Building Higher Education Pathways for Secure Treatment Youth in California: A Call to Action

Arnold Chandler, Forward Change

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Overview

- Report Research Methodology

- Call to Action: Building Higher Education Pathways for Secure Treatment Youth in California

# Upcoming Report: Building Higher Education Pathways

Building Higher Education Pathways for Youth in Secure Treatment Facilities in California: A Call to Action

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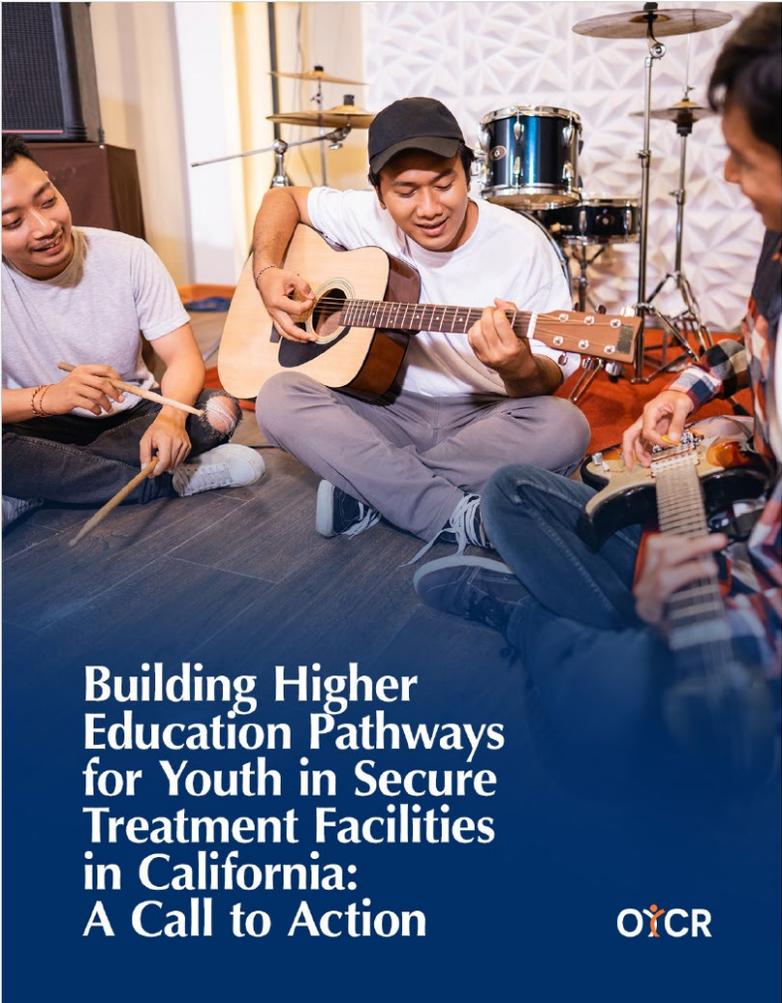
Methodology

- **Scanned and synthesized the research literature on**
  - Predictors/causes of youth incarceration
  - Long-term consequences of incarceration
  - Proven and promising interventions for improving educational outcomes for incarcerated youth

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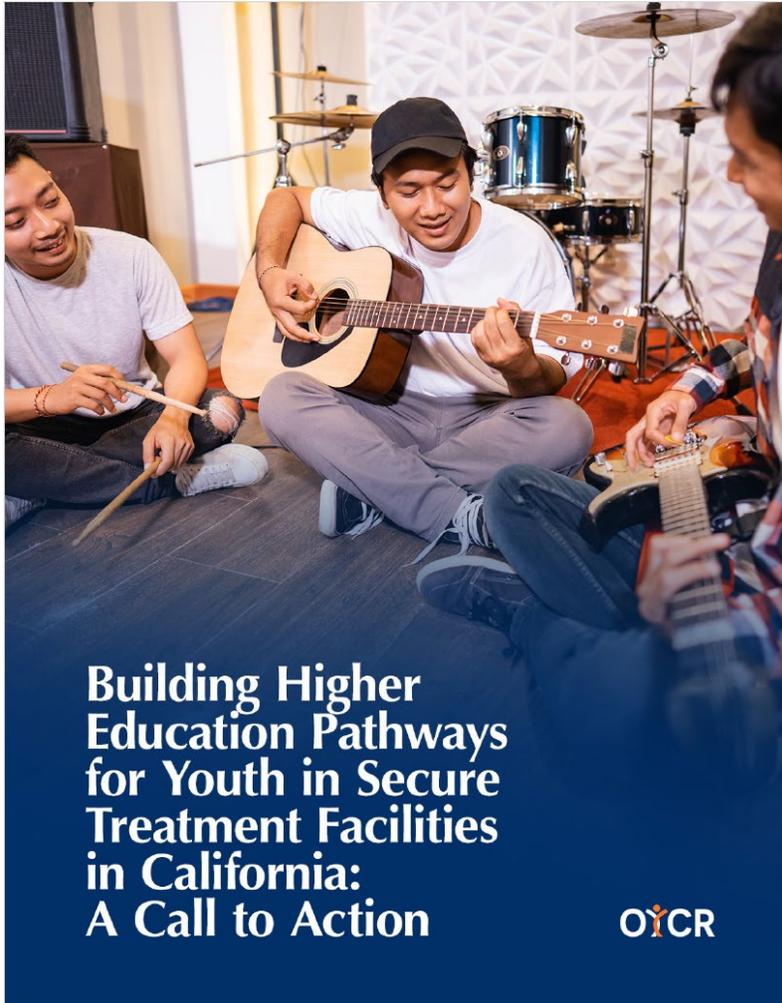
Methodology

