State Prison
State prisons house violent or repeat criminals, or nonviolent inmates who have exhausted all other forms of punishment.

County Prison
Some low-security, short-term state prisoners are incarcerated at county work camps. They provide unpaid, yet highly-skilled, work to the counties in which they are housed.

Transitional Centers
Through workforce development training components, the Transition Centers increase our community and correctional capacity to address the needs of offenders and to match their needs with available community-based resources.

Research shows offenders released through Transition Centers are far less likely to re-offend than those released directly from prison.

Probation Detention Center (PDC)
A probation detention center is a minimum security facility for confining offenders. The offenders perform unpaid community work, receive treatment, and are eventually released to probation supervision.

GDC Offender Reentry Model

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)
3,422 beds are set aside for probationers and inmates with the most severe cases of alcohol and substance abuse among the probation population. Beds are also available for those offenders and probationers with co-occurring disorders.

Day Reporting Center (DRC)
DRCs are non-residential programs that deal with the severe cases of alcohol and substance abuse among the probation population. Day Reporting Centers are available in some circuits to provide intensive treatment. Offenders attend classes and counseling sessions, and are tested for drugs and alcohol frequently. Probation follows release.
“Public safety will always be our number one priority.”
- Commissioner Brian Owens

Our mission in the Georgia Department of Corrections is to create a safer Georgia by effectively managing offenders and providing opportunities for positive change.

Historically, in the nation and in Georgia, over 65 percent of felons commit additional crimes and return to prison in their lifetime. This is unacceptable. We must do more to fight recidivism.

In order to support the mission of providing opportunities to change, we use “Best Practices” for directing Reentry Initiatives in order to transform the way Georgia’s inmate populations are prepared for their transition back to society.

Reentry begins when offenders initially enter our system. The GDC Offender Reentry Model, to the right, depicts our strategy for ensuring we provide effective opportunities for the rehabilitation, restitution and restoration of offenders before they return to the greater community.

We begin in the Diagnostic Process, (1) by conducting a comprehensive assessment of the needs and security risks of every offender entering our prison system.

The (2) assessment results drive our classification of inmates and their assignments to prison facilities and risk reduction programs, which include cognitive behavioral programs, substance abuse education; literacy, GED and vocational classes, and our Faith and Character-based programs.

GDC also has expanded its Reentry initiatives beyond the traditional prison setting with Day Reporting Centers, community coalitions, interagency collaborations, and a variety of other programs to assist the offender with transition.

Through workforce development, the Transition Centers (3) increase the community and correctional capacity for the offender to work on housing and job skills prior to release. Sentence and classification determines the placement of offenders. All are not appropriate for all programs, but many will get to take part in the Transitional Center Programs where they can work prior to going home.

Once released to community supervision (4), the focus begins to focus on areas such as employment, parenting and housing. The probation/parole officer is there with the assistance and support as well as the supervision the probationer/parolee needs to be successful.

Increasingly most returning ex-offenders transition via probation or parole. This gives the offender support through their officer and guidance in dealing with these other focus areas.

Reentry initiatives (5) provide effective opportunities for offenders entering the community to achieve change to be productive members of society.