

## Frequently Asked Student Questions

**Q. Do my grades in a juvenile education program count?**

A. *Absolutely. All grades are transferred to the school you are entering or reentering. Often placement in public school is based on performance while in a residential facility.*

**Q. How will my school receive my grades?**

A. *If you have been in a DJS facility for 30 days or longer, your grades are recorded on a Maryland Student Transfer Record (MSTR). This is a summary of the courses you were enrolled in, the hours you completed, and your grades or credits. Your case manager or transition coordinator will provide this record to the school you will be attending so they may be counted towards graduation. The Office of Pupil Services will fax a copy of your MSTR to your school.*

*If you have been in a DJS facility for 30 days or less, your Progress Report will be forwarded to your current placement. The Progress Report is a summary of your grades and teacher comments during your stay in a detention facility.*

**Q. What if the school will not let me enroll or if they refuse to accept my Maryland Student Transfer Record?**

A. *Politely get the name, title, and phone number of the person you spoke to and contact your case manager and the Office of Pupil Services immediately.*

**Q. What if the school I was assigned to is not working out? Can I come back to the team for a new assignment?**

A. *Contact your case manager. Your case manager or a transition specialist will try to correct any concerns. If that does not help, you are encouraged to come back through the Transition Team for additional assistance. The Transition Team wants to help you return to school and stay in school until graduation.*

**Transition Specialists:**

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# Ensuring Successful Transition

Maryland Department of Juvenile Services  
**Office of Pupil Services**

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Donald W. DeVore  
Secretary

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Anthony G. Brown  
Lt. Governor

## Mission Statement

*“Every child will become a self-sufficient, productive adult.”*

The office of Pupil Services provides comprehensive assistance to youth returning to public schools through the Interagency Transition Teams representing Maryland's 24 school systems. Transition specialists also provide assistance to youth enrolling in a GED program; entering or reentering a vocational, technical, or training school; enrolling in a two or four year college; or obtaining meaningful employment where appropriate.

## Goals

- Provide a complete summary of academic records in order to determine appropriate educational placements.
- Offer DJS youth a continuum of educational and related services.
- Redirect youth by providing them the opportunity to make academic progress and complete their education.
- Provide resources that effectively enhance the delivery of services that students need to become responsible, productive citizens.
- Maintain collaboration between DJS personnel, school district representatives, and community support systems.



## About our Program

The DJS Office of Pupil Services assists students who are returning to the community from DJS residential placements as well as youth in the community in need of assistance with educational placements. The office coordinates the Interagency Transition Teams which include the youth and his or her parents or guardians, public school representatives and DJS personnel. Community service agency representatives may also participate in team meetings.

The most important members of the Transition Teams are the students and their parents or guardians. They have the opportunity to express their preferences and make requests about the options that are available based on the age, goals, and prior school performance of the youth.

The public school team members may include administrators, guidance counselors, pupil personnel workers, special education teachers, social workers and psychologists.

DJS representatives consist of transition specialists, case management supervisors, area directors, juvenile case managers and education staff.

The team reviews the youth's goals and specific needs, treatment plans and living arrangements after release. They review grades and performance in facility schools as well as those from past educational placements. The team makes a school assignment and provides the essential links to a post-release support system.

When returning to a public school is not appropriate, the Office of Pupil Services refers youth to GED programs, vocational or technical training programs, and/or community resources linking the youth to available and appropriate employment opportunities.

To support a successful return to the community, case managers provide reentry orientation, continuous aftercare monitoring and assistance, and parent services. Further, the Office of Pupil Services monitors youth progress every 30 days.