DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Policy Number:	**770.020**
Title:	**Post-Secondary Education Student Advocacy**
Effective Date:	**01/02/25**

PURPOSE: To provide clear parameters for individual advocacy and systems advocacy between post-secondary education student and education partner employees.

APPLICABILITY: All students housed in a Minnesota correctional facility and enrolled in a post-secondary education institution's prison education program.

DEFINITIONS:
Education partner employee – see Policy 720.020, "Education Partner Relationship."

Individual advocacy – see Policy 730.010, "Education Partner Personal Associations/Interactions between Staff and Incarcerated/Resident Students."

Systems advocacy – see Policy 730.010, "Education Partner Personal Associations/Interactions between Staff and Incarcerated/Resident Students."

Academic purposes – see Policy 730.010, "Education Partner Personal Associations/Interactions between Staff and Incarcerated/Resident Students."

PROCEDURES:

A. Individual Advocacy

1. A student may advocate on their own behalf with the education partner employee if the purpose of the advocacy is for academic purposes.

2. A student may not advocate on their own behalf with the education partner employee for anything other than academic purposes. If a student wants to advocate on their own behalf about anything other than academics, they must follow the identified DOC process.

3. A student may not ask an education partner employee to advocate on their behalf in their professional capacity for anything outside of the employee's academic experiences with the student.

4. A student may not ask an education partner employee to personally advocate on their behalf.

B. Systems Advocacy

1. As with any other DOC policies, students may advocate for changes in DOC policies or rules for the education program.

2. A student may not advocate with education partner employees for changes in DOC policies or rules that are outside of the scope of the education program. If a student wants to advocate for changes in DOC policies or rules that are outside of the education program, they must follow the identified DOC process.

3. A student may not ask an education partner employee to personally advocate for changes in DOC policies or rules.

INTERNAL CONTROLS:
A. No documentation is required.

REFERENCES: Policy 720.020, "Education Partner Relationship"
Policy 730.010, "Education Partner Personal Associations/Interactions between Staff and Incarcerated/Resident Students"

REPLACES: All facility policies, memos, or other communications whether verbal, written, or transmitted by electronic means regarding this topic.

ATTACHMENTS: None

APPROVALS:
Commissioner of Corrections