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## Juvenile Services Education Program (JSEP)

During the 2021 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed SB 497, Chapter 145, Juvenile Services Education Board and Program, into law. The legislation transitioned the responsibility of implementing a juvenile services education program from the Maryland Department of Education (MSDE) to the Juvenile Services Education Program (JSEP) Board. SB 497 further stipulated that JSEP would be housed within the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), with DJS having the responsibility of providing support to JSEP in the following eight areas: information and technology services; procurement services; fiscal services; capital planning and capital budgeting; human resources; facility and office maintenance; research and program evaluation; and investigating and monitoring.

JSEP is an independent unit within DJS. JSEP oversees and provides educational services to all youth in DJS-operated detention and committed treatment facilities.

Data reported for the DRG has been broken down into 4 quarters to reflect the Fiscal year. Typically, JSEP reports its data in a 5-session format, highlighting all 4 academic quarters and the summer session.

### **Vision:**

We believe in the potential of every student. JSEP schools facilitate individualized education that builds on students' strengths, preparing them for continued success and positive engagement in their communities.

### **Mission:**

The Juvenile Services Education Board will provide leadership, set policy, and advocate to ensure the Juvenile Services Education Program:

- Provides individualized education
- Prepares students to engage with their communities successfully
- Collaborates with youth, families, communities, and other stakeholders
- Ensures the effectiveness of school-based professionals
- Utilizes innovative practices and data-driven decision-making

### **Juvenile Services Education Program Board**

The Juvenile Services Education Program Board comprises 11 members, including the Secretary of DJS and the State Superintendent of MSDE. The Governor appoints five board members with the advice and consent of the Senate. Appointed Board members meet monthly and serve four-year terms.

Generally, JSEP Board responsibilities include:

- Appointing the JSEP Superintendent;
- Developing accredited education programs;
- Reviewing quality assurance reports;
- Conducting performance reviews of the Superintendent every four years; and
- Approving the education curriculum, including post-secondary education, vocational, and online programs.

### **Student Outcomes and Measures**

Data critical to JSEP are collected throughout the fiscal year to provide the information needed to make effective policies and educational decisions regarding school improvement and student achievement. Data are collected and analyzed to ensure that JSEP is progressing toward achieving satisfactory performance levels in key student growth and success areas. These areas reflect JSEP's goal to accelerate student achievement in preparation for a successful return to the community. Data collected during FY 2023 include: the number of academic credits, post-secondary enrollments, service learning hours, Accuplacer (reading and math), students served (middle school, high school), Career and Technical Education (CTE) certificates students obtained while in JSEP, and the passing rate for GED subtests.

### **Data Quality**

JSEP data are reported in two formats. Data outcomes such as attendance, grades, and credits are stored within the student information system (SIS) and retrieved when needed. All JSEP schools also submit a monthly report covering various data points, including post-secondary

information. All data are reviewed and analyzed weekly, discussed quarterly with program leadership to inform school performance, and reported as school performance measures at the end of each fiscal year.

**PowerSchool:**

JSEP uses PowerSchool as its SIS. PowerSchool provides real-time analytics based on student performance. PowerSchool creates report cards, transcripts, and progress reports, and monitors progress in grade books, attendance, reports, and state standardized exams.

**Earning Credits Toward High School Graduation:**

Students enrolled in JSEP Schools are offered various opportunities to meet their educational goals. Many students enrolled in JSEP schools are over-aged and under-credited based on educational placement. JSEP offers credit opportunities through contracted courses throughout the school year, where students may earn full or partial credit toward high school graduation. Courses can be taken for original credit or as recovery to compensate for lost credits. Courses are conducted face-to-face, in a blended learning environment, or entirely online, depending on each student’s needs and course availability. JSEP offers courses aligned to the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards (MDCCRS). A list of core courses can be found below.

**Credit Attainment:**

Students who enter JSEP schools continue their path to graduation as if they had remained in their Local Educational Agency (LEA). Students are enrolled in their required courses and continue to earn credits based on the state and local graduation requirements. Final course grades are a weighted average of students’ grades in their LEA and JSEP courses.

