

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

PRISON ADULT EDUCATION

A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT BETWEEN THE DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION AND THE DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Prison Adult Education

2023 Annual Report

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Prison Adult Education

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Prison Adult Education

Mission

The mission of prison education is to offer a quality adult education program that will provide an educational foundation to enable offenders to be productive workers, family members, and citizens while incarcerated and upon release from prison.

(August 2000)

In July 2000, the Department of Education (DOE) assumed responsibility for Prison Adult Education. In 2001, the program was officially recognized as a collaborative effort between the Department of Education and the Department of Correction, with each agency accorded specific responsibilities to facilitate program operations. In June 2014, the Prison Educational Unit was created within the Department of Education.

Prison Education services are offered at Baylor Women's Correctional Institution (BWCI), Sussex Correctional Institution (SCI), James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC), and Howard R. Young Correctional Institution (HRYCI).

Offenders receive various educational services focused on academics, vocational training, and life skills that support successful re-entry upon release. Through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) component, offenders receive instruction directed towards passing the GED® Test. To facilitate learner progress, all offenders are pre-tested for current Math, Reading, and Writing functioning levels. Based on scores, learners are placed in the appropriate educational functioning level (EFL) and progress towards a secondary credential, GED®, through the attainment of Certificates of Attainment (COAs). The Adult Basic Education component of the program adheres to the U.S. Department of Education/Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education negotiated performance targets and reporting requirements as mandated in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Title II (2014).

Students with a secondary credential/GED®, high school credits, or score 9.0 GLE on the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) can attend the James H. Groves Adult High School. Students receive high school diplomas upon completing the state's high school graduation requirements. The Prison Education James H. Groves Adult High School is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools.

Various vocational courses are offered to prepare offenders for employment upon release. During the 2022 – 2023 school year, the following were offered:

- Auto Tech at JTVCC
- Culinary Arts at JTVCC and BWCI
- Microsoft Office at JTVCC, BWCI and SCI
- Aller-Train at BWCI
- Flagger certification courses at BWCI, JTVCC, SCI and HRYCI
- Certified Logistics Associate/Warehouse at SCI
- Youth Apprenticeship Project at HRYCI
- Delaware Technical Community College Second Chance Pell Project at BWCI and SCI

Students at BWCI and SCI participated in college courses offered by Delaware Technical and Community College. DTCC presented virtual instruction for an Associate's Degree in General Studies through this project. Students attended virtual orientations, FASFA sessions, and college-level academic content courses. For many, participation in this project was the first opportunity to attend college. Students completed the courses successfully, which motivated them to strive for goals they thought were unattainable.

In addition, Prison Education staff facilitated other post-secondary courses for students enrolled in nationally or regionally accredited higher education institutions. Staff coordinated services between the college and the student, e.g., proctoring tests, using computers for assignments, and monitoring instructional materials.

Eligible students with special needs received special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This year, three students were served.

Throughout the year, DOE and DOC worked collaboratively to provide students with instruction in preparation for their successful re-entry back to their communities. To understand better the quality and equity of our services from the student perspective, we continued to survey students on their needs and conducted focus groups.

- BWCI asked students to prioritize their needs upon release to determine what community resources could be included in class instruction to assist students with their needs. Housing was designated as the #1 priority. As a result, staff have contacted housing providers to compile available options.
- JTVCC surveyed students and discovered that bullying was a concern to students. Staff are compiling bullying curriculums and materials developed for adults and will share that with students.

- SCI hired a bilingual tutor and teacher to support students whose primary language was not English.
- HRYCI found that many students did not have driver's licenses and worked on strategies to assist students in attaining a driver's license to increase employability options upon release.

FY 23 also demonstrated the Prison Education Program's commitment to expanding opportunities offered to offenders to increase their employability upon release:

- Through the HOPES Project, the Prison Education Program partnered with the Delaware Restaurant Association, DOC, the Food Bank of Delaware, and Project New Start to implement additional Culinary Arts training. In addition, in-reach services were implemented to assist re-entering residents with further education and/or employment upon release at BWCI and HRYCI.
- Through the Youth Apprenticeship Project, skilled trades and OSHA training were offered to youthful offenders at HRCYI.
- Through the ARES grant, students self-reported their needs for "soft" skills, e.g., punctuality, attendance, interpersonal skills, and positive attitudes on employability surveys. Teachers were also surveyed to evaluate student performance in these areas. The students' and teachers' scores were similar, revealing a shared understanding of the importance of "soft" skills for continued employment.
- BWCI partnered with Tech Impact to provide CX Works (customer services training) to students, focusing on expanding job options upon release.

The Prison Education Program will continue searching for new initiatives that assist offenders in being positive family and community members upon release, reducing recidivism, and providing skilled workers to meet local employer needs.

