areas for review.	Completed - Ongoing
2006-07	Refer compiled data to Academic Curriculum committee for recommended action.	Ongoing
2007-08	Refer compiled data to Academic Curriculum committee for recommended action.	Ongoing

CURRICULUM

Program Improvement through Curriculum Design

Year	Improvement Plan	Status
2005-06	Develop a standard, individualized, and performance-based progress plotter for academic programming to further continuity, consistency, and efficiency.	Math plotter was developed
2006-07	Develop a standard, individualized, and performance-based progress plotter for remaining academic programs to further continuity, consistency, and efficiency.	Ongoing
2007-08	Develop a standard, individualized, and performance-based progress plotter for academic programming to further continuity, consistency, and efficiency.	Ongoing

CURRICULUM - Continued

Program Improvement through Curriculum Design

Year	Improvement Plan	Status
2005-06	Identify additional math/writing materials and strategies for increasing competencies, leading to a greater percentage of successful GED subtest completion.	Purchased ESL and Writing materials. Identified software that will enhance these skills but could not overcome DIT/DMB purchasing barriers even though grant-funded. "Strategies" training provided to teachers through Professional Development.
2006-07 2007-08	Continue action on 05-06 plan. Continue action on 05-06 plan.	Working with DIT & DMB to overcome purchasing barriers to add additional software that will lead to a greater percentage of successful GED completions.
2005-06 2006-07	Implement curriculum improvement as resources allow. Request best practices be submitted by each school annually.	Ongoing
2007-08	Review current research, curriculum materials and best practices to continually	Ongoing for all committees.
2007-08	Review current CTE curriculum to assure cost-effectiveness and relevance.	Ongoing for RETTE committee.
2007-08	Modify and improve Business Education Technology and Visual Graphics	Under development by RETTE committee.
2007-08	Develop operating procedure and method for reporting newly-developed levels of	Assign to RETTE committee.
2007-08	Review and update Special Education forms	Under development by Spec Ed committee.
2007-08	Review/update mandated plans of action for Special Ed students.	Under development by Spec Ed committee.
2007-08	Develop computer operations program.	Under development by RETTE committee.

TESTING MANDATES

Test Administration and Assessment Improvements

Year	Improvement Plan	Status
2006-07 2007-08	Develop a standardized "Test Taking" module to assist prisoners in overcoming anxiety and to increase potential for score improvement. Develop a standardized "Test Taking" module to assist prisoners in overcoming anxiety and to increase potential for score improvement.	To be assigned to appropriate Curriculum Committee. Under completion by the Academic Committee
2005-06 2006-07 2007-08	Mandate schools to give the full battery of GED tests to prisoners testing for the first time. Monitor compliance. Review GED test pass/fail rate for cost-effectiveness and study alternatives to increase success	Completed Under review
2005-06 2006-07 2007-08	Increase frequency of testing to ensure that schools test on a regular schedule, which would increase frequency of testing and positively impacts results. Monitor compliance. Monitor compliance.	Completed
2005-06 2006-07 2007-08	Develop a statewide, standardized testing (Test of Adult Basic Education, TABE) schedule to improve the capture and quality of achievement data in the state in order to compare with other Adult Education Programs. Evaluate the effectiveness of the new process. Evaluate the effectiveness of the new process.	Completed Assign task to appropriate Curriculum Committee. Compile data
2005-06 2006-07 2007-08	Ensure the statewide GED operating procedures provide guidelines to optimize testing. Develop guidelines for the timely and appropriate application of testing accommodations to help improve passing rates. Update the statewide GED operating procedure	Completed Assign task to Academic Curriculum Committee.
2007-08	Monitor the number of GED subtest passed by prisoners	Ongoing

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Development to Improve Program Efficiency and Effectiveness and to Optimize Data Management

Year	Improvement Plan	Status
2005-06 2006-07 2007-08	Disseminate information on current trends and mandates. Ongoing Disseminate information on current trends and mandates.	Completed Ongoing
2005-06 2006-07 2007-08	Provide training to those responsible for data entry. Provide update training annually or as need is identified. Provide update training annually or as need is identified.	Completed - Initial OETS training On hold, awaiting DIT enhancement implementation
2005-06 2006-07 2007-08	Provide additional training and materials for English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers. Provide update training annually or as need is identified. Provide update training annually or as need is identified.	Completed Ongoing
2005-06 2006-07 2007-08	Provide professional development to further improve teaching techniques, best practices, and instructional strategies. Provide update training annually or as need is identified. Provide update training annually or as need is identified.	Completed Assign task to appropriate Curriculum Committee.
2005-06 2006-07 2007-08	Provide teachers with enhanced training in the writing of clear, measurable, and effective education objectives. Provide update training annually or as need is identified. Develop a compilation of representative or sample of clear, measurable, and effective education goals and objectives.	Completed Ongoing Assign task to appropriate Curriculum Committees.
2006-07 2007-08	Distribute appropriately updated Teacher, Secretary, and School Principal Manuals. Review and update Teacher, Secretary, and School Principal Manuals.	 Assign task to appropriate subcommittees.
2006-07 2007-08	Deliver a math and writing refresher workshop for GED prep teachers. Deliver a math and writing refresher workshop for academic teachers.	 Assign task to appropriate subcommittees.
2006-07 2007-08	Training of special education and regular academic teachers regarding special education requirements and resources to help increase GED completions of special education eligible students. Training of special education and regular academic teachers regarding special education requirements and resources to help increase GED completions of special education eligible students.	Contracted outside consultant to provide training and guidance on state and federal special education requirements. Ongoing

