

A Note from TeamChild about the video, *Labeled*:

Youth involved in the juvenile justice system face significant barriers, especially as they are returning to the community from detention or longer term incarceration at a juvenile rehabilitation facility. It's not unusual for these youth to face ongoing challenges in many aspects of their lives – at home, in their neighborhoods, and at school. Many of these youth are behind in school and have been excluded or pushed out of main stream public school programs. When they return from a period of incarceration, these educational challenges are even more difficult to overcome.

TeamChild joined a partnership in 2010 with the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration and other community organizations funded by the Department of Labor. The project is called LEAP and is a juvenile offender reentry initiative that has a goal of connecting youth to education and employment after they are released from incarceration. Under the LEAP partnership, TeamChild provides consultation and training to juvenile justice professionals working with youth transitioning out of detention and long-term incarceration. We are also working to raise community awareness about barriers to success for youth coming out of incarceration.

As part of our LEAP work, TeamChild staff produced a video designed to increase community awareness around the educational barriers facing youth transitioning out of detention and long-term incarceration. The video captures the experiences of youth, including those recently released from incarceration, and their educational goals and challenges. There were two recurring themes: the negative impact of labels and the early and frequent experience of being suspended from school. Two of the students featured in the video recalled suspensions starting in sixth grade and continuing until they finally dropped out or were incarcerated.

Our hope is that this video will raise questions about how we can remove, rather than create barriers to educational success. We hope it inspires action that recognizes that all youth have potential and can succeed, if given meaningful opportunities. We'd like you to think specifically about these questions as you watch the video:

1. What questions does the video raise for you about our educational and juvenile justice system and those systems' ability to keep children engaged and on a path to success?
2. Are there ways to reduce or remove negative labels? Can you think of ways that you can make an impact?
3. How can we support school discipline approaches that are evidence based to both achieve school safety and improve educational success for *all* children?
4. Think of five people that should see this video and share it and these questions with them. Ask them what difference they could make in improving the educational success of juvenile justice involved students.



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