

THE COLLABORATIVE ON REENTRY

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

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DEFINITION OF CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION

The U.S. Department of Education defines correctional education as “the part of the total correctional process that focused on changing the behavior of offenders through planned learning experiences and learning environments. It seeks to develop or enhance knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values of incarcerated youth and adults.”

The U.S. Department of Justice, which oversees the Federal Bureau of Prisons, takes a similar view; it “recognize(s) the importance of education as both an opportunity for inmates to improve their knowledge and skills as a correctional mangagment tool that encourages inmates to use their time in a constructive manner.”

Source: State Correctional Education Programs, State Policy Update, Developed by Michelle Tolbert (March 2002)