

# Ohio Central School System 2003 Annual Report



## Ohio Central School System Annual Report Guide:

Ohio Central School System Fiscal Year 2003 Overview	1
OCSS Fiscal Year 2003 Statistics	1
Programs and Initiatives	2
Annual Report Highlights	5
Teacher of the Year	5
The Ohio Central School System on June 30, 2003	6

## Ohio Central School System Fiscal Year 2003 Overview

The Ohio Central School System (OCSS) is dedicated to engaging students in activities and sponsored events that embrace the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) Reentry Philosophy. Education is a vital component to the reentry process, as it provides educational standards that help to ensure a successful release. OCSS provides prisoners with Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE), General Educational Development (GED), High School, Apprenticeship Training, Library Services, Special Education, Career-Technical Education, and other educational programs as directed by the needs of the population.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2003, the Ohio Central School System worked in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Education, to fund and operate education programs within the Department:

- Adult Basic Literacy Education, sub-granted to community agencies and Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCF)
- Career-Technical Education, purchases needed materials for the OCSS vocational

programs and professional development

- Special Education, for those students under the age of 22 with special needs
- Title One, for those students under the age of 21 that need supplemental instruction
- Youthful Offender Grant, used to pay for Advanced Job Training for those students under 26 years of age



Rhonda L. Grys, Barbing Instructor & 2003 Teacher of the Year, working with a Richland Correctional Institution (RICI) student.

## OCSS Fiscal Year 2003 Statistics

The Ohio Central School System is pleased to announce, on behalf of the Department, the cumulative enrollment figures for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 totaled 31,516. The FY 2003 enrollment increased by 5,945 over the annual enrollment figures from FY 2002. OCSS also reported awarding an additional 1,861 completion certificates in Fiscal Year 2003.

### The Ohio Central School System served a total of 31,516 students in Fiscal Year 2003:

• ABLE/Literacy students	6,519
• GED/Pre-GED students	17,689
• High School students	328
• Career-Technical students	2,641
• Advanced Job Training students	2,921
• Apprenticeship students	1,418

Total students served by OCSS: **31,516**

### The Ohio Central School System certified a total of 8,811 students in Fiscal Year 2003:

• ABLE/Literacy certificates	1,187
• Pre-GED certificates	2,487
• GED diplomas	1,531
• High School diplomas	10
• Career-Technical certificates	1,109
• Advanced Job Training certificates	1,090
• Apprenticeship certificates	218
• Tutors Trained and certified	1,179

Total students certified by OCSS: **8,811**

OCSS reported serving over 45,900 OhioReads children in the OhioReads Reading Rooms located in the DRC visiting areas. In addition, DRC OhioReads reading room narrators worked over 32,000 hours helping children in FY 2003. To date, four Jumpy Books have been published for the DRC Jumpy the Kangaroo Family Literacy Initiative, with over 24,000 copies of the DRC books distributed statewide.

### Ohio Central School System Report Card – Accomplishments of the Last Decade:

- Over **20,000** DRC inmates have completed tutor training
- Over **12,000** prisoners have earned literacy certificates
- Over **19,000** inmates received either a high school diploma or GED (high school equivalency)
- Over **10,800** OCSS students successfully completed Career-Technical (vocational) training

## Programs and Initiatives



OCSS academic classroom located at the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW).

*“The Ohio Central School System adheres to the statement: “Equal Educational Opportunities are offered without regard to Race, Color, National Origin, Sex or Disability.”*



Graduate pictured with DRC staff at the London Correctional Institution (LoCI).

### Embracing DRC Reentry

The Ohio Central School System provides comprehensive academic and vocational programming to adult correctional facilities in the State of Ohio. Comprehensive educational programs position OCSS as a major contributor to the Department’s mission of rehabilitation by providing the population with academic programs, career-technical education, and several other educational activities that focus on assisting offenders in successfully reentering society.

To overview, the school system implemented resume workshops that provide the offender with opportunities to establish a work and/or experience history. Another contribution to the DRC Reentry Philosophy is the numerous Job and Resource Fairs offered statewide. These fairs provide offenders with the opportunity to interview and obtain information from prospective employers and outside service organizations. Agencies that have been represented at the fairs include: employment agencies, health departments, veterans’ organizations, as well as many other social service agencies.

