

# Back to School!

The signs are everywhere —  
it's time to go back to school...  
and we're not just talking about the kids either...

## Did you know?

- A majority of state prisoners have no high school diploma. An estimated 40% of them cannot read.
- Despite evidence that inmates who receive such training are less likely to recidivate, more than half of all state prison systems have reduced educational and vocational training since 1989.
- In New York State—44% of inmates who received no college education returned became repeat offenders.  
*That number drops to 27% with college training.*
- Among formerly incarcerated women, 29% returned to custody who had no college while imprisoned.  
*Only 7.7% of those who were college educated returned to custody.*

## Did you know?

- It costs \$44,000 per year to keep someone incarcerated.
- It costs \$3,000 per year to educate an incarcerated person.
- Taxpayers would ultimately save money by educating our imprisoned sisters and brothers — simply because they are less likely to return once released.

**We all need to go “Back to School” to learn more about the needs of our neighbors in prison.  
We need to invite our policymakers “Back to School,” too — to learn with us.  
Education transforms lives, and transforms society for the better.**

Visit [www.hudrivpres.org/prison](http://www.hudrivpres.org/prison) — where you can connect with the Presbytery’s Prison Partnership, and find resources to help us all “Back to School.”

You can also write to [shepp@hudrivpres.org](mailto:shepp@hudrivpres.org) for more information.

(Or, fill out the section below and drop it in your church’s offering plate — it will be forwarded to the Partnership.)

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*I'm interested in learning more — please add me to the Prison Partnership email list!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

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