



“Children
are likely to
live up to what
you believe
of them.”

Lady Bird Johnson

In Trenton, less than 50% of students graduate from high school. Students drop out for a range of reasons, including the need for income; to care for their own children, siblings or disabled relatives; some grow frustrated by their own poor academic skills; the culture of their public school or substance addiction.

Most dropouts face multiple barriers. Many carry criminal records, some are parents and countless students contend with unsafe home and street environments. They carry a high risk of future incarceration.

Today, society pays dearly for these worsening trends. Investing in ways to escape this prison and life in poverty pipeline can be highly cost effective, with returns on investment up to 44 to 1.

In 1995, Isles began offering education and construction training to these young people. Today, Isles Youth Institute serves around 60 youth each year, providing education, vocational training, life skills support and case management services.

In 2015, 19 students obtained a GED or High School Diploma and 19 Pre-Apprenticeship Training (PACT) certificates were earned.

