

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION
850**

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Supersedes: AR 850 (04/08/11); and AR 850 (Temporary, 11/04/14)
Effective date: 05/19/15

AUTHORITY: NRS 209.389; 209.391; 209.393; 209.396; 209.433; 209.443;
209.446; 209.4465; 209.449; 385.448; 388.573 – 388.579;
NAC 389.694.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Department of Corrections Education Programs Professional is responsible for serving as the liaison with the Department's education providers, including colleges and universities, and ensuring compliance with Department rules and regulations.

850.01 ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

1. Comprehensive academic and vocational education programs should be available at all Department institutions.
 - A. A state standardized Correctional Education curriculum should be offered in the Department by its education providers.
 - B. All college and university programs will be accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and Universities.
 - C. Performance-based academic programs will be implemented to monitor and ensure individual student progress.
 - D. At Intake, inmates should be assessed and prioritized according to NDOC's established criteria.
2. If not working or employed full-time or otherwise excused, eligible inmates may be engaged in academic pursuit full-time.
 - A. Inmates, if eligible, are encouraged to complete their secondary education, either through obtaining a High School Equivalency (HSE) or a High School Diploma. Upon completion, inmates are eligible for meritorious credits.

- B. Nevada Administrative Code permits an inmate with a HSE to later obtain a High School Diploma, including using the HSE completion to waive some of the regular subject-matter requirements. However, an inmate with a High School Diploma may not go back and obtain a HSE.
3. Nevada law precludes illiterate inmates or those who do not speak English proficiently, from working in prison industries or other vocational programs, unless the offender:
- A. Is pursuing education simultaneously, or
 - B. Has received an exception from the Director/designee for good cause.
4. Teachers and instructors provided to the Department by Nevada's school districts, colleges and universities should be educated and certified to ensure that their skills and credentials are comparable to teaching staff in the community.
5. Basic literacy and secondary education should be available to inmates at no cost.
- A. Inmates must pay for accredited college or correspondence courses themselves.
6. Correctional school programs should allow for flexible scheduling that permits entry at any time, and should be offered at a time when the majority of inmates can take advantage of the opportunity.
7. Correctional school programs should coordinate with other institutional services to provide instruction in functional social skills.
8. Correctional school programs should conduct an individualized assessment to determine literacy levels of newly enrolled students.
9. Accommodations should be provided by correctional school districts to meet the educational and vocational needs of inmates who require special placement because of physical, mental, emotional, or learning disabilities.
10. Correctional school programs should make counseling services available to inmates to assist them in making informed decisions regarding education and career choices.
11. Inmates will receive work credits for participation in approved educational programs offered in the Department.
12. Education records, such as, transcripts, attendance, grades, test scores or any other personal information is confidential.
- A. Inmates may not instruct classes.
 - B. Inmates are not permitted to keep attendance for a class.

C. Inmates are not permitted access to the educational records of other inmates.

13. Education providers, college and university instructors are considered volunteers and are subject to all Departmental rules, regulations, policies and procedures.

A. Volunteers must undergo criminal record background checks before they can be approved to enter a Department Institution.

B. Volunteers must provide proof of a current 2 step base line Tuberculosis test.

C. Volunteers must be re-tested for Tuberculosis and submit proof annually.

D. Volunteers must complete the Department's Volunteer and PREA training programs before entering a Department Institution.

850.02 VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

1. All vocational programs will be recognized, certified, or licensed by the state Department of Education.

2. Vocational programs should provide training and experience in skills that will enable inmates to obtain employment in the community upon their release.

3. To the extent possible, vocational training programs should reflect the employment needs of the community.

4. To the extent possible, vocational training programs should be offered to inmates free of charge.

A. Inmates can be required to pay for tools, special clothing or other materials required for the vocational program.

5. Inmates may receive work credits for participation in approved vocational programs offered in the Department.

6. Inmates who complete a vocational training program according to established guidelines should receive a certificate acknowledging their completion and may receive meritorious credits for qualified vocational programs.

850.03 PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

1. Qualified individuals, professional groups, or appropriate trade organizations should evaluate academic and vocational training programs for effectiveness and achievement of stated objectives at least once every three (3) years.

2. School District supervisors must provide status reports to the Department of Corrections Education Programs annually, providing information identified by the Education Programs Professional, including, but not limited to:

- A. Prior year activities.
- B. Review of outcomes.
- C. Changes that may need to be made.

APPLICABILITY

- 1. This AR requires an Operational Procedure (OP) for each institution and facility offering educational or vocational programs.
- 2. This AR does not require an audit.

REFERENCES:

ACA Standards, 4th Edition and 2008 Supplement, 4-4464, 4-4466, 4-4467, 4-4469, 4-4470, 4-4471, 4-4472, 4-4473, 4-4474, 4-4475, 4-4476, 4-4477, 4-4478, 4-4479 and 4-4480.



Director



Date