

Project Phoenix

Updates to the Imperial County Secure Track Program





SB 823 Introduction

- In 2020, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill 823 (SB 823) with the intent to close Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) state-level facilities and shift the responsibility for all youth committed for long term correctional care. to the counties. Under SB 823, youth who would have previously been eligible for a commitment at DJJ must now instead remain under the care and custody of local Probation Departments and their Juvenile Halls.
- SB 823 presented an opportunity to local Probation Departments to create a local, secure rehabilitative program that meets the individual needs of youth who would have otherwise been housed at facilities operated by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. SB 823 extended the age of local juvenile court jurisdiction to 23 or 25, as specified, and repealed certain provisions that allowed youth to be detained in adult facilities. Under SB 823, any person whose case originated in juvenile court may now remain in a county juvenile facility until they turn 25, in certain circumstances.
- In Imperial County, SB 823 individuals will now be able to remain in close proximity to their families, while participating in a secure rehabilitation program operated by the Probation Department, which is currently working in collaboration with local service and treatment providers. Pursuant to SB 823, Imperial County is currently providing safe and secure county-based custody, care and supervision, to eight individuals who would have previously been committed to the Division of Juvenile Justice.

Dormitory 5 Upgrade

- Dormitory 5 has been repurposed and remodeled to serve as the living unit for youth who have successfully transitioned into phase III of the positive change program in the Secure Track Program.

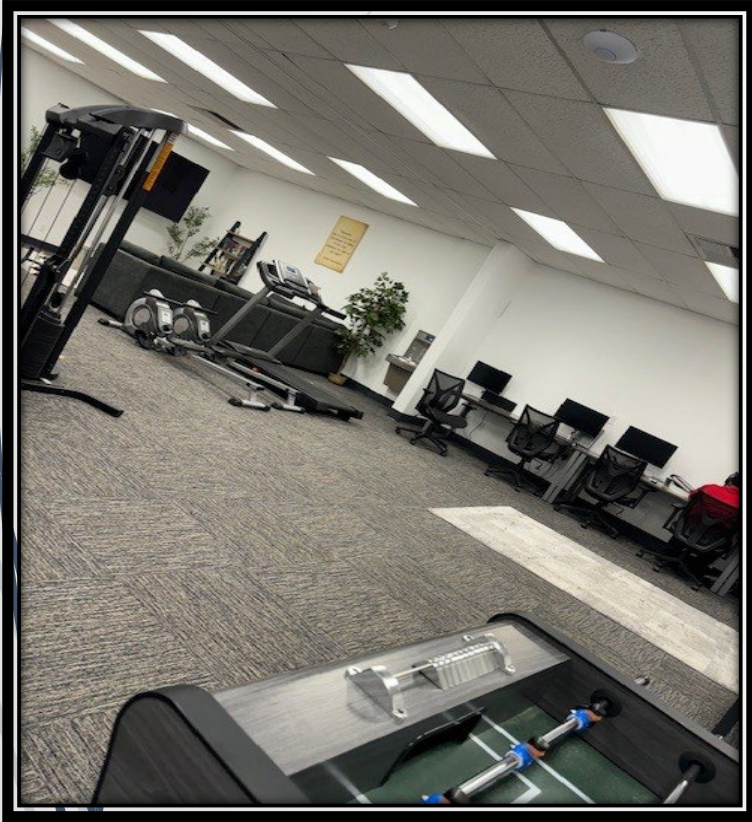


Structural Upgrades

- ▶ Probation has recently built a pickleball and basketball court adjacent to the multi-purpose room where youth can perform outdoor activities.