Prison Adult Education

Delaware Correctional Reentry Commission

On December 4, 2018, Governor John Carney signed Executive Order #27, establishing the Delaware Correctional Reentry Commission (DCRC). DCRC aims to “oversee the implementation and further development of the State’s comprehensive strategic reentry initiatives.” In DCRC 2.0, which extends from 2021 - 2024, three committees of multiple state agencies work collaboratively in medical and behavioral health, housing, and education and employment. In addition, the Executive Committee’s responsibilities include recidivism data analysis, identification of strategies that reduce return to custody, increased awareness of and response to trauma among justice-involved populations, engagement of reentrants in reentry reform work, and expanded capacity of community providers to support reentry work.

The objectives of the Education and Employment Committee, comprised of staff from the Departments of Correction, Labor, and Education, include (1) strengthening vocational training options that meet the needs of local employers; (2) increasing the number of students earning secondary education credentials; (3) expanding the Second Chance Pell Program through which Delaware Technical and Community College offers post-secondary courses to eligible students; (4) strengthening the connections to work for inmates completing vocational training while incarcerated; and (5) determining post-release employment rates.

Outcomes to date include:

- the expansion of DTCC courses leading to an Associate Degree in General Studies at BWCI and SCI;
- the addition of new vocational training courses such as Certified Logistics Associate/Warehouse Operations and Customer Service;
- increased numbers of incarcerated students earning their secondary educational credentials (GED®s) throughout the system;
- an increase in “in reach” services offered by community providers to be continued upon release;
- compilation and sharing of data reflecting vocational training offerings from 2017- 2022 for the post-release employment rate project and
- the creation of employer advisory committees to guide career trends that inform vocational training curricula.