In addition, OCSS is working to implement a new employment competency based assessment tool. The tool is named the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS), which will be used in place of the current Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) academic assessment.

The school system also established reentry resources in the DRC libraries; staff worked with DRC reentry personnel to provide training to institutional staff on release preparation policy and procedures; OCSS staff continue to facilitate Service Learning workshops to provide inmates with an intrinsic understanding of the need to engage in the community justice initiative to enhance lives and communities. Community service projects are designed to allow the offender to “pay back” Ohio’s neighborhoods. Projects include: providing educational tools (such as flashcards to local schools) and making books on tapes for students, including building and repairing items for outside agencies.

### Ohio Central School System Federal Grants

OCSS currently administers twelve Federal Grants specifically earmarked for educational needs within the system. These grants are issued by the Ohio Department of Education or United States Department of Education and result in a major savings of DRC expenditures.

### Academic Programs

Fiscal Year 2003 started with the approval of a brand new curriculum entitled, “Developing Character for Reentering Society.” This curriculum was approved September 2003 and was developed to answer the need for character education for inmates. Throughout the year, the school system trained over 150 staff to utilize this curriculum with OCSS specially trained trainers leading the way. In addition, the school system started the process for revising the two largest curricula the school system offers: Communication Arts and Mathematics. The teams that were assembled to handle this large task consisted of classroom teachers, as well as administrative staff. In the upcoming year, OCSS anticipates the approval of these curricula, as well as the beginning of revisions to the high school curricula.

### Career-Technical Education

In the past year, Career-Technical (Vocational) Education has worked to ensure that career opportunities were available to any inmate within DRC who desires to participate. Trade and Industrial, Agricultural, Business, as well as Family and Consumer Sciences, are among the subject areas taught in thirty-one separate program areas. These skills help to prepare inmate students to obtain employment upon reentry into society.

Several positions were transferred to institutions where vocational training opportunities were lacking; state and national certification testing was offered in several programs; the Occupational Competency Analysis Profile (OCAP) and Work Keys testing were offered in each program where the tests were available. Department of Education evaluations were accomplished with good results, all of which help to contribute to job attainment for inmates upon release.

### Apprenticeship

The DRC Apprenticeship programs continue to provide documented hands-on skill training to non-traditional trainees. The apprenticeship process has become more standardized with training offered throughout the state. This effort was reinforced by a new statewide advisory committee formed to address current standards and to ensure that the trades offered provide employment opportunities to the inmate population. The DRC apprenticeship program is one of the larger in the state and provides inmates with job skills needed to successfully restore their link with family and community.

## Programs and Initiatives

### Advanced Job Training

The DRC Ohio Central School System and the Ohio Penal Education Consortium (OPEC) operate a collaborative effort that provides inmate students with post-secondary classes in the form of the Advanced Job Training (AJT) program. Inmate students who have attained either a high school diploma or GED have access to one of the most cost efficient methods of receiving college credit in the United States. Participation in the AJT program provides qualified inmate students with coursework specifically designed to enhance employability upon release, as well as reduces the overall recidivism rate. Youthful offenders participating in the AJT program have had a recidivism rate below 7% for the past two years.

### Library Services

OCSS Library Services meet a myriad of needs for the incarcerated by offering a variety of materials (visual, auditory and print) for all reading levels at each institution. Donations collected from organizations such as the Friends of the Library (public libraries), social organizations such as Books 4 Prisoners, bookstores such as Half-Priced Books and individuals, the libraries strive to keep general and special interest topics available to the inmate population.

In addition, several exciting things happened to staff and services in the past year: Fred Gaieck and his library at the Ohio Reformatory for Women received a mini-grant from the State Library of Ohio; staff received awards; several staff completed degrees; committees were created, including a Legal Services Committee and a Library Publicity Committee to work on increasing the visibility of libraries and library services in the Department among inmates and staff. Finally, the DRC libraries are interacting with the CBCFs primarily through book donations from the institutional libraries to the CBCFs.