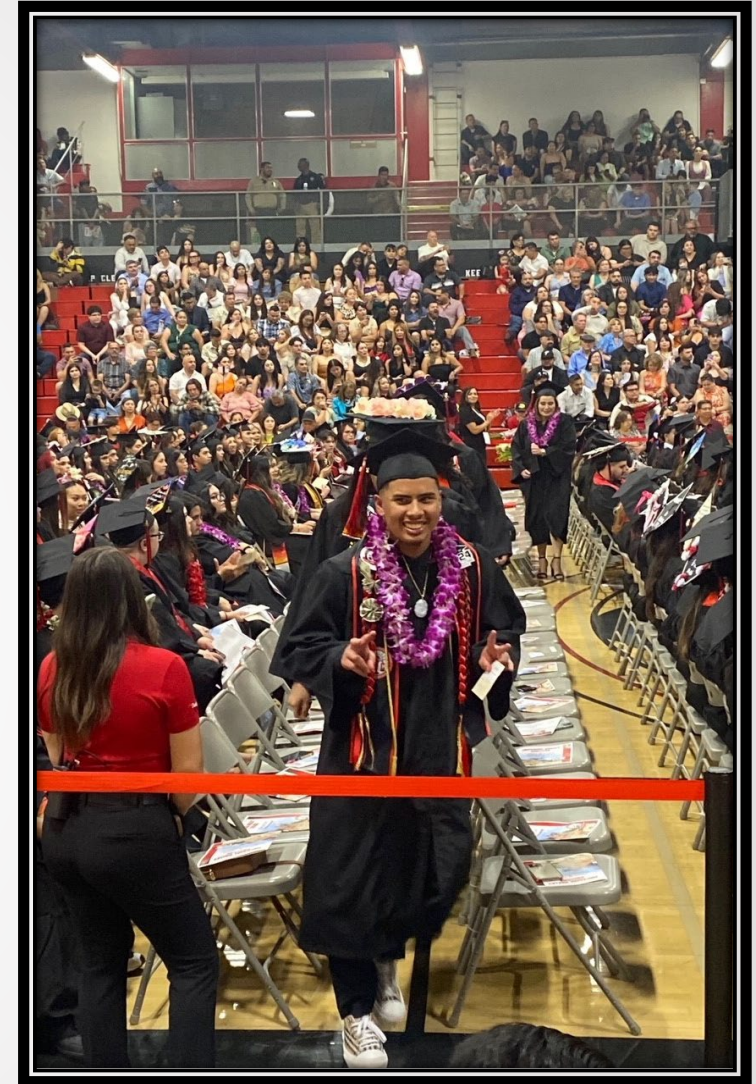
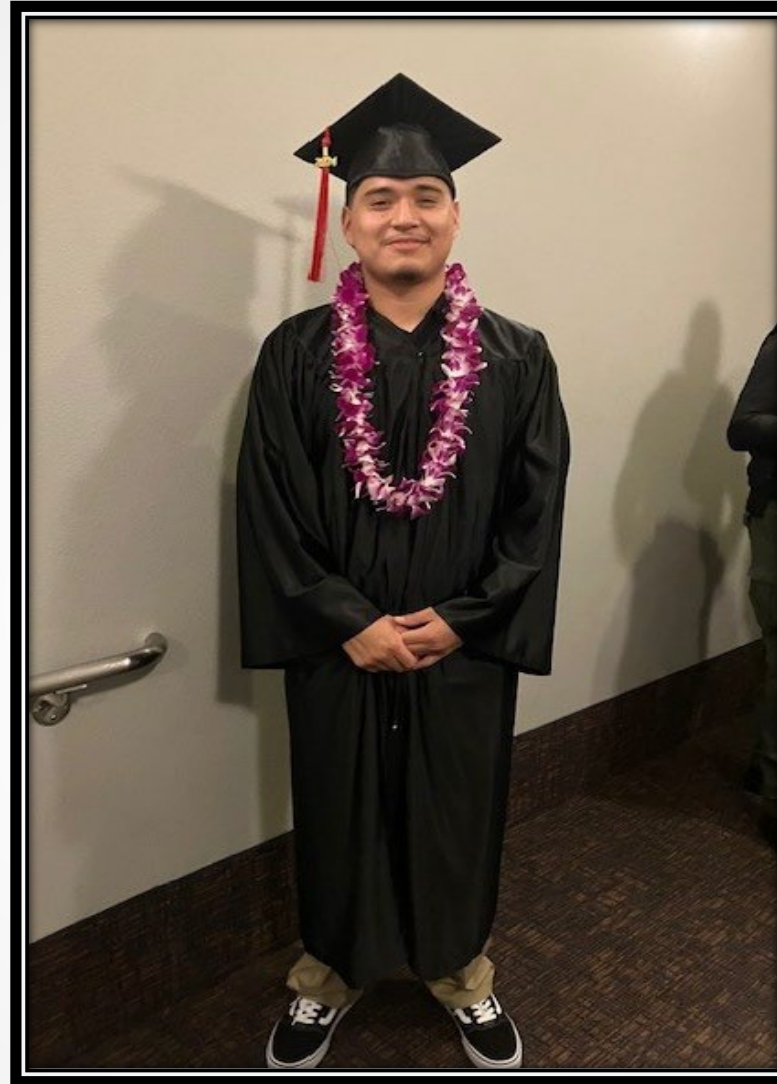
Multi-Purpose Room (MPR)



The Multi-Purpose Room is the designated programming area for youth in Secure Track. The MPR also serves as the youth's indoor exercise area as well as an educational space where youth have access to Chromebooks to help them fulfill their online college courses as well as additional recreational activities.

Education

- ▶ Imperial County Office of Education
 - Esther Huff School
 - Most recently, Secure Track Youth participated in a graduation ceremony at Southwest High School. Youth received a high school diploma (left).
- ▶ Imperial Valley College
 - Youth attend college courses online and/or in person
 - Most recently, Secure Track Youth graduated from Imperial Valley College achieving a 3.8 GPA and distinction in the major of Psychology. Youth is also majoring in Civil Engineering (right).





Programming



- Probation continues to collaborate with the following service providers:
 - Imperial County Behavioral Health Services
 - Youth and Young Adults Clinic
 - Substance Use Disorder Clinic; Individual substance-use counseling/ group counseling
 - Rite Track Youth Services
 - Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program
 - Prison Education Project
 - Imperial Valley LGBTQ Center
 - Imperial County Sheriff's Office
 - Off- Highway Vehicle Enforcement Safety Team (OHVEST)
 - Printshop Equipment Operator

Barber Program

- Imperial County has most recently partnered with a local barber who has lived experience and comes to Juvenile Hall regularly to offer haircuts to our youth. Having a barber with lived experience can provide not just great haircuts but also mentorship and connection for the youth. It's a unique way to build trust and create a supportive environment.

