

Reconnecting Youth Part 2, October 1, 2009

Obstacles to reconnecting/reengaging from the perspectives of . . .

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

1. Bad experiences in the past	2. No caring adult
3. Limited options	4. Limited resources
5. Homelessness	6. Lack of relevancy
7. Working	8. Poverty
9. Family responsibilities	10. Language barriers
11. Parenting	12. Mistrust of system
13. Safety issues	14. Transportation/proximity
15. Too many “hoops”	16. Low expectations from adults
17. No entry point	18. Perceive school as a hostile environment
19. Fear, trauma & violence	20. Rap sheet/prior experience with law enforcement
21. Intrinsic motivation (lack of?)	22. Lack of culturally specific connections
23. Don’t like school	24. Learning style is different
25. No encouragement from anyone	26. Poor role models, or lack of
27. Shame, guilt, stigma—“My fault”	28. Peer pressure to not go
29. Substance abuse	30. No one to relate to in staff
31. Too far behind, feel hopeless	32. Curriculum they can relate to
33. Inconsistent discipline policies	34. Personal responsibility
35. Age appropriate educational placement	36. Perception or reality of racism

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

1. Options to fit the student (Lack of?)	2. Capacity to get them in
3. Funding “not in time”	4. Systems are not responsive
5. Fear of return of students to district	6. Locating the kids
7. Lack of “just in time” enrollment	8. Lack of desire to get kids back
9. Red tape, hoops	10. Homeless issues
11. Lack of follow through & support once re enrolled	12. Continuation of support services, sometimes hit a wall (need more than one shot)
13. Lack of wrap around connected services	14. Obstacles to connect social services with educational services
15. Kids in juvenile justice system	16. Lack of flexibility from place to place—closed systems
17. Lack of logistical outreach	18. We don’t completely know what to do
19. Individual principals can be open or closed to social services	20. Time/staff limited
21. Sustaining the successful programs—they go away with \$ issues	22. Lack of capacity to scale up

23. Sustainable funding	24. Restrictions on dollars following the kids
25. Lack of early identification	

CARING ADULTS

1. Availability of what meets the needs of specific kids	2. Jurisdictional boundaries
3. How to navigate the system?	4. Funding not up front
5. Not knowing what programs are really out there to contact, or knowing how they are different	6. How do I communicate to kids? Right message?
7. How to approach youth?	8. Schedules don't match the kids
9. Sense of cooperation-purpose (?)	10. How to find the right person to help
11. The system is not inviting	12. System's timing for entrance is off or closed, not "just in time"
13. What/who is the point of contact for accessing the system?	14. Don't know how to support kids in a culturally specific way
15. Contacts/personnel change too often, need central contact, point person	16. Kids don't trust the adult
17. Not knowing the door	18. Who has a right to represent the kids?

EDUCATION PROVIDERS

1. Not enough funding	2. Finding not sustainable
3. Can we do things jointly? Agreements?	4. Districts hunker down when funding is short
5. Lots of steps & hoops to jump through, cumbersome, complex	6. School district policies limit services
7. Capacity is an issue as it relates to multiple student needs—how to achieve economy of scale	8. State does not move nimbly with students with regard to age, dropouts count against you, as a distract, no finding, AYP
9. Use post secondary options	10. Not enough different streams of dollars that allow instructional leaders to be leaders & not get districted by funding
11. Use data to track the needs of kids to individual their education	

Additional points made regarding context for this discussion:

- Work within existing resources
- Work on being more effective/efficient
- Look at a model to generate revenue
- A funder to put dollars up front
- MESD is a reasonable leader
- Explore
 - Agreements/ joint powers
 - A model
 - Have people trained in “the offerings”
- Expand PPS Transition Center beyond PPS-\$7500 to do so