

### **Taft Youth Development Center**

Taft is located in Bledsoe County near Pikeville and serves 156 students statewide. Students who have adult sentences, serious delinquent offenses, and major behavior problems at a regional youth center are placed at Taft.

Taft is the most restrictive of the Youth Development Centers since it houses the more serious male offender. The students are not typically committed directly from the court, but may be transferred to Taft from the regional Youth Development Centers. For a student to be admitted to Taft, he must be between the ages of 15 and 19, must exhibit extreme behavior problems, and must not be mentally retarded. He must be committed for a crime against a person, must be on his third commitment, or must have failed to adjust to a less secure environment.

Taft offers vocational training in ten subject areas. During fiscal year 1998-1999, 26 students received their GED diplomas and two students received their special education diplomas. A counseling program provides individual and group counseling for the identified needs of students. Taft provides drug and alcohol counseling by staff members who are certified as substance abuse counselors. Taft also has an extensive recreation program and fields a football team that competes with area high schools.

Significant facility improvement projects included re-roofing several buildings, replacing the HVAC systems in the housing units, and renovating accommodations to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### **Populations Management Unit**

The Populations Management Unit coordinates population issues within Departmental Treatment. It coordinates placement of delinquent youth in DCS Youth Development Centers and community-based Group Homes.

### **Special Populations Unit**

The delivery of Mental Health and Mental Retardation services and the issues surrounding those services are monitored by Special Populations. The unit also oversees