Prison Adult Education

Prison Adult Education Delivery Model

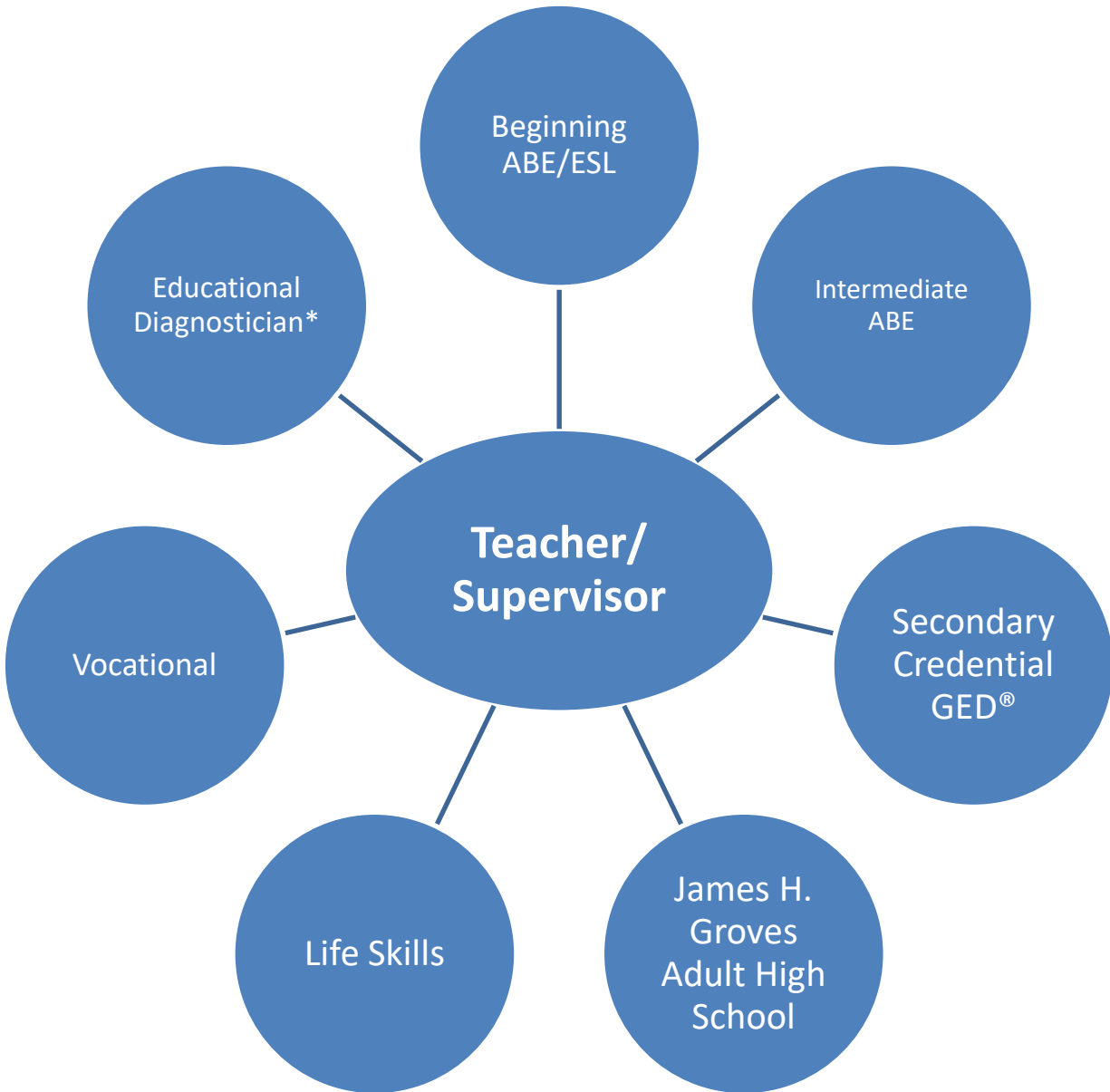


Prison Education is an integral component of the Delaware Adult Education system, funded from state and federal allocations. This education model provides a seamless process that fosters the transition of offenders from the correctional facility to a community program upon release. A graphic representing the various educational offerings follows on page 6. Life Skills teachers and educational diagnosticians in the Prison Adult Education programs enhance correctional services by adding re-entry and special education resources. These resources address decision-making life issues related to positive re-integration into the community and the special learning needs of those covered under the Individuals with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Statewide curricula developed by adult educators for Adult Basic Education (ABE), English-as-a-Second Language (ESL), and the James H. Groves Adult High School (Groves programs) are used in the Prison Adult Education Program. Prison adult educators have been involved in all aspects of curriculum development.

Special education services provide eligible offenders access to free and appropriate public education until the end of the school year when the student becomes 22 years old.

Prison Adult Education Model



* Special education services

Prison Adult Education

Instructional Program Services

Each component is designed to serve a different educational need. The different components are

English as a Second Language (ESL)

English-as-a-Second-Language provides instruction to improve English language proficiency and academic skills for adults whose primary language is not English.

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

Adult Basic Education provides instruction to improve the academic skills of adults with less than 9th-grade level skills.

Secondary Credential Preparation

The GED[®] exam is the only DDOE-approved assessment for secondary credential attainment. This preparation component provides an opportunity to learn and demonstrate College and Career Readiness skills that lead to completing the current GED[®] exam.

James H. Groves Adult High School (Groves)

The James H. Groves Adult High School is Delaware's statewide secondary adult high school. It is approved by the Delaware State Board of Education and is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. James H. Groves Adult High School provides educational opportunities at the high school level that lead to graduation with a diploma.

Special Education Services

Special education services are provided to qualifying individuals. Services follow the State of Delaware guidelines for students determined to have a specific disability for which additional educational resources and services are needed. Individual Education Programs (IEPs) are developed for eligible learners to support academic progress.

Prison Adult Education

Instructional Program Services (Continued)

Life Skills

Life Skills, which incorporates Moral Reconciliation Therapy, provides training to participants enrolled in the program. Program completers gain the skills to assume responsibility for making positive choices for the future.

Vocational Skills

Vocational Skills offers occupational skills instruction. Competencies gained assist participants in securing employment upon release from the institution. There are also opportunities for learners to obtain specialized employment within the facility after obtaining vocational skills.