### Distance Learning

The Department's videoconferencing team has developed a partnership with the Ohio Central School System that has helped to establish the 80 plus systems running through the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to the DRC Ohio Institution of Correctional Best Practices Video Bridge stationed in London, Ohio. The DRC team teaching concept is being implemented, and the dedicated distance learning teachers and school administrators are making leeway in extending services to institutions with fewer teachers. OCSS boast of twelve distance learning centers,

in addition to six CBCF centers, offering basic skills classes in Reading, Mathematics, Pre-GED, GED, as well as offering live two-way post-secondary courses and Continuing Education coursework for staff. When the distance learning centers are not being used for school purposes, the smooth transitioning has made the OCSS distance learning centers attractive to the Parole Board, Bureau of Community Service, DRC staff training and the Reentry Initiative, as well as other institutional video or satellite programming.

### Community Education

The Ohio Central School System has extended its Department of Education Charter to the Community Based Correctional Facilities. OCSS provides teacher certification, program accreditation, technical assistance, and instructional program support to the CBCFs. Other services include assistance in meeting state educational standards, supplying resource materials and standardized curriculums, assistance with special education and learning disabilities students, supplying funding to meet technological challenges with the computer laboratories and the distance learning centers. Currently, OCSS is implementing distance learning centers at Lucas County, Stark County, SEPTA, North West, STAR, and the Community Correctional Center CBCF. Three more CBCFs are planned to obtain distance learning centers in the future.

### Community Justice

Community Justice Adult Basic Literacy Education Centers (CJABLEC) were created as an outgrowth of Senate Bill 2 "Truth in Sentencing". Senate Bill 2 gave the Department the authority to develop post-release control sanctions for parolees. These sanctions made it possible to use Federal Grant funds to design and develop an aftercare component to compliment the work of the DRC Parole Officers. CJABLECs are community based, not for profit, agencies whose mission is to provide officers and parolees with employment and educational services.

Employment Services for the former offender include initial assessment, job placement, job coaching and job retention. Services for the potential employer include assistance with job retention strategies, transitional referral linkages, meeting with released offenders, understanding supervision, and working with Parole Officers. Educational Services include Character Education, Adult Basic Literacy Education, GED



Heather Kennedy working with students in the Montgomery Education and Pre-Release Center (MEPRC) Literacy Unit classroom.

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*“As an instructor I feel I have helped other people and experienced the positive impact education has on the incarcerated” —  
John Searls, 2003*



John Searls, OCSS Drafting Instructor, offers program instruction to a student of the Southeastern Correctional Institution (SCI).

## Programs and Initiatives



Misha Boyer leading a course review with Lima Correctional Institution (LCI) students.

*“During the last decade, OCSS has consistently enrolled over 25% of the inmate population and provided them with meaningful employment”*



Dr. James Dankwah, School Administrator, addresses the OCSS 2003 graduates of the Pickaway Correctional Institution (PCI).

training, Parenting and Family Skills. Currently DRC and OCSS provide ABLE and Title 1 funds through sub-grants to four CJABLECs located in Columbus, Cincinnati, Lima, and Hamilton, Ohio. Future plans include expansion to the Akron-Youngstown Corridor, Toledo Corridor, and the Portsmouth-Athens corridor.

### Release Preparation

DRC adopted the Release Preparation program policy on January 3, 2003. The purpose of the Release Preparation plan is to ensure offenders receive programming designed to enhance their chances for a successful reentry into the community. The Release Preparation program starts six to twelve months prior to release, with approximately 20 workshops focusing on the specific needs of offenders nearing release. In February 2003, staff members of the DRC Release Preparation Program Committee started the institutional training process statewide.

### Entry Year Program

The Ohio Central School System is in the second year of the Entry Year Program implementation. The Entry Year Program is required by the Ohio Department of Education for all beginning teachers in Ohio schools. This ongoing program has provided peer support and assistance to approximately 22 new educators by linking them with experienced teaching veterans of DRC. Monthly meetings and workshops are conducted for the entry year teachers and mentors, which provide the new educators with a variety of activities designed to enhance the educational growth and development of the students. All teachers new to OCSS will be mentored to ensure professional growth and successful teaching.

### Professional Development

The OCSS Professional Development Committee (OCSSPDC) was established in FY 2003 with the guidelines developed by the Ohio Department of Education. This committee is responsible for quality professional development within the school district. The committee has developed procedures for reviewing professional development that is aligned with the mentoring program and the district's Strategic Improvement Plan.

