

# Education in the Jails: Building a Foundation for the Future

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# Objectives

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## Participants will learn:

- The history, partnerships, and challenges of the educational system at the King County Jails
- What it's like to tutor at the jail: training, challenges, rewards

# Agenda

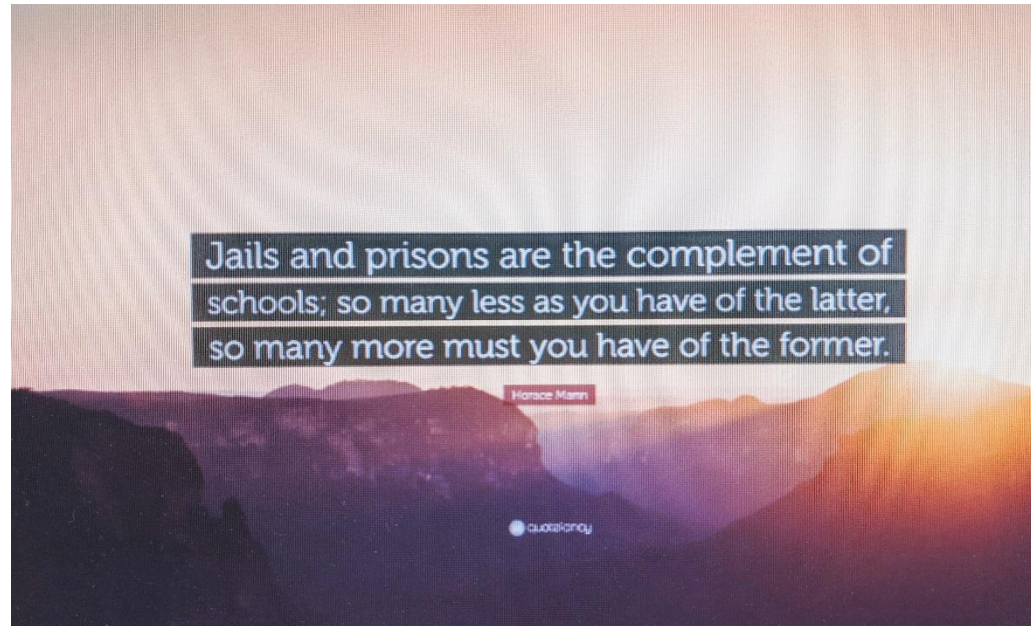
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1. Intros/Overview & Objectives
2. Turn & Talk: What's the difference between a jail & a prison
3. Overview of the Education System at the Jail: Who and what do we teach?
4. Who's Involved? Partner Organizations at the Jail
5. Education in the Jail: Challenges
6. Pair & Share: What characteristics are important for tutoring in the jail?
7. Training Tutors: What's involved, and why it's difficult
8. Panel Introductions
9. Questions for the panelists
10. Q&A

# Introductions

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- Name, and why did you decide to attend this presentation?
- For me:



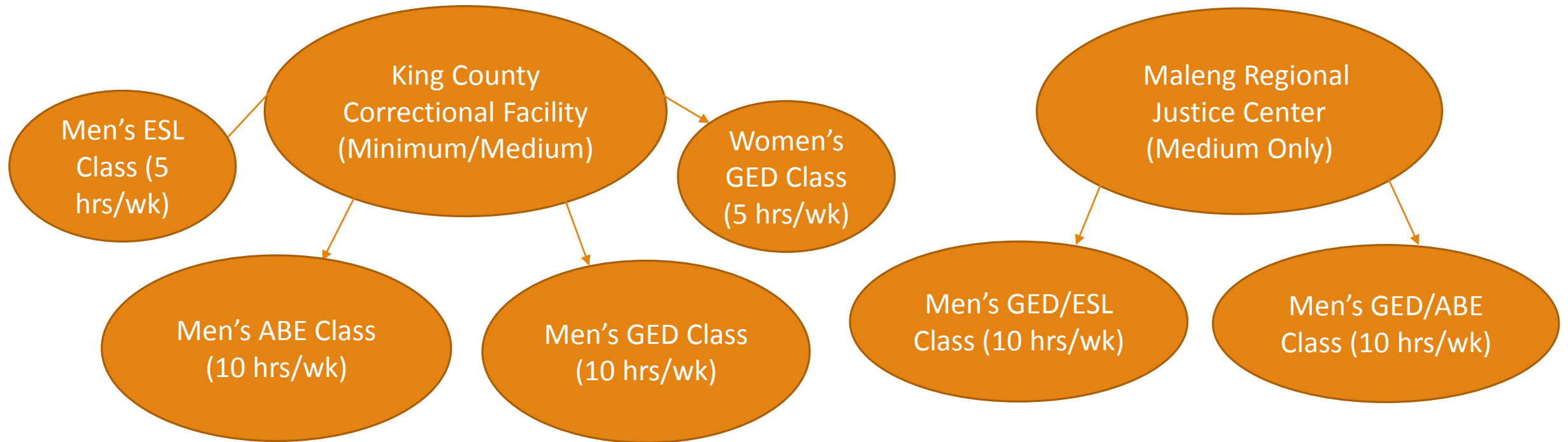
# Turn & Talk

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- What is the difference between a jail and a prison?
  - Length of stay
  - Awaiting trial or serving short sentences
  - Who's in control: city/county vs state/federal
  - Generally more educational opportunities in a prison

# Overview of Education System at the King County Jail

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Seattle Central offers instruction, coordination, and weekly GED testing



Literacy Source tutor coordinator facilitates a seminar for UW students via the UW Pipeline Program, students tutor at KCCF

Literacy Source provides tutor support (~15 at KCCF, 5 at RJC) and coordination as well as training

# Education in the Jails: Challenges

Turn & Talk: What are some challenges that you would expect in the educational environment at a jail? (Two facets: Students & Environment)

- Students:
  - Are going through traumatic events in their lives
  - Have often historically had negative experiences with education
  - May have learning differences, traumatic brain injuries, former substance use, regulation of meds
- Environment:
  - Safety and Security is paramount and always takes precedent
  - Purpose of the jail is antithetical to the purpose of education
  - Transitional facility so frequent/unpredictable movement



# Pair & Share

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- What are some personality traits that you think would make it easier for a tutor to succeed in the jail?

Dedicated

Empathetic

Patient

Flexible

Creative

Realistic

# Tutor Training: What's involved

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- Waiting List
- Phone Screen
- In-Person Interview: Paperwork for LS & King County
- Safety & Security Orientation Video
- Tutor Training: How to tutor effectively in the jail
- 10 hours of Literacy Source training in the first year

# Tutor Training: Why it's difficult

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- Long time between initial interest and getting started
- Difficult to explain a jail situation without scaring people off
- Additional layer of training beyond tutoring: How to navigate/manage the jail environment.
- No accommodations for special needs (e.g. walking canes, translators, insulin pumps)

# Tutoring at the jail: Why it's rewarding

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- “Making the Impossible Possible”: We are reaching one of the most difficult to reach populations
- Students are opting for this service, it is a privilege
- Often tangible, life-changing results: GED scores, graduation ceremonies
- Tutors and teachers are frequently giving students the first positive educational experience they've had
- We are hitting students at a critical juncture as many of them will be released soon

# Tutoring at the jail: Why it's rewarding

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# Panel Discussion

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## Introductions:

- Who are you?
- How long have you been working/tutoring at the jail?
- What made you want to join the educational team at the jail?