College Level Courses

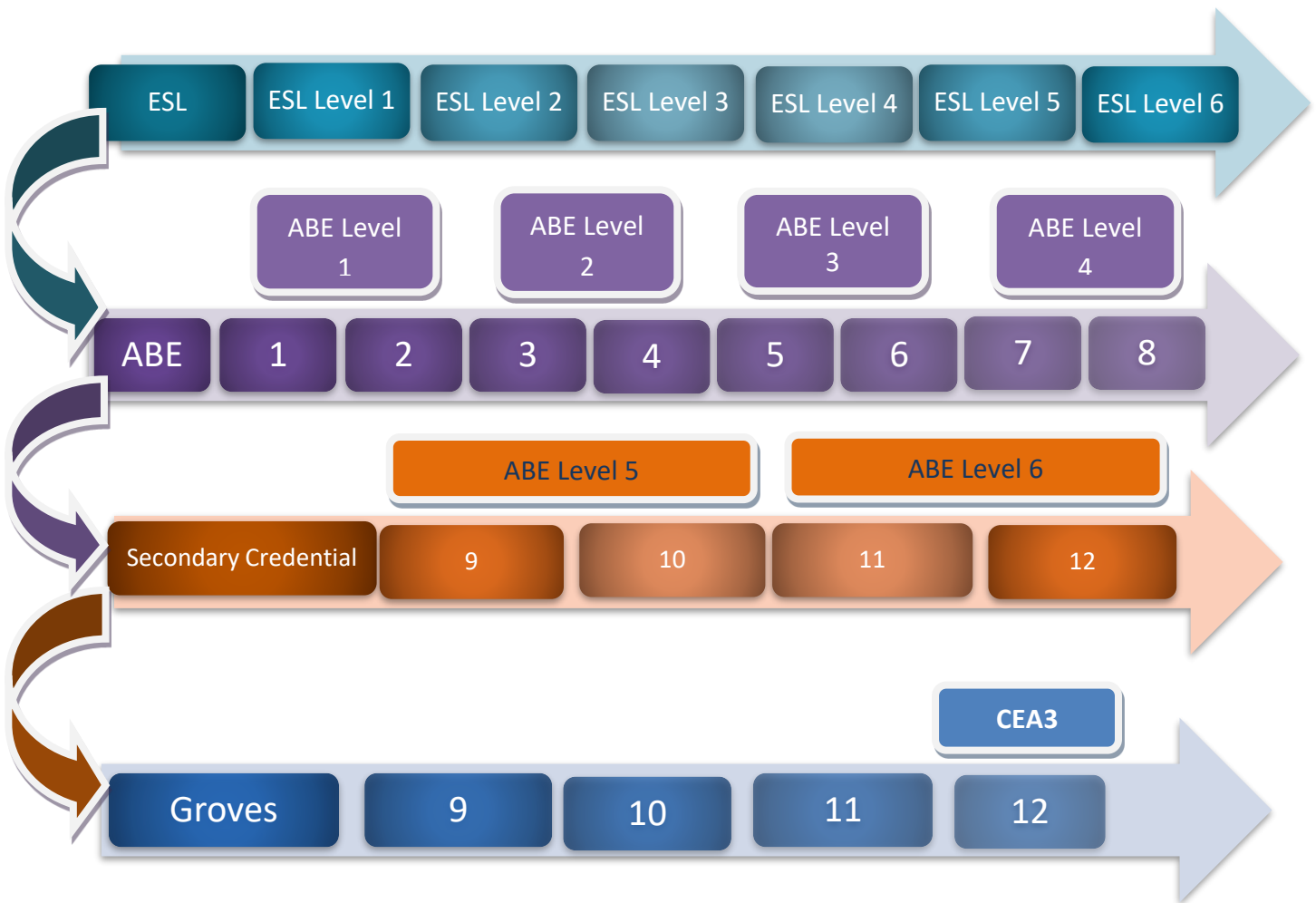
This year the Prison Education Program continued its partnership with DOC and Delaware Technical Community College to support a distance learning pilot offering courses towards an Associates' Degree in General Studies to students at the Baylor Women's Correctional Institution and the Sussex Correctional Institution.

The prison education staff also assisted offenders in completing courses from regionally or nationally recognized higher education institutions. Staff proctored exams, monitored materials sent from the colleges, acted as liaisons between the college and student, and/or designated students who would benefit from course participation. Higher education institutions such as the University of Delaware, Washington College, Adams State University, and Ohio University allowed students to earn college credits through correspondence.

Prison Adult Education

Alignment of Prison Adult Education Academic Programming to Grade Levels

The prison educational model aligns with K-12 grade levels as depicted in the graphics below:

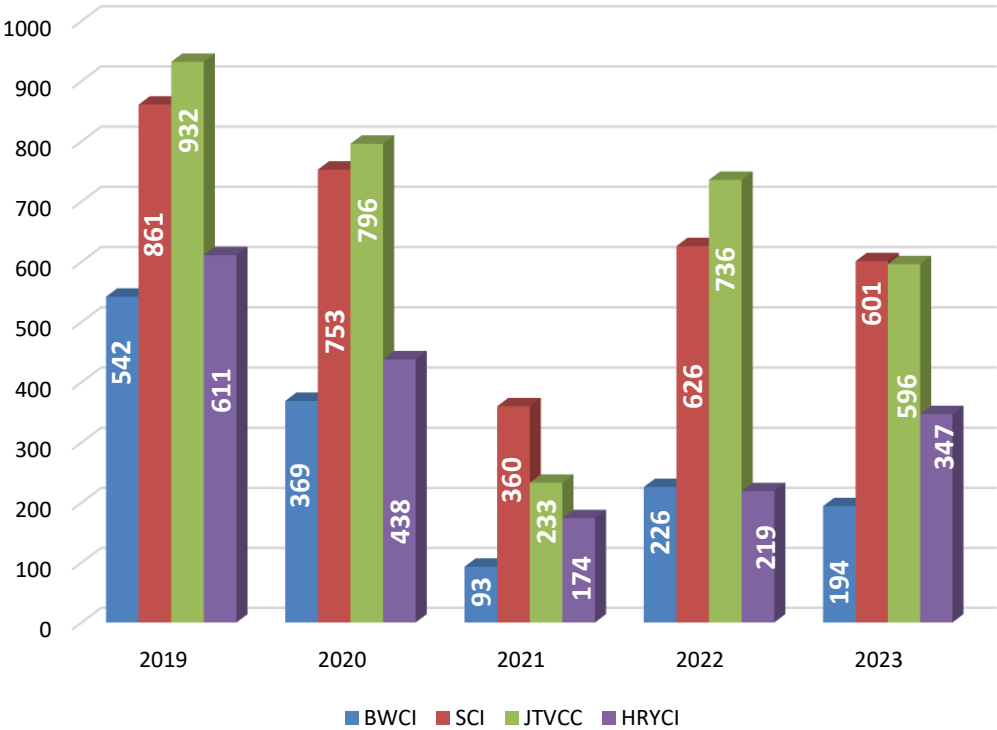


Prison Adult Education Comparison of Annual Enrollments

Fiscal Years 2019 to 2023 Total Enrollment by Institution

The Delaware Department of Education has collected enrollment data since the first data count in September 2000. Enrollment information reflects end-of-year data.

Comparison Enrollments by Institution



Prison Adult Education

Program Enrollment by Institution

A review of program components reveals that enrollments are returning to pre-COVID levels; however, Life Skills programming has the largest drop in student enrollments.

Program Component Enrollment by Institution

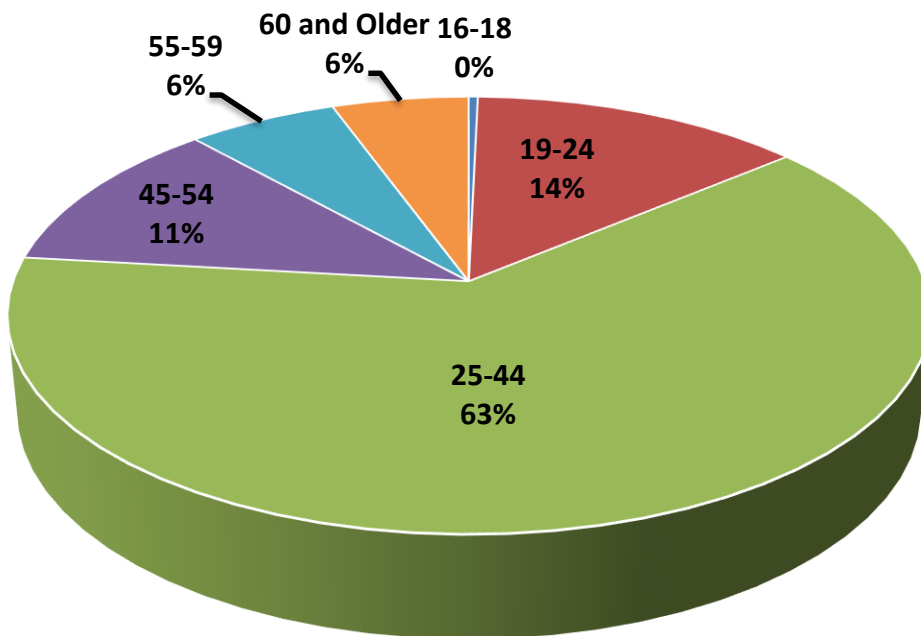
Institution	ABE/GED® Preparation	Groves	Life Skills	Vocational	Total
BWCI	36	15	21	122	194
SCI	140	58	154	249	601
JTVCC	238	41	71	246	596
HRYCI	125	60	0	162	347
TOTAL	539	174	246	779	1738

Prison Adult Education

Enrollment by Age

Student data indicate the greatest number of students served was in the age group of 25-44. Data show the 16-18 age group is still under 1 full percentage point, and the 19-24 age group remained the same as last year. The age group of 25-44 decreased by 3%, and the 45-54 age group increased by 1%. The 55-59 age group remained the same as last year, and the 60+ age group increased by 2%.