OCSSPDC spent last year reviewing professional development activities proposed and completed by OCSS staff to determine if requirements for renewal of certificate or transition to licensure

have been met. The OCSSPDC strives to ensure that all professional development aligns with the ongoing continuous improvement plans of the school and school the district's goals.

### JUMPY Books Reading Initiative

OCSS staff and students continue to contribute to the OhioReads initiative by supporting the children visiting family in the Reading Room/visiting areas developed by DRC in 1999. The Ohio Central School System staff launched the Jumpy Books Family Literacy Initiative in 2000 and a Jumpy Book Series in 2001.

To date, each DRC Reading Room is stocked with children's books. The initial goal of the DRC Reading Room was to help children pass the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Proficiency Test, but over time has evolved into a vehicle to encourage family literacy. The first book in the series was titled, *Jumpy Goes on a Picnic*, which became an exciting success for DRC. Staff currently oversee students working on creating puppets and stuffed animals that model the lovable characters in the DRC books. Brochures are distributed with each new book and include instructions and activities to enhance the reading experience. Certificates of participation are given to each visiting child.

### OhioReads

DRC Reading Rooms served 45,944 children of inmates. Inmate reading room narrators worked 32,156 hours reading to the visiting children. Two Jumpy books were introduced into the DRC Reading Rooms titled, *Jumpy Makes a Friend* and *Jumpy Plays Kickball* with over 10,000 copies printed and distributed in Fiscal Year 2003. In addition, several other organizations, including Barnes and Noble, and public libraries have donated books for the DRC Reading Rooms. Future plans include three additional Jumpy books and a parent activity guide. Currently, over 170 employees have participated in the public schools OhioReads volunteer program.

### Quality Assurance

The Quality Assurance Office works hard to improve the quality of OCSS. Emphasis is placed on good communication and training. Policy and procedure knowledge is stressed, and a support network of OCSS administration was established. Departmental Education audits improved in 2003, and the Quality Assurance Office is dedicated to continuing audit improvement.

## Annual Report Highlights

### Teacher of the Year

The DRC Ohio Central School System is proud to announce **Rhonda L. Grys**, as the Correctional Education Association of Ohio (CEA-O) 2003 Teacher of the Year award recipient. In addition, Rhonda was also named the CEA Region III Teacher of the Year at the Annual Region I, and III Conference held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Rhonda began her career with DRC in 1999, teaching vocational barbering at the Richland Correctional Institution (RiCI) located in Mansfield, Ohio. Ms. Grys holds a Managing Cosmetology License; is licensed by The Ohio State Barber Board; obtained the Ohio Career-Technical and Adult Education (CTAE) license; earned the Barber Instructor License from the Ohio State Barber Board in 2002, and was a Registered Barber for 20 years in the industry as a barber stylist and salon coordinator before working in the field of correctional education.

As a Barbering Instructor, Rhonda prepares her students to become proficient in all areas of barbering and to pass the Ohio State Barber Board examination for licensure. The 1800-hour Barbering program includes basic competencies in haircutting, facial shaves, facial massage, and chemical services. Before students can approach these competencies on the clinic floor, they first must complete required assignments and pass safety tests at 100%.

The Barbering program is operated from a business perspective with emphasis on preparation, marketing, retailing, and shop management duties, many of which are necessary tools needed to become a success upon release and in setting long-term goals for the students. "My belief is that anyone can make positive changes to their life. Life and learning are to be embraced," said Rhonda. She continues, "Career-Technical teaching has opened a new world to me in education and career advancement. Teaching is a rewarding and fun experience; I look forward to a long and illustrious career in correctional education."

### Ohio Department of Education Certification and Licensure Requirements for Teachers

The State Board of Education, and the General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 230, which established the Teacher Education and Licensure Standards for Ohio. The new standards (effective 1-1-98) work to ensure that only those teachers who can perform the work will do the work.

Licensure offered in Ohio is designed to ensure that teachers are appropriately prepared for their respective subject areas and levels of instruction. Teaching standards were designed to emphasize performance from the time the teacher enters the classroom throughout his or her career and to:

- Strengthen teacher preparations programs
- Require successful performance of beginning teachers
- Achieve higher standards through licensure
- Intensify professional development

The DRC Ohio Central School System is pleased to report that in Fiscal Year 2003, approximately 63 educators transitioned from certificates to licensure.