**CORE CONTENT AREA COURSES OFFERED**

English Language Arts	Mathematics	Social Studies	Science
English 9	Algebra I	Modern World History	Biology
English 10	Geometry	United States History	Earth & Space Science
English 11	Algebra II	American Government	Conceptual Chemistry
English 12			

**CREDITS EARNED, FY 2023**

Credits Earned During FY 2023			
Summer Session	1st Semester	2nd Semester	Total
443	482.5	1,123.5	2,049.0

**GED:**

For some students, the path to a high school diploma is the GED process. The GED exam is administered through Pearson VUE. Pearson VUE-certified testing administrators manage all JSEP Pearson VUE testing sites and comply with GED Testing Services, Pearson VUE, and the Maryland Department of Labor and Licensing. This process is an alternative path for age-appropriate students to earn a high school diploma. The JSEP curriculum, which aligns with MDCCRS, Next Generation Science Standards, and Maryland Social Studies Standards and Framework, allows students to prepare for each GED subject (Math, Science, Reasoning through Language Arts, and Social Studies) and build confidence step by step. In addition, students have access to supplemental instructional material and online pre-GED examinations that address skills deficiencies and test readiness. Once all testing qualifications are met, students are registered at no cost to the student and tested. Students must pass all four modules of the GED to obtain their diploma. Schools provided a graduation ceremony and invited families to attend.

- *The GED Mobile Lab*

JSEP planned, constructed, and implemented two Pearson VUE-approved GED Mobile Labs, allowing JSEP to administer all four sections of the GED exam at remote locations. The GED mobile is a testing site and functions at all JSEP schools.

## Juvenile Services Education Program (JSEP) (cont.)

- Aztec**

Aztec’s GED Prep Series utilizes ongoing test data to generate and continuously adapt highly sensitive individual learning plans. Students work autonomously and benefit from a comprehensive and well-articulated curriculum to heighten their learning motivation. Teachers can utilize student learning plans to augment instruction and remediate individual skill gaps.

GED Pass Rates*, FY 2023				
1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
89%	67%	58%	67%	74%

\* Reflects students who took the full GED exam (all four sections).

### Post-Secondary:

JSEP works to identify the unique educational and employment needs and goals of each Post-Secondary student. Students can complete college placement tests, earn industry-recognized certifications, or complete specialized training in-person or virtually. Student options include credit-bearing college courses, non-credit-bearing workforce development, and continuing education courses through our partnerships with Garrett College, Frederick Community College, Anne Arundel Community College, and the Community College of Baltimore County.

Post-Secondary Enrollments, FY 2023				
1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
2	21	22	25	70

### Accuplacer:

Accuplacer is a post-secondary assessment given by JSEP to help colleges assess student readiness for introductory credit-bearing courses and make reliable placement decisions for students.

Accuplacer Test Administered, FY 2023				
1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
5	0	4	6	15

### Career and Technical Education (CTE):

JSEP students enroll in the Career Research and Development (CRD) CTE pathway. Using Maryland’s Career Development model, this CTE program allows students to explore potential career opportunities across various industries through self-awareness, career awareness, and exploration. It emphasizes the importance of academic and career goal-setting. Course content integrates competencies needed to be successful in an increasingly competitive, globalized workplace. Students are introduced to job readiness, job seeking, job keeping, and career advancement.

### Special Education:

JSEP provides a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to students with disabilities per the Code of Maryland Annotated Regulations (COMAR) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). JSEP implements all special education modifications and accommodations in a student’s IEP and complies with all special education laws and regulations. JSEP students with disabilities receive specially designed instruction in the least restrictive environment (LRE) and are provided with supplemental aids and services to maximize participation in

grade-level learning. JSEP is committed to educating students with disabilities within the DJS setting. This commitment includes providing instruction to students in the LRE with the services and supports needed to facilitate access to the general education curriculum, access to rigor, and access to skill attainment to promote positive post-secondary outcomes. Students enrolled in JSEP schools are provided instruction in core content areas and access to designated career technology education courses in alignment with the Maryland CCRS. All coursework is comparable to coursework offered within the other 24 local school systems in Maryland. In FY 2023, there were a total of 398 students who received special education services through JSEP.

**Student Outcomes Summary:**

Outcomes	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
GED Pass Rate*	89%	67%	58%	67%	74%
Certifications & Certificates Issued	42	35	75	24	194
Service Learning Hours	517.2	850	701	969.5	3,038
Accuplacer Test Administered	5	0	4	6	15
Post-Secondary Enrollments	2	21	22	25	70
Post-Secondary Credits Completed	0	26	15	19	60
Number of Students Served**	894	494	568	545	1,253
		Summer	1st Semester	2nd Semester	Total
Credits Earned		443	482.5	1,123.5	2,049.0

\* Reflects students who took the full GED exam (all four sections).

\*\* Students can be served across multiple quarters based on length of stay; therefore youth are counted multiple times if served in multiple quarters. Data for the 1st Quarter also include the summer due to the measurement dates.