



# Education in the Prison System: The Effects on Recidivism

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# The Problem

- ▶ Recidivism is defined as the tendency of a criminal to reoffend
- ▶ Recidivism rates are higher than ever
  - ▶ After 1 year of release, 56.7% of released prisoners are rearrested
    - ▶ Within 3 years: 67.8%
    - ▶ Within 5 years: 76.6%.
- ▶ Few in-prison approaches are offered to assist in an inmate's rehabilitation
- ▶ Education is a key factor
- ▶ Education in the prison system plays many roles





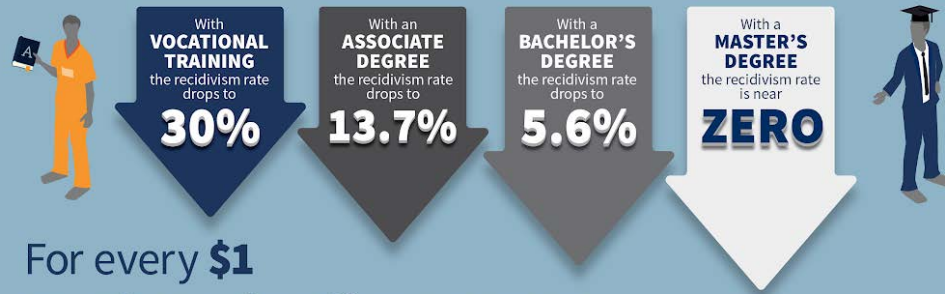
# Prison Based Education

- ▶ Functions:

- ▶ Agent of change for both the inmate and the system
- ▶ Maintain its integrity in terms of its basic commitment to freedom of inquiry
- ▶ Study, evaluate, and respond to all variables in the individual, the system, and society that are to be benefited by the educational concerns with process, product, and social reform



WHEN INMATES PARTICIPATE IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, THE RECIDIVISM RATE DROPS SIGNIFICANTLY.



For every **\$1** spent on **education** programs, **\$4** is **saved** on **reincarceration** costs.



In 2012, taxpayers paid **\$39 billion** to incarcerate inmates.

- That's **4X** what taxpayers paid two decades ago.
- Taxpayers are on the hook for **\$93k** per inmate on average.
- **Taxpayers** pay too much.

We must **break** this cycle.



Just over **2/3** of released prisoners are rearrested within **3 years**.



**1 year** after release, a **60%** unemployment rate afflicts the formerly incarcerated.



# What Does This Do?

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# How is it Being Done?

## ▶ Pell Grants

- ▶ Subsidy the U.S. federal government provides for students who need it to pay for education
- ▶ Lyndon B. Johnson extended this to prisoners
- ▶ Abolished in 1994
- ▶ The Obama Administration made a push to get it reinstated
  - ▶ Limited extension in 2016
- ▶ Funding for prison-based education is constantly receiving cuts, but prioritizing education would significantly reduce recidivism rates





# The Solution

Universally based prison education programs should be developed and carried out across the country.

This can be done simply through compiling the evidence and presenting it in such a way correctional officers have no choice to turn it away.

If we are genuinely committed to a criminal justice system that is not about punishment or revenge, but rehabilitation and justice, then higher education should be our friend and the Pell Grant lends that helping hand.





Questions



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