Enrollment by Age

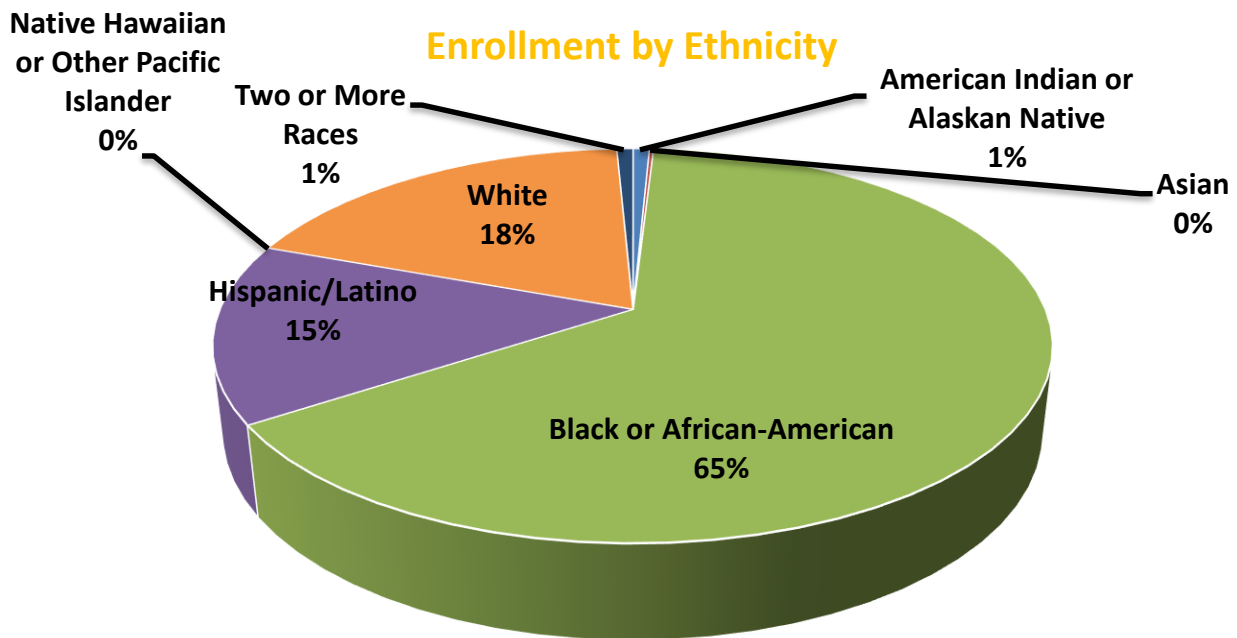


ABE class enrollment is based on WIOA/NRS defined participants

Prison Adult Education

Enrollment by Ethnicity

Student data indicate that the majority (65%) of the students served are Black or African-American, a two percent decrease from FY22. Eighteen percent of students identified as White is a one percent decrease from the previous year. Fifteen percent identified as Hispanic/Latino is an increase of three percent from last year.



ABE class enrollment is based on WIOA/NRS defined participants

Prison Adult Education

Academic Levels upon Enrollment

Students enrolled in academic education programs entered at one of six Adult Basic Education (ABE) levels, ranging from a 0.0 to an 8.9 grade equivalent. Ninety-nine percent of the enrollees entered at ABE instructional levels. Students are placed in class based on a current academic assessment rather than the last grade level completed.

FY23 Entry ABE Academic Levels* at Each Institution

Institution	ABE	ASE	ESL	Total
BWCI	36	0	0	36
SCI	137	3	0	140
JTVCC	236	0	2	238
HRYCI	124	1	0	125
TOTAL	533	4	2	539

*As of June 30, 2023

Prison Adult Education

Results of Performance Measures

This section is based on FY23 performance levels as reported through the USDOE-approved MIS LACES. Each performance measure provides data on specific goals designated for specific students. Students released from the institution before goal completion were removed from rate calculations.

ABE/ESL Level Completion Rate

Number of completions/Number of enrollments in ABE program excluding released offenders

Number of completions = 334

Number enrolled = 539

Number released = 36

Completion rate = 66%

GED® Test Pass Rate

Number passing/Number of examinees completing all four (4) test subsections

Number GED® Passers = 140

Number of completers = 156

GED® pass rate = 90%

High School Graduation Rate

Number of completions/Number of enrollments in high school program excluding released offenders

Number of graduates = 39

Number of enrollments = 174

Number released = 8

Graduation rate = 23%

Number continuing in the program = 127

Life Skills Completion Rate

Number of completions/Number of enrollments in Life Skills courses excluding released offenders

Number of completions = 237

Number enrolled = 246

Number released = 1

Completion rate = 97%

Prison Adult Education

Results of Performance Measures (Continued)

Vocational Completion Rate

Number of completions/Number of seats in vocational courses excluding released offenders

Number of completions = 1245

Number of enrolled = 1462

Number released = 29

Completion rate = 87%

Special Education Gains

Number of enrolled showing learning gains/Number enrolled in special education excluding released offenders

Number with gains = 0

Number enrolled = 3

Number released = 0

Gain rate = 0%

Total Program Dropout Rate

Number of students who dropped out while in education/Number of students who enrolled, excluding released offenders

Number of dropouts = 202

Number enrolled = 1738

Number released = 66

Dropout rate = 12%

Prison Adult Education

Student Completions

Overall Program

Program completion is defined as credentials awarded as the result of satisfactory performance based on standards established by the Delaware Department of Education. A Certificate of Attainment (COA) documents an ABE level gain completion. A COA equates to a USDOE-approved Educational Functioning Level. Each COA verifies an equivalent learning achievement of two or three K-12 grade levels in a specific content area. Under the Workforce and Innovation Act, Title II, these student gains are called measurable skills gains.

