## Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice

## QUICK FACTS

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner

## QUICK <br> FACTS

## CONTENTS

## I. Overview

II. Division of Education
(III. Division of Community Services
IV. Division of Secure Detention (RYDCs)
V. Division of Secure Campuses (YDCs)

V1. Division of Support Services
VII. Department of Juvenile Justice Locations

## Overview



- Operate safe and secure facilities and community services offices while providing educational opportunities and reentry guidance.
- Continue to implement Georgia's juvenile justice reform measures.
- Promote strategic recruitment, retention and succession planning.
- Establish/maintain a systematic classification process for the placement of youth.
- Promote youth reentry-focused programming and service delivery.


Secure Facilities


## Community Services Offices

29

Georgia Preparatory Academy Schools

## $4,000+$

Men and Women Employed by DJJ

The Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is a multi-faceted agency that serves the needs of the state's young offenders up to the age of 21. The Department employs more than 4,000 men and women at 26 secure facilities (19 Regional Youth Detention Centers and 7 Youth Development Campuses) and 96 Community Services Offices throughout the state to effect justice and redirect the young lives in the agency's care.

Including those placed on probation, thousands of youths are diverted each year to evidence-based community programs, sentenced to short-term incarceration and/or committed to long-term custody by Juvenile Courts. DJJ's professional corrections and law enforcement staff preserve public safety and safeguard the citizens of Georgia, as well as protect the victims of crimes so that they can rebuild their lives. DJJ holds juvenile offenders accountable for their delinquent conduct through probation, supervision and/or secure detention so that they take responsibility for their actions.

While under DJJ supervision, youth are provided with educational opportunities by some of Georgia's best teachers and administrators, as well as medical, dental and mental health treatment from qualified professionals who provide a range of services and support. DJJ also offers programs designed to equip the youth in its care with the social, intellectual and emotional tools needed to achieve their successful reentry and reintegration into community, workplace and neighborhood settings as more productive and law-abiding citizens.

## Overview

## Mission

The DJJ mission is to protect and serve the citizens of Georgia by holding young offenders accountable for their actions through the delivery of services and sanctions in appropriate settings and by supporting youth in their communities to become productive and law-abiding citizens.

## Vision

DJJ will lead the nation in preparing young people in its care to develop and sustain productive lives.

## Values

DJJ will strive to create and sustain an agency culture that values accountability, integrity, security, superior performance, ongoing personal growth, intellectual curiosity, innovation, teamwork and leadership - not only in our staff but also in the young people in our facilities and programs.

## Division of Education

DJJ helps prepare the young people in its care to develop and sustain productive lives. Providing educational opportunities and reentry-focused programming are among the agency's key goals. DJJ supports the rehabilitation of youth in its care by equipping them with tools to succeed by delivering quality education as well as job and employment readiness training.

DJJ runs Georgia's 181st school district. DJJ Commissioner Avery D. Niles serves as the Superintendent; the DJJ Board serves as the DJJ Board of Education.

DJJ's Georgia Preparatory Academy (GPA) operates 29 year-round schools which offer students academic services as they transition into and out of the DJJ system. These schools are located in RYDCs, YDCs and Education Transition Centers (ETCs). More than 6,300 juvenile offenders were enrolled in GPA classes during 2017. Most of the youth in DJJ custody are, on average, two to three years behind their peers in academic achievement.

As a result of juvenile justice reform legislation and the changes in the juvenile justice system, greater emphasis is being placed on DJJ's educational efforts. Advancements have been made in the DJJ School District and the lives of many youths have been positively influenced. Student graduations in DJJ secure facilities have become school-year celebrations.

2017 Achievements

- GED Diplomas - 61
- High School Diplomas - 25
- Technical Certificates of Credit - 24


## DJJ SCHOOL DISTRICT PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS

- Georgia Preparatory Academy (GPA) is the middle and high school program.
- Pathway to Success is the Adult Education Program. Students to study for a General Equivalency Development (GED) diploma.

The Adult Education Program enables a student to obtain a GED. Students who are at least 16 years old and meet other state-mandated criteria can take the GED tests, which are offered through local technical colleges; computerbased testing only. These tests are offered at DJJ's seven YDCs.