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Michigan

Department of Corrections Annual GED Statistics

<i>Calendar year</i>	<i>State population (N) (Census Bureau Data)</i>	<i>Inmate population (N)</i>	<i>Number Tested</i>	<i>Number of Partial Battery - Passed</i>	<i>Percentage of Partial Battery - Passed</i>	<i>Passed Complete GED</i>	<i>Percentage of Completed Battery Passed (%)</i>
2002	N/A	50,591	2,686	1,654	62%	1,184	44%
2003	10,079,985	49,358	4,171	2,592	62%	1,763	48%
2004	10,112,620	48,883	4,468	2,681	60%	1,867	42%
2005	10,100,833	49,546	4,528	3,436	76%	2,358	52%
2006	10,095,643	49,862	4,012	3,334	83%	1,861	56%
Average	10,098,238	49,704	3,973	2,739	69%	1,807	45%

Reported by General Education Development Testing (GEDTS) Service for the period January through December (calendar year).

PA 124 of 2007 - Section 909	Calendar year	State population (N) (Census Bureau Data)	Inmate population (N)	Passed battery (N) ¹	Passed Battery (%) ²
*FLORIDA	2002	N/A	75,210	N/A	N/A
	2003	17,019,068	82,012	N/A	N/A
	2004	17,397,161	85,533	911	94.0%
	2005	17,768,191	49,143	622	73.6%
	2006	18,089,888	52,597	619	**65.8%
	Average	17,929,040	50,870	717	78.0%
*ARKANSAS	2002	N/A	13,091	N/A	N/A
	2003	2,725,714	13,315	N/A	N/A
	2004	2,752,629	13,807	753	72.0%
	2005	2,775,708	13,469	935	73.8%
	2006	2,810,872	13,570	791	**66.4%
	Average	2,793,290	13,520	826	71.0%
*GEORGIA	2002	N/A	47,445	N/A	N/A
	2003	8,684,715	47,208	N/A	N/A
	2004	8,829,383	51,104	1,765	77.5%
	2005	9,132,553	48,674	1,709	79.3%
	2006	9,363,941	52,792	619	**65.8%
	Average	9,248,247	50,733	1,364	74.2%
*MAINE	2002	N/A	1,900	N/A	N/A
	2003	1,305,728	2,013	N/A	N/A
	2004	1,317,253	2,024	43	83.0%
	2005	1,318,220	2,022	75	93.8%
	2006	1,321,574	2,023	62	**95.4%
	Average	1,319,897	2,023	69	91.0%
*ARIZONA	2002	N/A	29,359	N/A	N/A
	2003	5,580,811	31,170	N/A	N/A
	2004	5,743,834	32,515	1,669	88.0%
	2005	5,953,007	33,535	2,147	64.0%
	2006	6,166,318	35,794	3,756	**76.6%
	Average	6,059,663	34,665	2,524	76.2%
*TEXAS	2002	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2003	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2004	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2005	22,928,508	152,213	4,757	84.0%
	2006	23,507,783	152,889	5,155	**87.6%
	Average	23,218,146	152,551	4,956	87.6%
*CALIFORNIA	2002	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2003	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2004	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2005	36,154,147	46,184	2,187	64.0%
	2006	36,457,549	47,033	2,439	**76.6%
	Average	36,305,848	46,609	2,313	70.0%

Footnotes

¹ "Passed battery (N)": Number of GED Tests candidates who met passing scores requirements

² "Passed battery (%)" was calculated by dividing the number of GED Tests battery passers by the number of GED Tests battery completers, then multiplying that number by 100.

Info from GA Dept of Corrections (Nancy Phillips) (as of 12/31/05 and 12/31/06)

Info from AZ Dept of Corrections (Media Services) (as of 12/31/05 and 12/31/06)

Info from AR GED Administrator

Info from Maine Statistical Analysis Center (Mark Rubin) (as of 10/15/05 and 10/15/06)

* This data is self reported and estimated by states listed.

** Per GEDTS and Oklahoma Scoring data nearly 99% of all testing centers in the US had a decrease this year possibly due to new reporting processes by GEDTS. The average percentage reduction for the nation was 3.4%.

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NATIONAL AVERAGE
Average GED Battery Pass Rate

	Year	Average
NATIONAL AVERAGE GED Battery Pass Rate	2002	70.6%
	2003	70.1%
	2004	71.2%
	2005	72.1%
	2006	68.7%
	Average	70.5%
	Note: The national average calculated by GEDTS includes correctional and community adult education completions.	