At the secondary education level, a State of Delaware Secondary Credential Endorsement verifies passing the GED® test. The high school diploma verifies a James H. Groves Adult High School completion.

Vocational certificates are based on acquiring specific competencies within the training area.

Life Skills completions represent those students who completed all components of the Life Skills Program.

FY23 Total Completions by Institution

Institution	ABE/ESL	GED®	Groves*	Life Skills	Vocational
BWCI	9	0	0	20	236
SCI	99	52	23	154	310
JTVCC	159	32	9	63	542
HRYCI	67	56	7	0	157
TOTAL	334	140	39	237	1245

*Groves outcomes reflect only high school diploma completions

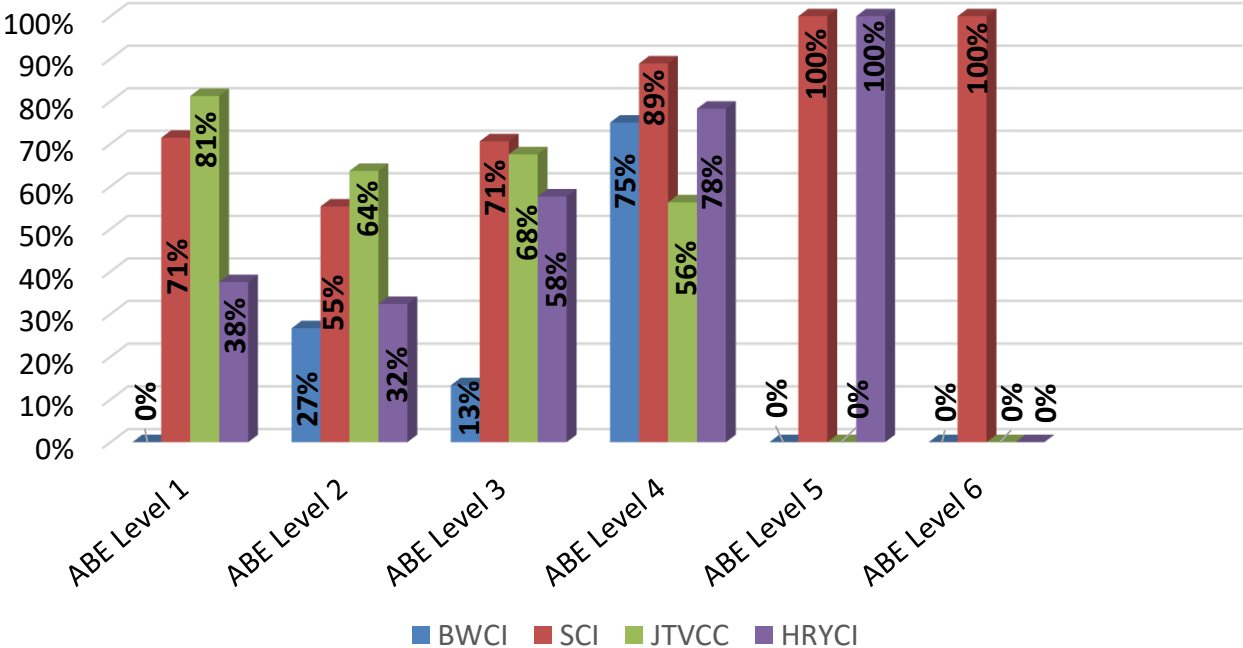
Prison Adult Education

Student Completions (Continued)

ABE/ESL Program

The number of ABE/ESL level completions is established by the competencies determined by the Delaware Department of Education (DOE) and the National Reporting System (NRS). The ABE program is designed for students identified with basic skill deficits who are preparing for the secondary credential test, which in Delaware is the GED® exam. Students who do not receive a GED® credential continue their studies into the next program year. Delaware Certificates of Attainment (COAs) are issued to students completing an educational functioning level (EFL) that spans 2-3 grade levels in the K12 system. A COA is issued to the learner upon meeting the skill standards measured by a state review. The ESL program is designed for students needing to improve their English Language proficiency. As in the ABE program, COAs are issued to demonstrate student progress. All outcome percentages are based on ABE & ESL student enrollments.