### The PRAXIS Series

The Professional Assessments for Beginning Teachers® (Praxis) Series provides assessment information for use by state education agencies. The Praxis Series assessments have become a reliable resource in making licensing decisions. The three categories listed below were designed in The Praxis Series to correspond to the three milestones experienced in teacher development:

- **Entering** a teacher training program, or also **Praxis I™**: Academic Skills Assessments
- **Licensure** for entering the profession, or also **Praxis II™**: Subject Assessments
- **The first year** of teaching, also referred to as **Praxis III™**: Classroom Performance Assessments

OCSS presently has 50 Pathwise trained mentors and ten certified Praxis III assessors working with the program. Out of the 22 DRC Entry Year teachers, five must pass the Praxis III assessment in order to obtain a five-year professional license. Three have passed the test, while two are still waiting to be assessed.

### Ohio Central School System Ambassador Program

As a result of the new statewide licensure standards, the Ohio Central School System established an Entry Year Teacher program for correctional educators entitled the Ambassador Program. Newly hired educators are matched with specially trained DRC mentors who will teach the new hire how to work within a correctional setting. Training includes topics on organizational management, security within the classroom, OCSS paperwork, as well as a variety of issues relevant to pass the state-mandated evaluations for licensure.



Rhonda L. Grys, RiCI Barbering Instructor, receives the 2003 CEA-O, and the 2003 CEA Region III Teacher of the Year Awards.

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*"Career-Technical teaching has opened a new world to me in education and career advancement" — Rhonda Grys, 2003*



Shawn Faulkner, OCSS Teacher, awarded doctorate from the University of Toledo.

# The Ohio Central School System on June 30, 2003

## Central Office

Dr. Jerry McGlone, Superintendent  
Denise Justice, Assistant Superintendent  
Rod Francis, Operations Manager  
Alex Adusei, Distance Learning Coordinator  
Pam Cass, Library Administrator  
James Dixon, Release Preparation Administrator  
Anne Fornal, Apprenticeship/Career-Tech. Director  
Jennifer Groves, Academic Director  
Celestina Ogbuehi, Professional Development Dir.  
Amy Whitmore, Quality Assurance Director

## Principals

Angela Adams, Shared Service Area I  
George Moroschan, Shared Service Area II  
Kimberly Chapman, Shared Service Area III  
Betty Fogt, Shared Service Area IV  
Karla Williams, Shared Service Area V  
Linn Davey, Shared Service Area VI  
Richard Jent (Acting), Shared Service Area VII  
Cyriacus Ogbuehi, Shared Service Area VIII  
Susan Phillians, Shared Service Area IX  
Sare Kavak, Shared Service Area X  
Ange Siemer, Shared Service Area XI  
Leroy Davis, Shared Service Area XII

## School Administrators

Total of 25 School Administrators

## Support Staff

Total of 2 Support Staff

## Teachers

Total of 475 Teachers

## Guidance Counselors

Total of 21 Guidance Counselors

## Librarians

Total of 20 Librarians

## Librarian Assistants

Total of 21 Librarian Assistants

## Total OCSS Staff

Total of 586 OCSS staff in FY 2003



## OCSS Facts

- OCSS was chartered by the Ohio Department of Education in 1973 as a special purposes school district.
- Academic programs are available in all 32 adult prisons with over 100 career-technical programs.
- OCSS provides services in 18 CBCFs, three community justice centers and the Hamilton County Jail.



## Ohio Central School System

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[HTTP://WWW.ODRC.STATE.OH.US](http://www.odrc.state.oh.us)

*The Ohio Central School System, of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, was chartered through the Ohio State Board of Education on April 9, 1973. The purpose of the school system, as described in Revised Code 5145.06, is to "provide educational programs for prisoners to allow them to complete adult education courses, earn Ohio certificates of high school equivalence, or pursue vocational training." The Ohio Central School System currently provides comprehensive educational programs and training in thirty-two adult prisons, and provides quality assurance for eighteen Community Based Correctional Facilities and two privately operated facilities in the State of Ohio.*

