



State of Illinois  
Circuit Court of Cook County  
Juvenile Probation Department

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**JUMPSTART TRUANCY  
PROGRAM**

**MISSION**

The mission of the **JUMPSTART PROGRAM** is to provide out-of-school delinquent youth with a 20-week, success-readiness experience that will prepare them educationally, emotionally and psychologically for a successful return to community-based learning programs. The program seeks to refocus and redirect those minors lacking the necessary initiative, skills, self-motivation and appropriate behavior to continue their educations in the traditional public school setting

**PROGRAM GOALS**

The program is intended to serve those minors for whom all other services have been exhausted. JUMPSTART immerses participants in a structured, highly interactive learning environment, located within the safe confines of the Juvenile Court Building itself. Its goals are as follows:

1. To present 10 weeks of daily classroom instruction that will help sharpen students' academic skills, model school appropriate behavior, and encourage personal goal setting and problem solving.
2. To promote self-awareness and individual responsibility.
3. To evaluate and improve students' academic skill levels and vocational aptitudes.
4. To match each student with an appropriate community-based learning program.
5. To provide 10 weeks of intensive aftercare once students are referred to other programs, to help them make a successful transition back to a community-based learning environment.

**TARGET POPULATION**

Jumpstart is open to all delinquent minors throughout Cook County who are (1) between the ages of 16 and 18, (2) unenrolled in school and unemployed, and (3) uncooperative with other forms of intervention. The program is designed for those clients who have demonstrated little capacity to succeed elsewhere. Jumpstart will accept virtually any applicant, as long as he/she has managed to complete his 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## OVERVIEW

The Probation Department launched JUMPSTART in August, 2000, as a means of targeting children who feel little or no connection to their previous schooling. Realizing that these children face adulthood at a severe disadvantage, Probation Officers developed a 20-week, intensive program experience designed to help participants start thinking differently about themselves, their education and their future.

The first ten weeks of JUMPSTART are a classroom experience, conducted at the Juvenile Court Building at 1100 S. Hamilton Ave., Chicago, Illinois. Three specially trained Probation Officers, or "**Classroom Officers**," teach reading, math, and social studies every morning. Using interactive techniques and learning materials that provide maximum student impact, they focus on getting and holding student attention, generating discussion and encouraging participation. The program provides all students with bus fare to and from the Court Building as well as with lunch every day.

In the afternoons, two other staff members, or "**Outreach Officers**," teach non-academic subjects, such as job-readiness, communication and goal setting skills, law related education, health and human development, fine arts, conflict resolution, and victim awareness. The Outreach Officers also provide daily, direct supervision to all program participants and a full range of support services.

## AFTERCARE PHASE

During the initial ten-week classroom experience, the entire JUMPSTART staff assesses each student academically and works with him//her to establish meaningful goals as well as a personal plan of action. Immediately, thereafter, a ten-week **Aftercare** ensues. All students are matched with full-time educational programs back in the community, where they can work toward achieving their goals in settings that offer the best possible chance for success.

Throughout the **Aftercare Phase**, the Outreach Officers provide intensive follow-up and support. They visit the students weekly, at home and at school, helping them make adjustments, solve problems and build a support system in their new programs. The JUMPSTART staff uses every resource at its disposal to enable its students to begin seeing themselves as competent, functioning adults with hopeful futures.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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