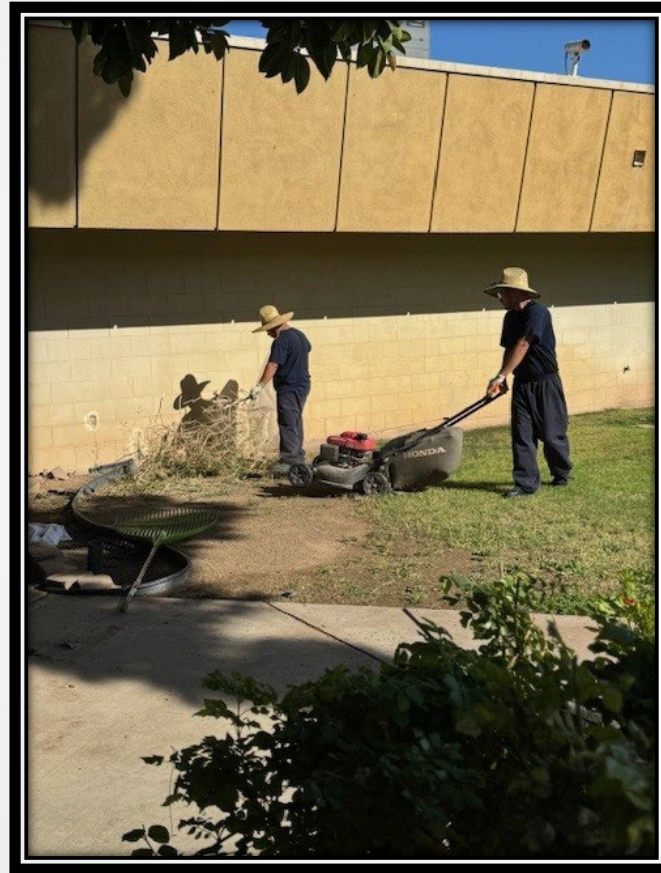


Landscaping and Horticulture Program

- ▶ As an outgrowth of our Master Garden Program, the Imperial County has implemented a landscaping program for Secure Track where youth have learned basic landscaping skills.
- ▶ Basic landscaping skills such as operating a lawn mower, string trimmer/edger and blower can be exceptionally beneficial for youth in custody. Not only does it provide them with practical job skills that can be useful in many industries, but it also helps build a sense of responsibility, teamwork, and pride in their work.
- ▶ Basic landscaping skills are a valuable asset for youth transitioning back into society after being in custody. These skills can lead to job opportunities in landscaping, groundskeeping, and horticulture, which are fields with high demand. They also provide a constructive way for youth to learn responsibility, attention to detail, and teamwork.

Landscaping and Horticulture Program

(Continuation)



■ Landscaping skills include:

- **Planting and Garden Maintenance:** Understanding how to plant, water, and maintain various types of vegetation is foundational.
- **Lawn Care:** Knowing how to mow, edge, and maintain lawns.
- **Use of Basic Tools and Equipment:** Familiarity with tools like mowers, trimmers, shovels, and rakes is essential.
- **Irrigation System Basics:** Understanding irrigation systems can be a high-value skill.
- **Basic Landscape Design:** Learning how to arrange plants, rocks, and other elements to create appealing layouts.
- These skills can boost confidence and provide a steppingstone toward a career or even self-employment in landscaping. Plus, the work has therapeutic benefits, allowing individuals to connect with nature and experience the satisfaction of tangible results from their efforts.



Tutoring Services



- ▶ Probation is committed to make a meaningful difference in the youth's education and overall rehabilitation.
- ▶ Tutoring Services are being provided by a California Credentialed teacher.
- ▶ Secure Track consists of youth currently attending Esther Huff School in pursuit of a high school diploma as well as youth who have already graduated and are attending Imperial Valley College online and/or in-person.
- ▶ Tutoring services have been incorporated into the youth's programming schedule. Youth receive tutoring services three (3) times a week, on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays for two (2) hours per session.

Furloughs

- ▶ Youth may be granted furlough release upon reaching level five (5) of their behavioral modification plan. Level five (5) consists of the last six months of the youth's baseline term and are approved contingent to the youth's behavior.
- ▶ Types of furlough release:
 - Day pass
 - Overnight pass
 - Weekend pass
 - Educational activities
 - Funeral Services
 - Family Reunification
 - Work furlough





Future Plans



- ▶ As of the most recent approval of the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan in 2024, Imperial County Probation in collaboration with the Imperial County Office of Education has incorporated a barber program specifically for youth in the Secure Track Program. Youth will receive instruction five days a week for a total of 1,500 hours of training before they can qualify for barbering license issued by the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology.
 - Youth will be provided transportation to the Calexico Academy School and partake in the barber program held on campus.
- ▶ Probation's goal is to expand our current programming through strengthening our relationships with our local service providers, while establishing new partnerships with agencies that are in support of our youth's rehabilitative journey.



Questions