

# Maryland School Mental Health Alliance\*

## *School Reentry Information for Parents and Caregivers*

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### **Definition**

Upon release from a juvenile correctional facility, youth must reenroll or reenter the mainstream educational system. This can be a difficult transition period for both the youth and his or her family. The reentry process may be confusing and unclear. In addition, the problems that contributed to the youth's arrest, such as difficulties in the home, community or school often still exist.

### **Why do we care?**

- Reenrollment may be confusing and difficult for the youth and his or her family. It may dissuade the youth from reenrolling entirely.
- Youth who do not attend school will have trouble finding employment.
- If the youth does not return to school, he or she is more likely to commit criminal acts.
- When a youth becomes involved in the juvenile justice system, this can create stress on family relationships.

### **What can we do about it?**

- Become familiar with the justice system and the reentry process – ask questions
- Understand your child's reenrollment plan
- Know your role in the reentry process.
- Keep a contact sheet with important telephone numbers, such as your child's probation officer, teacher and transition counselor

### **Resources:**

- **National Evaluation and Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Children and Youth who are neglected, delinquent, or at risk.**
  - *Transition, reentry and aftercare:* <http://www.neglected-delinquent.org/nd/resources/library/transition.asp>
- **The National Center on Education, Disability, and Juvenile justice:** *Transition plans:* <http://www.edjj.org/focus/TransitionAfterCare/index.html>
- **National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education:** *Family-school partnerships:* <http://www.ncpie.org/>

\*Developed by the Center for School Mental Health (<http://csmh.umaryland.edu>) in collaboration with the Maryland School Mental Health Alliance.