- The Connections Graduate Program (CGP) focuses on reentry and job readiness skills at each YDC.

GPA students with a high school diploma or GED can enroll in the CGP. It focuses on transition and re-entry. Among its components:

- GeorgiaBEST - With the Georgia Department of Labor, CGP offers Georgia Business Ethics Student Training (GeorgiaBEST), which concentrates on teaching students soft skills needed for workforce success. This certification validates to employers that students have strong work habits and are ready for the workforce.
- ServSafe - This National Restaurant Association certification enables students to obtain a job in the food industry.
- Reentry Skills Preparation and Educational Career Training (RESPECT) is designed to specifically provide reentry and transition skills to graduates at the YDCs.
- Academic/Study Preparation for Standardized Tests - GPA and CGP provides students with preparation assistance for the ACT/COMPASS/ACCUPLACER tests.
- eCore - DJJ graduates can take college courses through eCore, a curriculum of online college-level core courses accepted by all colleges in the University System of Georgia. The process to apply to a college participating in eCore is the same for DJJ students as any other student in Georgia.



## Division of Education

## GEORGIA PREPARATORY ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Accreditation - GPA is distinguished by its accreditation from AdvancED.
- Curriculum and Standards - Like students in Georgia's traditional schools, GPA students receive regular or special education services each school day. Academic instruction is standards-based and aligned with the Georgia Department of Education's Georgia Standards of Excellence.
- Performance Measures - GPA fully implements the statewide Georgia Standards of Excellence for language arts, mathematics, social studies and science. These standards are rigorous benchmarks all teachers use to guide instruction. Additionally, GPA administers the Georgia Milestones Assessments.
- Teachers and Administrators - GPA employs and recruits professionally certified, highly qualified and motivated teachers and administrators to ensure it is operating in compliance with the State's juvenile justice reforms and its educational requirements.
- Classroom Technology - Students in GPA schools receive daily instruction as they would in a more traditional setting. GPA uses instructional materials presented in exciting and interactive ways that promotes personal student involvement in the classroom:
- Smart Boards - Teachers and students are not constrained by textbooks or classroom handouts that previously limited innovative approaches to education. GPA instructors use overhead, interactive Smart Board systems in each classroom.
- Learning Responsibility - GPA also provides students in English/Language Arts classes pre-loaded Kindles with approved book assignments and a dictionary.
- Parental Involvement - DJJ educators and administrators know that parental involvement, especially in juvenile detention educational settings, can ultimately lead to significant gains in student achievement. A GPA parental engagement coordinator encourages parents to be actively involved to ensure a positive impact on their child's academic learning, to be included in school advisory committees and to help facilitate regular communication about school activities.
- ETCs - Youth leaving the DJJ School District who are no longer able to pursue their education in traditional public school settings after being suspended or expelled can enroll in a DJJ community-based ETC. The ETCs are located in Bibb, Chatham and Richmond counties. The ETCs provide youth under DJJ community supervision with opportunities to continue their education and earn course credit toward a high school diploma or GED outside of public school settings.
- Special Education Services - GPA offers a full continuum of special education services. Each student with a disability receives a psychological evaluation and an individualized education program (IEP) when appropriate. The IEP creates opportunities for teachers, parents, school administrators, related services personnel and students (when appropriate) to work together to improve educational results for students with disabilities.
- School Guidance Counselors - Each GPA has a guidance counselor who assists students through classroom guidance and academic advisement to help them move toward high school graduation. They are responsible for reviewing transcripts, approving schedules and coordinating testing. GPA guidance counselors coordinate career fairs during spring semester.
- Graduation - GPA holds two graduation ceremonies per year. DJJ transports graduates from across the state to a central facility for an opportunity to celebrate their graduation honors. DJJ wants deserving students to be recognized for their academic achievement during commencement ceremonies.
- Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) - DJJ provides CTAE programs linked to meaningful employment opportunities while students are still earning their high school diploma or GED. Georgia Preparatory Academy has relationships with several technical colleges that administer programs that lead to certifications. Students are dually enrolled in CTAE programs at the Augusta, Eastman, Macon and Sumter YDCs and they can receive a Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC). Among the TCC courses offered are automotive maintenance, collision repair, computer applications, cosmetology, construction and horticulture. There are also high school CTAE programs at Atlanta and Muscogee YDCs. Students can complete high school pathways in business and technology and earn Microsoft Office Specialist credentials.


