Improving Public Safety by Positively Changing Lives

Off-State Network/Secured-Internet

Fact Sheet | October 2025

Overview

With the mission to improve public safety by positively changing lives, the Department recognizes the transformative power of education in a correctional setting. To support our college partners in ensuring high-quality educational program delivery, as well as improving reentry efforts, the Department is implementing an Off-State Network Project, to include a secure-internet system for education in prison facilities statewide. As a part of this initiative, internet access is also being provided to all state Reentry Centers.

OSN Design & Security

The Office of Cyber Security established security policies in compliance with Executive Order 24-03 and SSB 5433:

- The OSN is physically separate from the State of Washington networks and all components are easily identified as being part of the OSN.
- A Content Review Committee and process for approval for "whitelisted" websites has been created. The Content Review Committee includes DOC Cybersecurity, DOC Education Administrator, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) Policy Associate, Reentry Division representative, Washington State Library librarian, and DOC Prisons Division representative.

Implementation & Migration

In FY24, the DOC IT team completed the implementation and testing phases at all 11 prison facilities and 11 Reentry Centers. The Department continues to collaborate with the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and college partners to expand classroom use and user accounts, approve "whitelisted" websites, and connections to applications.

In FY25, colleges migrated their Open Prison Education Platform and student laptops to the OSN network. College faculty and staff are also implementing secure internet use into classroom curricula, including incorporating digital research databases for student use.

Key features of the OSN include:

- 2,315 active student users as of June 2025
- Access to the JSTOR library database
- Online GED® testing services at all 10 facilities
- Expanded "White Listed" database for educational use

OSN Expansion & Maintenance

The Department and State Board continue to explore ways to include dedicated funding to support staff FTEs to expand, manage, and maintain the OSN to increase access and efficacy at each facility.

In FY26, DOC IT is coordinating with Education Services to update the OSN to include wi-fi capability in the classrooms and living units at each facility to enable students more access and availability to progress in their educational degree pathways. Initial Phase I expansion is occurring at Clallam Bay Corrections Center, Cedar Creek Corrections Center, Coyote Ridge Corrections Center, Olympic Corrections Center, and Washington Corrections Center for Women.