

Greetings from the Family-Based Justice Center



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As summer draws to a close and students return to the classroom, a range of anxieties may be felt by those who have experienced parental incarceration. While some children with incarcerated parents struggle academically, about <u>61 percent</u> are well-adjusted. However, approximately <u>20 percent</u> display signs of hyperactivity, and <u>14 percent</u> report feeling lonely and being bullied.

Adverse effects on education are often connected to stigma, so educators are pivotal in ensuring the academic success of students with incarcerated parents. The Osborne Association has developed an educator' resource toolkit with recommended books, elucidating the challenges from parental incarceration. The toolkit also provides action steps for educators and tips on establishing inclusive and supportive environments. You can explore the array of resources available here.

Staff Highlight:



Left to right: Valerie Carpico (Project Manager, Council of State Governments Justice Center), Isabel Coronado (Coordinator, Family-Based Justice Center), Megan Pfeiffer (Senior Policy Analyst, Council of State Governments Justice Center), and Jennie Fitzpatrick (Parenting Program Administrator, Washington State Department of Corrections).

The Family-Based Justice Center organized a presentation at the <u>American Correctional Association</u> Conference in Philadelphia, in collaboration with the training and technical assistance center for the Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children, and a representative from the Washington State Department of Corrections. The presentation addressed connecting families through front-end diversion and alternative programs, early-reentry initiatives for parents, and specialized programming for incarcerated parents and their children.

In the News:

California passed the *Keep Families Close Act*, a bill to save families from traveling long distances to see their loved ones in prison. Read more about the bill <u>here</u>.

Illinois passed a parole-reform bill, which provides for early release that allows some families to reconnect with their loved ones sooner than originally scheduled. Read the press release here.

A pilot program in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, aims to bring virtual reality to incarcerated parents and their children by enhancing visits with interactive activities. Read about the program here.

A child of a now deceased incarcerated father describes her experience visiting him in federal prison over the span of three decades. Read her article here.

OJJDP Updates:

RESOURCES:

- Read about OJJDP's priorities.
- Follow OJJDP on Twitter and Facebook.

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