# Division of Community Services 

The Division of Community Services provides youth who are under DJJ supervision with intake, counseling, probation, case management, detention planning and after-care supervision services in most of Georgia's 159 counties. The Division has 96 Community Services Offices (CSOs) and also includes the Office of Reentry Services (ORS) to assist youth as they transition from a DJJ secure facility to the community.

Since the 2014 implementation of the Georgia Juvenile Justice Reform Act, the number of youth participating in community-based services has increased. This has created an additional demand for DJJ evidence-based services that should result in a reduction in juvenile recidivism rates over time.

## 96 Community Services Offices Across Georgia

10,165<br>\section*{YOUTH SUPERVISED} (ON AVERAGE) DAILY BY THE DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



Daily Supervision - Division of Community Services
$\square$ In adult jails

In DJJ Youth Development Campuses

In DJJ Regional Youth Detention Centers

In community, non-secure residential placements

In the community, at-home and under supervision

## DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Intake (court admission process including detention decision-making and diversion)
- Secure detention alternatives (monitor the status of youth in detention and offer alternatives to judges)
- Non-secure detention (electronic monitoring and group home placements)
- Probation supervision
- Commitment supervision
- School-based supervision (probation officers in 75 schools in 33 school districts)
- High Intensity Team Supervision (41 HITS units)
- Juvenile sex offender community supervision (an average of more than 400 per month)
- Residential placement (room, board and watchful oversight and/or psychiatric residential treatment facilities for an average of more than 300 youth per month)
- After-care supervision and services for youth returning from DJJ Youth Development Campuses and Residential placements


## Division of Community Services

THE DIVISION USES A NUMBER OF TOOLS AND PROGRAMS TO IMPLEMENT JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORMS AND IMPROVE THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM. AMONG THEM ARE:

- Adult detention facility monitoring - An annual site inspection is completed at the 182 Georgia adult detention facilities that temporarily hold or detain juveniles or Children in Need of Services (CHINS).
- Youth Tracking Program - Tracking services (provided by private contractors) provide intensive surveillance and monitoring, allowing juvenile offenders to remain at home pending further court action. Face-to-face tracking contacts in the home, neighborhood, work or school are made at least daily, along with a telephone curfew check.
- Evening Reporting Center (ERC) - This 90-day program services youth ages 12-16 who have medium- to high-risk levels of re-offense. The ERC reduces the likelihood of re-offending and allows non-secure detention and committed youth to remain in the community as an alternative to secure detention. The ERC is located in Lowndes County.
- Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) - An evidence-based intensive treatment program to address environmental systems impacting medium- and high-risk juvenile offenders ages 12-17 with lengthy delinquency histories and serious anti-social behavior. MST services are delivered in the home, school and neighborhood, emphasizing behavior change in the youth's environment, which includes family and peers. This $24 / 7$ service provides counselors available to respond immediately to crisis situations.
- High Intensity Team Supervision (HITS) - a community-based, in-home detention placement alternative for community-supervised youth. HITS team supervision strategies include at housebound detention alternative, electronic monitoring, curfew checks, drug and alcohol testing, crisis management, evidence-based programming and home, school, work and office visits.
- School-based supervision - DJJ collaborates with county school systems at more than 75 school-based supervision sites. Youth in the program are monitored for important outcomes such as decreases in dropout rates, truancy, suspensions and expulsions and corresponding increases in grades and graduation rates. High school completion is closely correlated with a successful adult life and no further involvement in criminal activity.
- Thinking for a Change - An evidence-based program that includes social skills development, cognitive restructuring and the development of problem-solving skills.
- Aggression Replacement Training - A cognitive behavioral intervention program designed to help aggressive adolescents aged 12-17 improve their social skills competence and moral reasoning, better manage anger and reduce aggressive behavior.
- Rural evidence-based programming - DJJ is implementing evidence-based programming grants to expand services for medium and high-risk youth in rural areas.
- Education Transition Centers (ETCs) - ETCs in Bibb, Chatham and Richmond counties provide an alternative educational setting for youth re-entering public school or transitioning back to their community.

