

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

AGN. NO. _____
November 4, 2025

Post-Secondary Education Services in Los Angeles County Probation Detention Facilities Click or tap here to enter text.

Education is a tool that has the power to change lives, and having access to high quality, consistent education is shown to be particularly impactful for those who are incarcerated. In 2021, the Brookings Institution reported that, “individuals who enroll in postsecondary education programs are 49% less likely to be reincarcerated than those who do not and the odds of being employed post release are 12% higher for individuals who participate in any type of correctional education.”¹ The Los Angeles County Probation Department has a duty to provide the young people who are detained in their facilities with opportunities to participate and thrive at all points of their educational journeys, whether they are in grade school, high school, or pursuing a post-secondary education.

Under Probation’s current structure, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) provides educational services for incarcerated youth up to grade 12, and Probation oversees the provision of educational services for incarcerated youth who are high school graduates through their Probation Education Services unit. This structure is unique, as most other counties in California have their education departments leading

¹ Gibbons, Alexandra and Rashawn Ray. [“The societal benefits of postsecondary prison education.”](#) Brookings. August 20, 2021

MOTION

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and implementing educational services for all students – K-12 and beyond. Since Senate Bill 823 closed the state’s Division of Juvenile Justice and made it so all youth are now under the care of local jurisdictions rather than the state, the number of older youth in need of post-secondary education within Probation’s facilities has increased significantly. Providing robust educational services to this growing population of high-school graduates is outside the core responsibilities and areas of expertise of the Probation Department. Incarcerated students deserve targeted support provided by experts who can focus on building out robust post-secondary educational opportunities.

The Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC) created an Ad Hoc Education Committee (Committee) to conduct investigations of education services within juvenile detention facilities and provide recommendations for improvement. One of their investigations focused on post-secondary education services in the camps and halls, and they produced a proposal recommending that the County explore having LACOE take ownership over the education services for all incarcerated youth, including those with a high school diploma. At the October 9, 2025, POC meeting, the Commission voted to advance the recommendations made in the proposal to request that LACOE “develop a proposal in consultation with the Probation Department and the Probation Oversight Commission that articulates the infrastructure they need to successfully implement this work.”

In accordance with the POC’s motion, the County should explore how to best provide post-secondary education services to students in Probation’s facilities who express interest and qualify for participation, including by incorporating the expertise of LACOE and by potentially engaging them to provide the educational needs of all incarcerated students.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

Direct the Superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and the Probation Department to respond to the Probation Oversight Commission's (POC) October 9, 2025 motion by reporting back to the Board and the POC in writing in 60 days on the feasibility of LACOE assuming responsibility for post-secondary education services for incarcerated youth at Probation detention facilities. The report back should include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. An analysis of what is needed to improve the quality of higher education services for high-school graduates at Probation detention facilities, regardless of which entity (Probation or LACOE) oversees those services;
2. Potential benefits of transferring all education services to LACOE, including benefits related to service quality and alignment with state priorities;
3. Potential challenges of transferring all education services to LACOE, including challenges related to staffing, funding, and infrastructural capacity;
4. A proposal for the transfer of post-secondary education services to LACOE that describes the infrastructure needed to successfully implement this transition, including staffing and funding needs, potential funding sources, student outcomes that would be measured and evaluated, and recommendations for making the data publicly available; and
5. An analysis of the feasibility of transferring post-secondary vocational training services from the Probation Education Services unit to LACOE, that includes a breakdown of the pros and cons of such a transfer.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Probation Department to verbally present the report to the Probation Oversight Commission within 30 days of issuing the written report.

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JH:cc:ap