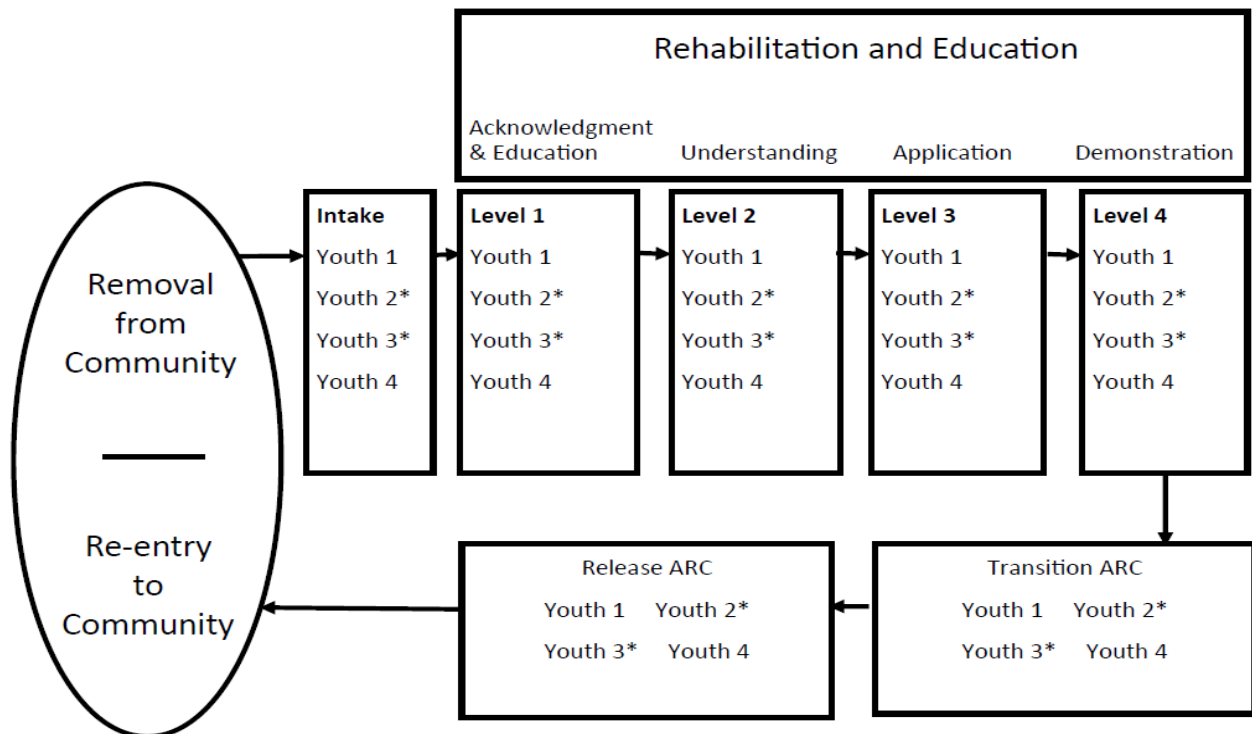


Transition and Community Mentoring

All four Hoosier student correctional facilities follow the same general transition process from the start of incarceration to the time of release. The first phase is Intake and lasts about 2 weeks at Madison and 1 week in other facilities. The second phase is Rehabilitation and Education when the student is in residency at the facility. Residency is usually about 5 to 6 months at Madison or 8 to 12 months at the facilities for males. Transition, the third and final phase consists of two phases. The transition ARC phase is meant to solidify living arrangements and exit requirements. Release ARC is the briefest phase, usually a Friday in which all paperwork is signed before the student is released on a Monday. **The problem is that once the student is released to reenter his or her community, no services are available and no contact is maintained.**



Your time with your mentee in the facility is intended to prepare him or her to succeed in the community upon Re-entry. HOPE connects one student to a mentor while during the place of residency with the goal of following the student out to the community.

We could wait until the student reaches the transition phase to start mentoring, but we have found that there is a need to build a relationship with the student so they are willing to continue meeting after release. Re-entry is the time when the student may be tempted to return to a maladaptive behavioral pattern; thus, it is extremely important.

Transition and Community Mentoring Planning Sheet

Use the questions below to guide your planning for your mentee's transition back into the community.

The Transition Arc meeting is expected to take place on

_____.

The Release Arc meeting is expected to take place on

_____.

I have talked with the transition specialist. The release date is expected to be

_____.

I have contacted the Professional Closet representative about the selection of my mentee's professional outfit (if applicable) _____.

My mentee picked out his/her outfit on this date: _____.

My mentee is returning to (address)

The address and hours of operation of my mentee's WorkOne center are:

Our plans for meeting in the community are as follows:

Tips for Planning an Activity

1. Review SMART goals, Intake Assessment Reports, and mentoring logs from previous sessions for ideas and reminders about what you've discussed with your mentee. Look for information that can help answer the following questions:
 - a. What are the skills your mentee most needs to develop to be successful?
 - b. What are your mentee's interests and passions?
 - c. What are your mentee's expressed goals for their education? Career? Personal life?
 - d. What did you work on during the last session?
 - e. What type of activities have kept your mentee's interest in the past?
 - f. What is going on in the world or in the correctional facilities that might relate to mentoring (holidays, special events, work being done in the facility classrooms that pertains to what you focus on in mentoring sessions).
2. Talk to other people for ideas! Use the facility staff, HOPE staff, and other HOPE mentors for ideas and advice. Often times the facility staff will have a familiarity with your mentee and will have ideas or suggestions for what works well with your particular mentee.
3. Check your portfolio's checklist. Are there activities you have yet to start? Activities you have started but have yet to repeat? Activities you've completed that may be helpful to revisit? Look at the portfolio skills checklist as well, to see the list of employability skills the state of Indiana deems important for all workers. Identify which skills your mentee needs to practice and try to create learning activities that allow your mentee to develop these skills.
4. Visit the HOPE Mentoring website. The mentor lounge has a lot of available resources, including a place to chat with other mentors about what has worked well for them in the past.
5. Consider the materials you will need for each activity and whether the items are allowed in the correctional facilities. Sometimes you might need to secure a gate release (a document which alerts security that you have special permissions to bring in an item to the facility) which requires talking to the facility principal or superintendent in advance.
6. Create backup ideas in case your activity ends earlier than you expected, or something does not go according to plan. It is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared, and you can always save your extra ideas for the next week's sessions.