The Office of Reentry Services (ORS) is responsible for the successful transition of youths back to their families and communities.

Reentry Planning and Transition Plan - DJJ facilitates the reentry planning process and also a youth's connections to services and support for up to 60 days post-release. The ORS is focused on the transition plan, which is a youth's roadmap to success. The transition plan is a "living document" detailing the programs and services needed by each youth for successful reentry.

Resource Map - A recently developed resource map provides youth, family and staff with a searchable database of community-based programs and services.
Reentry Taskforce - ORS oversees DJJ's Reentry Task Force, which is comprised of more than 60 state and non-profit agencies. The Task Force provides support in the areas of policy, barriers and services.

## Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice

## Division of Secure Detention (RYDCs)

DJJ's Regional Youth Detention Centers (RYDCs) provide temporary, secure care and supervision to youth who have been charged with offenses or who have been adjudicated delinquent and are awaiting placement. In addition, youth who have been committed to the custody of DJJ are sometimes placed in an RYDC while awaiting treatment in a community program or a long-term facility.

DJJ's regional administrators and RYDC directors ensure that each RYDC follows departmental policy and procedures and provides quality services in the following areas: medical, behavioral health, education, nutrition and general programming.

Total RYDC Admissions (Calendar Year 2012-2017)


## Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice

## Division of Secure Detention

## RYDC LOCATIONS

| Facility | Capacity |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Augusta | 22 Males $/ 8$ Females | County |
| Claxton | 70 Males | Evans |
| Glaze (Clayton) | 48 Males $/ 16$ Females | Clayton |
| Cohn (Columbus) | 48 Males | Muscogee |
| Crisp | 22 Males $/ 8$ Females | Crisp |
| Shaw (Dalton) | 64 Males | Whitfield |
| DeKalb | 30 Males | DeKalb |
| Eastman | 48 Males $/ 16$ Females | Hall |
| Gainesville | 48 Males $/ 16$ Females | Bibb |
| Macon | 60 Males $/ 10$ Females | Cobb |
| Marietta | 150 Males $/ 50$ Females | DeKalb |
| Metro | 52 Males | Rockdale |
| Rockdale | 48 Males $/ 16$ Females | Floyd |
| Richards (Rome) | 84 Males $/ 16$ Females | Chatham |
| Savannah | 48 Males $/ 8$ Females | Terrell |
| Terrell County | 22 Males $/ 8$ Females | Thomas |
| Loftiss (Thomasville) | 22 Males $/ 8$ Females | Ware |
| Waycross | 40 Males /8 Females | Washington |
| Wilkes |  |  |

TOTAL CAPACITY: 990 Males / 188 Females

## Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice

## Division of Secure Campuses (YDCs)

Each Youth Development Campus (YDC) provides secure care, supervision and treatment services to the youths who have been committed to DJJ custody for short-and long-term programs.

YDC PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
Each YDC provides education, vocational programming, health and mental health treatment, food services, resident counseling, substance abuse treatment/counseling and family visitation, among other services to the youth under its care.

Educational services include middle school and high school courses, GED study classes, vocational education courses and counseling. Additional programming includes activities such as Girl Scouts, Beat the Streets (a youth fitness initiative) and Rescue 2 Restore (a community partnership focused on animal rescue care).

Total YDC Admissions (Calendar Year 2012-2017)


## Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice

## Division of Secure Campuses



2017 - Youth Releases
(\# of Youth Transitioning to Community)

## YDC LOCATIONS

| Facility | Capacity | County |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Atlanta | 80 Males | Fulton |
| Augusta | 100 Males | Richmond |
| Eastman | 256 Males | Dodge |
| Macon | 70 Females | Bibb |
| Milledgeville | 30 Males | Baldwin |
| Muscogee | 60 Males | Muscogee |
| Sumter | 150 Males | Sumter |

## TOTAL CAPACITY: 676 Males / 70 Females

Note: Number of youth currently in a RYDC awaiting placement to a YDC - 119 (118 males; 1 female)

# Division of Support Services 

The Division of Support Services (DSS) provides evidence- and best practice-based services to youth served by DJJ. The division consists of the Office of Behavioral Health Services (OBHS), Office of Classification and Transportation Services (OCATS), Office of Health Services (OHS) and the Office of Nutrition and Food Services (ONFS).

