

YOUTH & YOU

Youth Re-engagement

House Committee on Education Presentation

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Youth Development Council

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Youth Development Council

Legislative Mandate

2015 ORS 417.847

The Youth Development Council was established for the purpose of overseeing a unified system that provides services to school-age children through youth 24 years of age in a manner that supports educational success, focuses on crime prevention, reduces high risk behaviors and is integrated, measurable and accountable.

Youth Development Council

Goals for 2017-2019

- To more fully realize the role envisioned by the Legislature in our mandate: to oversee a unified youth services system that is accountable for improving positive outcomes for all youth 6-24 years of age.
- The YDC's community strategies will improve program quality for youth-serving community-based organizations.
- Advocate for all youth in the margins between engagement, disengagement, and reengagement.
- In collaboration with legislators, state agencies, youth, community, education and workforce stakeholders (Taskforce), the YDC will support the development of a plan that operationalizes a statewide re-engagement system.



Who are Out-of-School Youth?

- The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) defines an “out-of-school” or “disconnected” youth as a young person between the ages of 16 – 24 who lacks a high school diploma and is not enrolled in school and is detached from work.*
- In Oregon, to be counted as a “school dropout” as defined by ORS 339.505, one must be a student who has enrolled for the current school year or was enrolled in the previous school year and did not attend during the current school year; is not a high school graduate; has not received a GED certificate; or has withdrawn from school.”**

*From clasp.org, <http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/files/RWJF-Roundtable-Summary-OSY.pdf>

**Students who miss 10 consecutive days of school are automatically dropped from the school roster.

Out of School Youth: Nationwide

- In 2014 across the U.S., there were 5.5 million 16-24 year-olds that were out of school and out of work, one in every seven or 13.8 %.
- Youth disconnection represents an astonishingly high cost to taxpayers, an estimated \$26.8 billion in 2013 alone.
- The negative effects of youth disconnection ricochet across the economy, the social sector, the criminal justice system, and the political landscape, affecting all of us.

Retrieved from: <http://www.measureofamerica.org/youth-disconnection-2015/>

Out of School Youth in Oregon

The Oregon Department of Education Reports*:

- The 2015-16 dropout rate for Oregon High Schools was **3.93%**, equating to **7,140** students

Student Group	Dropout Count	Dropout Rate
Homeless Students	1,107	12.48%
American Indian/Alaska Native	263	9.07%
Black/African American	290	6.34%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	66	5.54%
Underserved Races/Ethnicities	2,371	5.06%
Hispanic/Latino	1,752	4.58%
White	4,280	3.64%

*Retrieved on 02/22/2017 from: <http://http://www.oregon.gov/ode/reports-and-data/students/Pages/Dropout-Rates.aspx>

Out-of-School Youth in Oregon

In Oregon, there are an estimated **42,506** youth ages 18-24 without a high school diploma or recognized equivalency*

*2014 American Community Survey

The Emerging Practice of Re-engagement

What is being done to re-engage students who have dropped out of school?

- Nationwide, re-engagement as policy and practice has grown considerably in recent years.
- Re-engagement programs have been proven to be effective.
- Examples range from metropolitan school districts including Boston and Chicago to smaller cities of Dubuque, Iowa and Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Re-engaging and Reconnecting Oregon's Youth

Effective re-engagement strategies focus on five primary functions:

1. Identify dropouts and conduct outreach, coupled with an open-door policy for motivated youth.
2. Assess the educational, psychological, social and other needs of youth.
3. Referral to educational options and wrap-around supports that fit a student's needs.
4. Support re-enrollment in a "best-fit" option.
5. Provide ongoing support to stay enrolled for at least the subsequent year.

Re-engaging Oregon's Youth

Portland Public Schools (PPS) – Multiple Pathways

- Reconnection Center – Resources and referral
- Return to PPS High Schools and Alternative Programs (Diploma or GED)
- Alternative Schools (Diploma or GED)
- Community College (*Links and Yes to College*)

Re-engaging Oregon's Youth

Across Oregon, re-engagement typically falls into two informal strategies:

- “Open Door” school re-enrollment
- Active outreach

However, there is no formal statewide approach to re-engage youth.

The Emerging Practice of Re-engagement

- Washington State's Open Doors re-engagement policy provides a blueprint for state legislation that removed existing statutory barriers that hindered school district reengagement efforts.*
- *Colorado Youth for a Change* pioneered an active re-engagement approach via outreach specialists. Outreach specialists put the "engage" in reengagement as they actively contact out of school youth, foster relationships and provide ongoing support even after re-enrollment.**

Retrieved from: <http://www.k12.wa.us/GATE/SupportingStudents/StudentRetrieval.aspx>

Retrieved from: <http://www.youthforachange.org/>

Developing a Statewide Re-engagement Policy

Why re-engage dropouts?

- **Dropouts consume state and community resources :**
Applying national estimates to Oregon, if only those students who left high school last year were re-engaged at a cost of \$2,000 per student, Oregon would save over \$350 million.*
- **Essential for 40/40/20 :**
Systems need to be in place to ensure those students who drop out of high school are pulled back in and supported in earning a credential.
- **Skilled Workers for Local Economies:**
Closing this opportunity gap ultimately reduces the gap between the skills of adult workers and the jobs local industries seek to fill.

* Belfield, C., Levin, H., & Rosen, R. (2012). *The economic value of opportunity youth*. Washington, DC: Corporation for National and Community Service and the White House Council for Community Solutions.

Developing a Statewide Reengagement Policy

The need for coordinated re-engagement policy:

- Increasing graduation rates does **not** automatically lead to a decrease in the dropout rate. Oregon's dropout and graduation rates are different, although related, issues.
- Oregon's graduation rate increased over 5% between 2012-13 and 2014-15.
- Oregon's dropout rate also increased during this same time period.

Retrieved from: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1>

Developing a Statewide Re-engagement Policy

Dropout Rates by County: The range is from a high of 52.46% (Wheeler County) to a low of .73% (Wallowa County).

Dropout Rates by Region

1. 5.19% (Southern)
2. 4.58% (Central)
3. 3.97% (North Coast)
4. 3.66% (Willamette Valley)
5. 3.29% (North East)
6. 2.65% (South East)

Dropout Rates by East/West

1. East of the Cascades is 4.24%
2. West of the Cascades it is 3.88%

Retrieved from: <http://www.oregon.gov/ode/reports-and-data/students/Pages/Dropout-Rates.aspx>

Developing a Statewide Re-engagement Policy

Wide variations in school district size, locations of state universities and community colleges, and community resources indicate that **a regional approach** is best suited as a re-engagement strategy.

Developing a Statewide Re-engagement Policy

Alternative Accountability: Options Under ESSA

- Alternative Accountability refers to a system that more accurately measures student achievement and growth in alternative school settings.
- It is closely related to re-engagement because:
 - Alternative schools are a primary re-entry arena for youth re-engaging the educational system; and
 - Accurately assessing re-engagement efforts requires alternative metrics to those used in typical accountability systems.

Developing a Statewide Re-engagement Policy

American Youth Policy Forum Denver Study Tour

Colorado has embraced the mission of providing quality education opportunities for all youth by adopting policy that supports a wide range of alternative education.



Youth Development Council

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