



Department of  
Youth Services

**Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed**  
**Wi-Fi at DYS Boosts Educational Opportunities for Youth**

October 6, 2015



Information Technology Services (ITS) at DYS has rolled out secure Wi-Fi, for both youth and staff, at the three DYS facilities, boosting instructional resources for teachers and learning opportunities for students. The technology is separated into two categories: administrative Wi-Fi that is only available to staff and student Wi-Fi that is restricted by ITS and managed by school administrators.

This technology advancement increases mobility and productivity for staff and moves DYS closer to an electronic environment. Greater flexibility is available for interdisciplinary team meetings, panels with the Release Authority, and use of online resources by parole staff when they are at the facilities. It is a more cost-effective solution than traditional wired connectivity options. Further, secure Wi-Fi offers flexibility to provide computers where needed to meet students' needs as well as accommodate a growing number of devices.

Wireless Internet gives youth more learning opportunities by incorporating technology on living units (although a connection is NOT available in youths' rooms). Youth are able to use the Internet constructively for educational purposes and take advantage of web-based curriculum and other learning resources. Access to the technology prepares youth for life outside of the facility, teaching them about tools that they can use when they return to the community.

For teachers, Wi-Fi opens up a world of resources that support instructional strategies. It provides the ability to use a variety of devices for teaching and learning purposes. The

technology also provides another vehicle of communication with students and families from anywhere in the school.

On a related note, ITS is currently installing over 500 virtual desktops for youth to use. A virtual desktop provides the technology for a user's desktop environment (folders, toolbars, widgets, etc.) to be stored remotely on a server rather than on a local computer. This provides on-demand, full access to desktops to users anytime and anywhere, also providing youth with greater access to resources and increasing productivity.

Special thanks to all of the staff at ITS for their hard work in improving our technology infrastructure and expanding opportunities for youth and staff!