## OBHS

OBHS provides behavioral health treatment services and programs that adhere to current best practices and meet the identified needs of the youth in DJJ's care. OBHS program areas include:

- Mental Health - each secure facility:
- Has a mental health treatment team: mental health clinicians, psychiatrist, psychologist, registered nurse, substance abuse counselors (YDCs only)
- Utilizes various individual and group mental health treatment programs


## - Programs

- Provide counseling and case management at all facilities
- Utilize evidence-based interventions
- Sexual Offender Treatment (YDCs only)
- Assessment/treatment specific to sexually harmful behaviors
- 43 sexually harmful youth completed treatment and were released from a YDC in 2017
- Substance Abuse Treatment (YDCs only)
- Residential substance abuse treatment for youth with intensive treatment needs
- Weekly group counseling
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- Behavior management system utilizing reinforcement of positive behaviors and youth strengths


## OCATS

## OCATS provides a variety of services:

- Review/monitor Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC) populations
- Administer assessment tools upon commitment, coordinating and chairing the screening committee meetings
- Process youth for the Short-Term Program
- Process Superior Court youth
- Placement of youth in Youth Development Campuses (YDCs) utilizing DJJ assessment tools
- Process YDC requests and YDC extensions
- Provide safe transport of youth between secure facilities, to medical appointments, interviews and other appointments as available, as well as to special events such as GPA graduations, Commissioner's Youth Council meetings, etc.


## 2017 Facts \& Figures <br> Number of transports - 3,510 <br> Number of miles driven - 562,555

## Division of Support Services

## 2017 Facts \& Figures

## Number of youth provided mental health treatment during 2017

- RYDCs: 2,628
- YDCs: 653
- Number of youth provided sex offender treatment during 2017-142
- Number of youth provided substance use treatment during 2017 at YDCs - Intervention - 287
- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment - 239


## OHS

OHS provides clinical and administrative oversight in medical care, nursing, physician and advanced practice providers, pharmacy, laboratory and radiology services through a contract with Augusta University/Department of Correctional Healthcare - Juvenile Health

Medical services:

- Ensure DJJ youth in secure facilities receive medical and dental care according to DJJ policy and national standards
- Coordinate services (pharmacy, radiology and laboratory services; access to specialty care and hospitalization)
- Daily sick call visits and chronic care clinics by medical staff
- Infection control and health education for youth
- Tattoo removal program for successful re-entry of youth to community

Dental care is provided through OHS and by dental contract.

## 2017 Facts \& Figures

- Sick calls - 20,948
- Chronic care visits (asthma, cardiac, dermatology, diabetes, gastrointestinal, hypertension, seizure, and sickle cell anemia) - 9,870
Nurse health appraisals - 9,516
Physical examinations - 5,034
- Dental examinations -5,122
- Dental cleanings - 3,694


## ONFS




ONFS provides nutritionally sound meals that meet USDA guidelines for the National School Meal Programs, offer variety and flavor, and are prepared utilizing food safety practices. The primary focuses of ONFS include:

- Providing youth with nutritionally balanced meals and snacks that meet USDA guidelines, including offering a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables, whole grains, a choice of $1 \%$ unflavored or fat-free flavored milk, and minimum levels of sodium and saturated fats
- Ensuring food safety practices are enforced through staff training, employing ServSafe-certified managers and scheduled site audits
- Participating in USDA national breakfast, lunch and afterschool care programs, allowing DJJ to receive federal reimbursement for these meals
- Monitoring and developing medically necessary special diet menus to ensure youth safety and nourishment
- Oversight of the statewide wellness program, which emphasizes the importance of overall health through educational materials and youth events

2017 Facts \& Figures<br>- Total meals served - 1,559,152

## Community Services Offices \& Secure Facilities



## DJJ CONTACT INFORMATION



Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice 3408 Covington Highway Decatur, Georgia 30032

Office: 404-508-6500
Fax: 404-508-7289
www.djj.state.ga.us

