



FY2008 RECOMMENDATION/FY08-L05 REMOVE BARRIERS TO EDUCATION FUNDING

Status: Implementation Complete

Actions/Updates

2010 UPDATE

Implementation complete. Data unavailable to determine impact, however. The Department of Correction officials report that it will continue to work with DOC case managers and education staff to further implement this recommendation.

2009 ACTION/IMPLEMENTATION

The Department of Corrections reports that approximately 450 inmates enrolled in college courses as of May 2009. HB 09-1264 enables either private pay or grant funded tuition for inmates to be paid directly to the colleges or universities, and DOC will track inmate enrollment and progress (grades). DOC anticipates that there will be an increase of offenders enrolled in colleges and universities as a result of HB 09-1264.

2009 IMPACT

Data to determine if there is an increase of offenders enrolled in colleges and universities as a result of HB 09-1264 will be available from DOC at the end of FY 2010.

2009 BARRIERS

The Department of Corrections reports that implementation of this recommendation requires expansion of current programs. DOC pays approximately \$30 per student for post-secondary education.

Description

Any statutory impediment to inmates' access to or funding of post-secondary education should be eliminated.

Agencies Responsible

General Assembly, individual offender

Discussion

This recommendation was successfully implemented with the passage of House Bill 09-1264 which removed a statutory barrier that disallowed individuals in prison to receive grants or

other funding to enroll in college classes. When financial aid or scholarships are not available, the inmate must pay for higher education classes.