



Update on Implementation of the YDD Statewide Youth Reengagement System

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Background

The Youth Development Division is tasked with creating and administering a statewide Youth Reengagement system, as part of the Student Success Act of 2019 (HB 3427, Section 33).

This legislation addresses key elements of a reengagement system, including:

- **Youth Eligible for Reengagement** - youth ages 14-21 who are school dropouts (ORS 339.505), or referred to the program
- **Eligible Reengagement Providers** - school districts, and other entities defined by rule. Partnerships are required, in order to provide full range of services
- **Required Reengagement Program elements**
 - Academic instruction (credit recovery, GED preparation, college and career readiness)
 - case management
 - services to reduce barriers to educational and workforce success

Funding & Staffing

- The SSA Statewide Education Initiative Account is \$4.4 million to establish a Reengagement System
 - \$4.0m is for grants
 - \$0.4m is for 4 positions and operating costs
- The YDD has begun staffing the team that will design and support the Reengagement System:
 - A **Reengagement System Manager** was selected in November 2019 to lead the implementation effort
 - The YDD has been recruiting the two **OPA 3** positions and **Administrative Specialist** positions that will support the operation and coordination of system, manage grants, and work with Reengagement Programs

Steps to Implementation of the Statewide Reengagement System

1. **Reengagement Impact Mapping** – Fall 2019
2. **Community Engagement** – Fall 2019 and Ongoing
3. **Staffing** – Fall 2019 and Ongoing
4. **Rulemaking** – February – April 2020
5. **System Design** – Spring 2020
6. **Launch of Reengagement Programming** – Summer 2020

Reengagement Impact Mapping

YDD assessed areas where reengagement programs might have the greatest initial impact. Criteria included:

- **5-Year Cohort NDE (No Diploma or Equivalent) Rate** – The percentage of youth in the 5-year cohort who did not earn a diploma or GED (2017-18 and 2018-19 cohorts)
- **Opportunity Youth Rates** – The percentage of youth ages 16-24 who were not in school or employed
- **Availability of existing Reengagement programs / alternative schools**
- **Review of current and past YDD Community Investments**



Initial Community Engagement

Initial YDD Reengagement community listening sessions were held in October and November 2019, in Coos, Curry, Douglas, Columbia and Clatsop Counties. Locations were selected for the first round of community engagement activities based on Reengagement Impact Mapping.

Meeting Locations:

Roseburg Public Library

Gold Beach Public Library

Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians

South Coast ESD

Clatsop Community College

St. Helens Library

Phoenix School of Roseburg (Youth Meeting)

Strengths

- Community connection and commitment to youth
- Strong collaborative spirit, among schools, CBOs, and communities
- Effective local service providers, with potential to increase coordination, reach, and impact with reengagement resources
- Collective vision and openness to trying something different

Challenges

- Mental Health/Counseling
- Transportation
- Housing
- Child Care
- Limited resources and services
- Difficulty for youth and families to navigate uncoordinated systems
- Limited programs, spaces, positive activities for teens
- Inadequate measures of success (need to value late graduation and GED)

Community Vision

- Coordinated services and collaborative approach – “No wrong doors”
- Accessibility and no red tape
- Flexibility – online options, evening hours, satellite locations
- Welcoming, youth-centered environment
- Youth voice and leadership
- Navigators and individualized support for youth and families
- Life skills training
- Family resources
- Mental health supports and counseling
- Alignment with High School Success/Dropout prevention
- CTE and GED links – pathways to careers

Next Steps

- **Continuing Community Engagement**
 - Additional community meetings planned: Wasco, Jefferson counties, Gresham area (February)
 - Presentation to Alternative Education Summit (March)
 - Public input on draft rules at joint SBE/YDC Meeting (March)
- **Development of OARS (YDC and SBE)**
- **Reengagement System Design**
- **Funding Process Established**
- **Launch of Reengagement Programs**



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