FY23 Student Completions by EFL



Prison Adult Education

Student Completions (Continued)

GED® Test Pass Rate

With the easing of pandemic restrictions, the Prison Adult Education Program saw a positive increase in GED test administrations during FY23, with 293 students taking at least one section of the exam. This positive trend signifies student readiness while marking a significant step toward post-pandemic normalcy. The overall pass rate of 90% in FY23 surpassed the national pass rate of 75%, highlighting the commitment to providing high-quality adult education and supporting students in their post-secondary and employment pursuits while incarcerated and upon release. Data have been retrieved from GED Analytics™ from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

Institution	Took All Sections GED® Test	Passed GED® Test	GED® Test Pass Rate
BWCI	0	0	N/A
SCI	57	52	91%
JTVCC	37	32	86%
HRYCI	62	56	90%
TOTAL	156	140	90%

Institution	Took One or More Sections of GED® Test
BWCI	0
SCI	92
JTVCC	102
HRYCI	99
TOTAL	293

Prison Adult Education

Student Completions (Continued)

James H. Groves Adult High School

All students enrolled in James H. Groves High School earn credits toward their high school graduation requirements. Participation in the program varies depending on individual student needs. Students who have not completed their sentences and the Groves program continue their education into the next academic year. All Groves High School courses are awarded .5 credits.

Institution	Enrolled	Released	Groves Courses Completed	Diplomas Awarded
BWCI	15	1	30	0
SCI	58	0	432	23
JTVCC	41	0	112	9
HRYCI	60	7	125	7
TOTAL	174	8	699	39

Prison Adult Education

Student Completions (Continued)

Life Skills Program

The Life Skills program enrollment was 246 which was an increase from FY22, but due to the vacancy of the HRYCI position the enrollments have not returned to pre-pandemic numbers. All outcome percentages are based on Life Skills completions/Life Skills student enrollments. Students released from the institution prior to course completion are removed from the calculation.

FY23 Life Skills* Completions by Institution

Institution	Enrolled	Released	Completed	Completion Rate
BWCI	21	1	20	100%
SCI	154	0	154	100%
JTVCC	71	0	63	88%
HRYCI	0	0	0	0%
TOTAL	246	1	237	97%

*Program operates 10 months

Prison Adult Education

Student Completions (Continued)

Vocational Program

Vocational completions are verified following competencies established by industry standards such as NCCER, ASE, and the National Restaurant Association. The rate of completion of vocational courses is 88%. All outcome percentages are based on Vocational outcomes/Vocational seat enrollments. Students released from the institution before course completion are removed from the calculation.

Baylor Women’s Correctional Institution (BWCI) provided vocational offerings in Flagger Certification, Culinary Arts, ServSafe, Foundations I, Aller-Train, Manage First, and Microsoft Office skills. Sussex Correctional Institution (SCI) offered training in Flagger Certification, Certified Logistics Associate Warehouse, and Microsoft Office (MS). James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC) offered training in basic and advanced levels of MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Publisher classes, as well as Flagger Certification, Auto Tech, Culinary Arts, and ServSafe. Howard R. Young Correctional Institution (HRYCI) provided training for Flagger Certification and the Youth Apprenticeship Project.

FY23 Vocational Completions by Institution

Institution	Enrolled	Released	Completed	Completion Rate
BWCI	263	15	236	95%
SCI	403	12	310	79%
JTVCC	632	2	542	86%
HRYCI	164	0	157	96%
TOTAL	1462	29	1245	87%

Prison Adult Education

Program Dropout Information

Separation Rate

The statewide separation rate for the Prison Adult Education Program, excluding those released, was 12% compared to 5% in the previous year.

FY23 Separation Rate by Institution

Institution	Enrolled	Released	Dropped	Dropout Rate
BWCI	194	24	17	10%
SCI	601	15	39	7%
JTVCC	596	2	110	19%
HRYCI	347	25	36	11%
TOTAL	1738	66	202	12%

Prison Adult Education

College Information

The Prison Education Program offers support to offenders participating in college-level courses. Through proctoring exams, monitoring instructional materials, and acting as a liaison with higher education institutions, Prison Education staff assist offenders in attaining college credits and/or vocational credentials.

Institution	Enrolled
BWCI	21
SCI	18
JTVCC	7
HRYCI	0
TOTAL	46

The higher education programs attended were the University of Delaware, Delaware Technical Community College, Ohio University, Adams State University, and Washington College.

Course tuition is the responsibility of the offender.

All courses are provided through a distance learning venue that includes mailing materials to the prison. There were no Internet resources used in the provision of these classes.

Prison Adult Education

Staffing

The BWCI Prison Education Program has both DOC and DOE employees, while JTVCC, SCI, and HRYCI programs are staffed by DOE employees only. All staff must pass a DOC criminal background clearance and complete DOC training before entering an institution. In addition, new staff participate in a DOE orientation and professional development focused on preparation for delivering fair, firm, consistent instruction.

Inmate workers serve as classroom aides, assisting teachers by providing one-on-one assistance to learners. Most tutors/aides have been in the educational program before becoming an aide.

Staff and Inmate Workers for Prison Adult Education*

Institution	DOC	DOE	Inmate
BWCI	1	6.5	5
SCI	0	10	14
JTVCC	0	15	25
HRYCI	0	5.5	10
TOTAL	1	37	54

*Employed as of June 30, 2023