

Accreditations:

Ferris School is accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA) and National Performance-based Standards (PbS).

Accreditation by the ACA ensures youth and staff safety and security, records maintenance and data management, and improvement to the facilities. The ACA is a voluntary professional organization dedicated to improved management of correctional agencies.

PbS is a data-driven improvement model grounded in research that holds juvenile justice agencies, facilities, and residential care providers to the highest standards for operations, programs, and services. Ferris School is committed to treating youth in custody as one of their own.



CONTACT US

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FERRIS SCHOOL



DSCYF
Department of Services for
Children, Youth & Their Families

Ferris School

Ferris School opened in 1997 and is a secure-care treatment facility that provides services for up to 72 court committed male youth between the ages of 13 to 18 who have been adjudicated by Family Court. Youth committed to Ferris School are identified as serious and/or chronic repeat offenders with a high risk to re-offend, who pose a risk to themselves and others, and require intensive rehabilitative treatment. Youth participate in intensive behavioral management programs in addition to pro-social, athletic, and vocational services.

Education

The Educational Services Unit provides comprehensive educational programs year round which are structured to each child's age, abilities, developmental stages, and grade level. Academic instruction is provided by certified instructors. Special education services and GED preparation are available. Upon completion, educational transition to the youth's school district is supported by the Department of Education. Transition Specialists work with the youth on their return to the community for up to 90 days.

Treatment Programs

Ferris School provides a total structured learning environment that integrates all elements of rehabilitation, education, and treatment at the start of each day. The school offers a behavioral modification approach to treatment through the implementation of Cognitive Behavior Training (CBT). Youth are rewarded for positive behavior and sanctioned for negative behavior. The staff are trained to view every interaction with the youth as a learning opportunity. All programs are evaluated by the Quality Assurance Unit using a standard protocol and measured against evidence-based standards.

Examples of Services:

- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Thinking for a Change
- Seven Challenges
- Life Skills
- Fatherhood Program
- Yoga
- Additional services tailored to fit the needs of our youth

Vocational and Career Readiness Programs

The Culinary Arts Course offers hands-on training in culinary skills. The program is offered four times a year, is approved by the DE DOE for high school credits, and considered a career pathway in many DE high schools. The course includes "hands-on" training by a Certified Culinary Instructor who teaches specific cooking skills and covers topics about: Food Safety & Sanitation, Cooking Techniques & Methods, and Catering. Students earn the ServSafe Food Handler Certification which is valid for five years and provides the students with an advantage in the labor market for jobs in these areas.

Visitation

Residents are allowed to receive visits from immediate family members, attorneys, agency personnel, clergy, and others.

Visitation is Saturday and Sunday from 12:30pm-1:30pm and 2:30pm-3:30pm.

Additional visitation guidelines can be viewed at: <https://kids.delaware.gov/youth-rehabilitative-services/ferris-school-for-boys/>