

Youth Development Division

HB 2051

Presenters:

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HB 2051 Clarifies youth eligibility for Reengagement Programs, and expands eligible age up from 21 to 24; adds consulted partners for rulemaking.

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Mission, Vision and Values

MISSION

The YDC/YDD's mission is to align systems and leverage community partnerships to ensure integrated, measurable and accountable services for youth ages 6 through 24. YDC/YDD programs support educational and career success, focus on crime prevention, and reduce high-risk behaviors.

VISION

All of Oregon's youth have the opportunity to thrive and achieve their full potential.

VALUES

- Equitable access;
- Equal opportunity;
- Youth-centered approaches & results;
- Inclusion; and,
- Innovation.



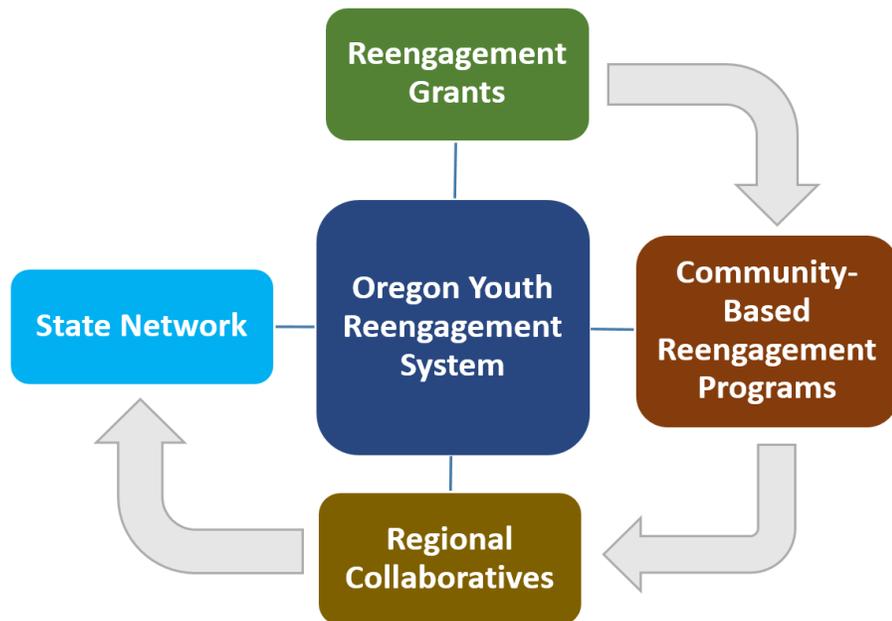
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Oregon Youth Reengagement – Return on Investment

- Each disconnected youth costs state and local governments about \$9,600 annually (Belfield & Levin, 2012).
- This cost includes lost tax revenue, costs associated with crime, healthcare, and public assistance.
- The total cost of youth disconnection to Oregon in 2019 was an estimated \$508 million.

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Oregon Youth Reengagement System (OYRS)



OYRS is a coordinated effort to support regional, community based reengagement efforts. Our system goal is to connect, support, and provide funding for youth reengagement opportunities.

Reengagement services include outreach, education, skills training, and supportive programming. Youth participating with these programs will receive:

- Facilitation in high school diploma or GED completion
- Workforce training and job placement
- Post-Secondary guidance and support
- Personalized support services
- One on one case management



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Current Oregon Youth Reengagement Grants

- In January 2021, the YDD awarded 4 Regional Reengagement Grants (\$1.2 million), and 28 Reengagement Opportunity Grants (\$2.6 million).
- Regional Reengagement Grants support regional efforts to connect education, workforce, and human services providers in multi-community reengagement efforts.
- Reengagement Opportunity Grants support reengagement service providers, as they reconnect young people to education and training.
- Programs currently serve youth ages 14-21



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Reasons for HB 2051:

1. Youth eligibility for reengagement requires clarification to ensure key populations of youth have access to reengagement programs. Current statute lists school dropout (ORS 339.505) and exemptions for compulsory school attendance (339.030) which prevents some youth from being eligible for Reengagement Services. Such as:
 - Youth who have been out of school since the prior school year
 - Youth who may be out of school for an extended period due to health or family reasons.
 - Youth over age 18 who are out of school, have not completed, and may be “exempt from attending public school.”
2. Stakeholders, such as Juvenile Departments, expressed a desire to be an entity that can refer youth to a reengagement program.
3. Reengagement eligibility is currently modeled after school funding, but the final statute provides reengagement services through grant funding and is not connected to school funding.
4. Eligibility age is modeled on school eligibility, whereas YDD and Workforce Development funds serve youth up to age 24.



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Solutions from HB 2051:

1. Broadens reengagement eligibility to serve youth ages 14 through 24 years of age.
2. Clarifies and broadens youth eligibility to serve youth who have not received a high school diploma or GED and are:
 - Not currently enrolled in school,
 - Not on track to graduate on time, as determined by rules adopted by the Youth Development Council, or
 - Referred by the Department of Human Services, a juvenile court, the Oregon Youth Authority, a county juvenile department, a federally recognized Indian tribe, a school district, an education service district or any other entity identified by the Youth Development Council by rule
3. Adds school districts and tribes as entities that should be consulted on rulemaking for reengagement.



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Increased Equitable Access from HB 2051

Increased access means:

- Serving more of our disproportionately high percentage of underserved youth populations who leave school before graduation/completion and those who are at risk of disconnection.
- Helping to close the opportunity gap by allowing services to reach more disconnected youth.
- Supporting the long term prospects of reengaged youth through expanded transition services to employment and post-secondary education.