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# BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2026

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2025



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

## Corrections Education

### Purpose

The Department of Corrections (DOC) Central Office contracts with local community colleges to provide professors to the DOC institutions to allow opportunities for offenders to earn a High School Equivalency Diploma (HiSET), achieve adult literacy, and receive adult basic education while incarcerated. The DOC Central Office also contracts with Area Education Agencies (AEAs) to provide special education staff as needed.

The Department of Corrections receives federal pass-through funds from the Department of Education (DE) for the institution-based educational programs. The funds from the DE provide remedial education in reading and math for offenders under age 21 who do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent and offenders that function at or below a sixth-grade education level.

### Funding

In addition to the federal funding, the DOC receives an annual General Fund appropriation for corrections education in the Justice System Appropriations Act. Language in the appropriations budget bill permits unused funds to be carried forward to the next fiscal year, with the restriction that the carryforward balance must be used for corrections education.

The General Fund appropriation is combined with Inmate Telephone Fund allocations, as approved by the Board of Corrections, to be used for education. The DOC may also allocate money from the institution's canteen funds or Iowa State Industries Revolving Fund for education, as provided in the budget bill.

### Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [904.516](#)

Iowa Code chapters [259A](#) and [904](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [201](#)

### Budget Unit Number

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### More Information

Department of Corrections: [doc.iowa.gov](http://doc.iowa.gov)

Department of Education: [educateiowa.gov](http://educateiowa.gov)

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