

Literacy Standards for the Entry Level Criminal Justice Practitioner

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In recent years both the private and the public sectors have experienced the ill effects of literacy problems. Several private companies have instituted their own programs to raise the functional literacy levels of new employees. They designed these programs to school employees in specific literacy skills needed by the company. However, this is simply treating the symptom and not the disease. Unfortunately the public sector does not have the fiscal resources forces public agencies to prioritize monetary allocations. Programs to raise the literacy level of new employees are not a top priority. Inadequate literacy levels among new employees is a problem for all public sector organizations. However, it is more obvious and significant in the criminal justice community. This research project examines the functional literacy of entry level criminal justice officers and discusses possible options for instituting literacy requirements for basic recruits.