- **Conducted 65 interviews with a variety of stakeholders connected to the juvenile justice system in California, including:**
  - Those formerly confined in long-term juvenile detention
  - Instructors in juvenile detention facilities
  - Faculty at colleges and universities
  - Staff and administrators at County Offices of Education
  - Managers of higher education programs targeting youth in juvenile justice facilities
  - Youth justice advocates
  - Researchers
  - Chief probation officers and their staff
  - Staff at district attorneys' offices
  - Staff at public defenders' offices
  - Juvenile facility behavioral health specialists
  - Administrators at the California Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
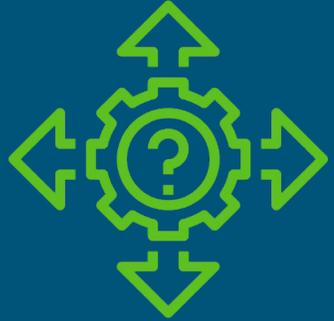
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Components of Higher Education Pathways:
Building Bridges to Opportunity

Administrative Pathways

Administrative pathways with multiple options and key institutional milestones building toward a degree or certificate.

Pathway Supports

Decision-making and developmental supports to incentivize pursuit of a higher education pathway and to maintain persistence on that pathway.

Meaningful Destination

The ultimate destination of the pathway, especially its structural connection to employment opportunities with good earnings

Recommended Core Elements for Building Higher Education Pathways

Administrative Pathways

- Dual-enrollment for high school youth

- Effective Instructional approaches

- Qualified instructors and professional development

- Free courses and materials

- Access to adequate technology

- Program and course variety

- Complete pathways to degrees

- Guided and integrated pathways

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In-person instruction

Online courses: wider choice, weekly synchronous

Correspondence: for youth missing enrollment windows

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Professional development: basic safety procedures, effective youth development strategies, trauma-informed practices, self-care, classroom management, and individualized instruction

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- Tablets or laptops, along with broadband internet access
- Laptops over tablets (functionality, security, Microsoft Office)
- Allow youth to take laptops to cells
- Online research services: EBSCO host correctional edition

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Pathway Supports

- Systematic screening and service matching

- Supportive facility climate

- Building interest and scaffolding a college identity

- Academic and financial aid advising

- Tutoring and supplemental instruction

- Transition planning and reentry support

- A community of belonging and campus integration

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- Token economy
- Medium-security vs. high-security policies
- Caring adult relationships
- Credible messengers and mentors
- Regular course attendance
- Incentivize college participation

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- Dedicated classroom space for college instruction
- College branding
- Quiet areas for homework
- Desks in cells
- Alternative attire for attending online college classes
- Pre courses (e.g. College 101)

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- A community of belonging and campus integration

- Multidisciplinary reentry team
- Planning begins when entering facilities
- Liaison with Rising Scholars at community colleges
- Support smooth transfer to alternate community college during step-down or release
- Provide support for housing & stipend

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Meaningful Destination

- Vocational Diplomas (connected to a labor market analysis)

- AA Degree with Labor Market Value (connected to labor market analysis)

- Transfer to a 4-Year University

- Bachelor's Degree

- Obtaining a good-paying job

Forward Change Contact Information

ForwardChange

Contact

arnold@arnoldchandler.com