Annual Report Highlights Progress at DYS
August 2019

We just published our Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2019, which provides an opportunity to share our efforts over the last 12 months to improve the lives of justice-involved youth.

We are at an exciting time of progress in juvenile justice, one in which we can play instrumental roles in the success of the youth within our system. The staff at DYS – whether youth specialists, parole officers, case managers, community justice professionals, medical professionals, or maintenance workers – are dedicated to helping these youth succeed and making our communities safer.

Governor DeWine has prioritized building a brighter future for Ohio’s children, including those who come into contact with our juvenile justice system. As Lieutenant Governor, he helped spearhead Ohio's RECLAIM initiative, which has revolutionized juvenile justice in our state and supported communities in holding youth accountable and meeting their needs.

The Governor has also demonstrated a commitment to education and employment opportunities, so we continue to focus on helping youth build more positive futures. Like all of us, they want a job with livable wages, a safe place to live, reliable transportation, and time with loved ones. Education and training create hope for such a future.

(I) Youth reading in the Circleville JCF library; (r) Youth reading in the Indian River JCF library
At DYS, we have been expanding vocational programs designed to ensure youth are job-ready when they go home. We are prioritizing training that can be completed at DYS, or finished in the community, for youth to gain industry-recognized credentials for in-demand job opportunities.

This year, we doubled the number of youth employed in our facilities, allowing them to save for reentry needs and gain work experience.

We take pride in the American Correctional Association’s reaccreditation of the Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility. ACA accreditation ensures that we are in compliance with national standards, and are best positioned to help youth within our facilities.

Regardless of their struggles, youth can make it to the other side with dedication and persistence. We strive to help them become well-equipped to better their lives, while contributing positively to their communities.

Of course, these are just a few highlights of our work. To learn more, please read the full report here.