

Award-Winning Correctional Programs Use PLATO Instructional Solutions

Correctional Education

William P. Lord High School at the MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility

This education program in Salem, Oregon, operated through Willamette Education Service Division in partnership with the Oregon Department of Education's Youth Corrections Education Program, was the winner of the prestigious Austin McCormick Award for Best Practices in Correctional Education.

With a unique combination of dedicated staff, uncommon leadership, and excellent use of instructional resources and technologies—including PLATO Instructional Solutions—the school has created a rich learning environment for students who traditionally have had little success in learning.

Students who test below the eighth grade in reading or math are double-blocked into two classes, with one class in the PLATO Learning lab. Teachers report that students enjoy their lab experiences and relate positively to the courseware's instructional strategies. Individualized learning paths and easy access to reports facilitate the learning and teaching process.

The flexibility of the instructional program makes it appropriate for a wide variety of learners, including those with special needs, youth in transition, and learners who have missed or need to repeat a piece of the curriculum.

Hundreds of federal, state, and community institutions – youth and adult – have implemented PLATO Learning K-12 & Adult Technologies. To learn more about how PLATO Learning resources can meet the education and training needs of your correctional education programs, please contact us at 800.444.PLATO or visit us on the web at www.plato.com.

Real learning. Real results.™

Folsom State Prison, California Department of Corrections

Folsom State Prison in California has been honored with the Programs of Excellence Award, sponsored by CALPRO and the California State Board of Education. Since 1990, PLATO Learning has provided the curriculum infrastructure to address prisoner literacy at Folsom and 26 other institutions of the California Department of Corrections. "The success of the program can be attributed to the PLATO Learning curriculum that effectively addresses the needs of students, having staff available to assist learners, and accountability to the state mandates," said Gary Sutherland, Supervisor of Academic Instruction at the Education and Inmate Programs Unit of the California Department of Corrections. "PLATO Learning is the backbone of the literacy component in the literacy labs."

As students reach a ninth-grade reading proficiency, they can progress into the GED program and on to vocational and post-secondary study. "The program is a springboard to facilitate learning," commented Gary. "Last year, 1,600 students passed the GED. And in some cases, inmates are trained as lab assistants and help teachers run the programs."

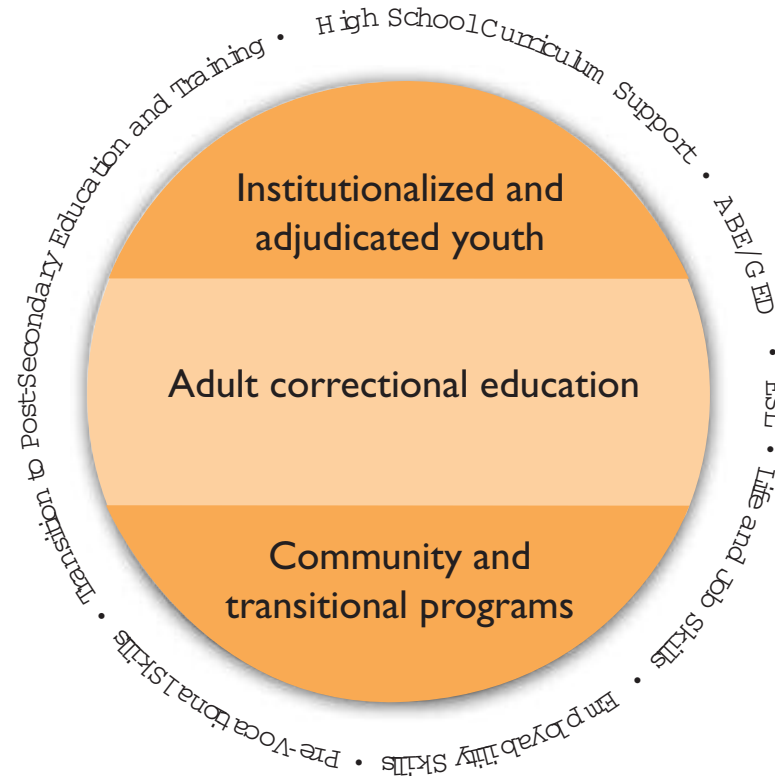
"In addition to the direct impact on improved literacy skills and success in further education and training, the time inmates spend focused on goals and being in control of their own learning has a beneficial impact on the institution."



- Proven instructional solutions for:
 - Institutionalized and adjudicated youth
 - Adult correctional education
 - Community and transitional programs



PLATO Learning offers the most comprehensive curricula and instructional resources to meet the challenges educators face at every level of the correctional education system.



Individualized, engaging instruction

The PLATO Instructional Solutions courseware is highly motivating, with age-appropriate graphics and content that engage learners at their skill level. Individualized instruction provides a private, personalized learning path that is motivating and appropriate for students who may have suffered from a history of failure in school.

Assessment-driven instructional management system

Our courseware is assessment-driven, allowing learners and instructors to efficiently identify educational needs and focus on meeting goals. An easy-to use, powerful management system can accommodate both teacher-centered learning and self-directed instruction, depending on needs and available instructional resources. A variety of reports track learner performance and time-on-task.

Meeting the challenges

- Educational resources for youth inmate learners working toward their high school diploma
- ESL, ABE and GED programming for those seeking a GED
- Employability skills training for inmate learners preparing for vocational training
- Life and job skills training for inmate learners
- Educational resources for those in transition to help them qualify for jobs, education, and training

PLATO Assessment and PLATO Accountability Solutions

For youth

For school-based programs that need to meet the requirements of Title I, special education, and other accountability legislation, PLATO Accountability Solutions facilitate data-driven decision-making and continuous school improvement planning. Diagnostic assessments correlated to standards help educators remediate with personal academic assistance plans. The extensive library of low and high stakes test simulations allows educators to assess students regularly and intervene as needed. Students can work on the PLATO Instructional Solutions standards-based curriculum to remediate skills before they take exams.

For adults

For adult programs, our management tools ensure accountability through an extensive reporting system and alignment to assessments and national standards such as TABE, CASAS, ACT WorkKeys, and the National Reporting Standards. PLATO Learning assessment products, such as PLATO Fastrack Curriculum Placement Test, assess and prescribe individualized learning plans, allowing learners to focus on the skills they need to meet their learning objectives.

PLATO Instructional Solutions

For youth

Each student benefits from an individualized self-paced learning plan tied to state and local standards. A variety of multi-level tools gauge strengths and weaknesses and identify resources to maximize student success. The curriculum extends from foundational skills taught in real world contexts through preparation of high school students for graduation.

For adults

Adult learners benefit from a combination of academic and applied skills development instruction, specifically focused on their learning goals and targeted on what they need to learn. In addition, a library of life and job skills courseware is available to address issues such as developing self-esteem and job-seeking skills.

PLATO Professional Services

PLATO Performance Essentials

Our experienced PLATO Educational Consultants work with your staff and your program objectives to ensure successful implementation and achievement of learner goals. Flexible scheduling is available to meet your needs.

PLATO Consulting Partnerships

For school-based programs, the focus is on long-term change using PLATO Assessment and PLATO Accountability Solutions. PLATO Correlation Services are also available to provide alignment to standards of textbooks, local assessments, and other instructional resources.