

Youth Experiencing Success (YES)

Youth Experiencing Success (YES) serves over 325 youth in community based, alternative high schools each year



Alternative
Schools Network
Creating Futures
Every Day

Vision

Alternative Schools Network (ASN) is a not-for-profit organization in Chicago working since 1973 to provide quality education with a special emphasis on inner-city children, youth and adults.

Mission

Youth Experiencing Success (YES) helps young people move toward independence by providing academic and coaching services to youth scholars who re-enroll at Chicago's alternative high schools, supporting them as they earn their diploma or GED, enter the workforce, and move on to training or college. Our ultimate goal is for youth to achieve academic success, with a focus in transitioning into postsecondary education and future careers. YES also has a career pathways program that is designed to meet all the needs of employers, as well as guide young adults seeking a successful career. Our goal is to change lives and help create new futures.

History

Since 1999, YES has been providing academic and mentoring services to high-risk, out-of-school youth with no high school diploma in the Chicagoland area. On average, the youth served by YES have been out of school for at least one year. YES has helped over 2,000 youth to earn their diplomas or GEDs. Currently, twelve schools are participating in the YES program, which annually serves over 325 students citywide.



Program Highlights

YES Career Coaches provide one-on-one and group support to students to re-enroll in high school, graduate and continue in higher education, postsecondary training and work. YES focuses primarily on career exploration and job skills development. Career Coaches are located on-site in 12 alternative schools in Chicago.

The re-enrolled students' average age is 18. They have been out of school for over a year and enter the program with a 6th grade level of skills or lower. The re-enrolled students, in many cases, are homeless, have challenges with gangs and drugs, suffer from trauma and have low or no job skills at all. Many of the students are also teen parents.

The YES program successfully works with the re-enrolled students, on average, for nearly 2 years, which helps build their soft and life skills, build their academic skills and helps them graduate and successfully transition.

The YES program provides a wide range of employment experience for the participants who have little previous job experience.

The YES program has a very strong set of partnerships with employers so the re-enrolled student can get the job experience they need in addition to earning their high school diplomas.

Many YES students earn a variety of work certifications including OSHA, manufacturing, security and so on.

Other Key Program Components

- Convenient... Located in 12 alternative high schools across Chicago;
- Supportive... Provides wrap-around services to support the whole student in small, caring and safe alternative high schools;
- Continuous... Follows and secures resources for graduates in transition from high school to

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college, training, and careers after high school.

Services

YES pays attention to the whole student. You will benefit from small school environments and dedicated teaching and support staff that will help you achieve the success you deserve.

YES Career Coaches work directly with youth, providing:

- Placement in alternative high school diploma programs or GED program;
- Help to improve and maintain attendance;
- Academic assistance in small class settings;
- Assistance with goal development and achievement;
- Life skills training and support from experienced YES staff — Business skills training;
- Assistance with college or vocational training program admissions;
- Pre-employment skills training

to ensure successful job placement;

- Referral to child care, counseling, tutoring, and other services;
- Self-paced, computerized courses to gain skills and earn academic credits—8 Week internship to introduce students to workforce.

YES Participant Profile

- Are 16 to 24 years old;
- Are not currently enrolled in school and, on average, have been out of school for one year and want to re-enroll to earn a diploma or GED

Who participates in the YES program?

- Gerald, 19, was told he missed too many days of school before the school dropped him.
- Stephanie said there was too much freedom in public school for her and left at 16.

- DeAngelo wanted a safer place to learn.
- Adrian, 17, went to five different high schools in 2 states.
- Chris is an 18-year old ex-gang member who wants to start a new life by returning to school and becoming the first in his family to go to college.
- Lorena became a parent at 16, and now at 17 she is determined to earn a diploma.
- Luis came to the U.S. at 16. Frustrated by the lack of English language learner support, he dropped out with just 3 credits.
- Orlando's mother lost her job, so he dropped out of school to work. Now that she has found work, and things are stable again, Orlando wants to go back to school.
- Oscar's house burned down and everything was lost, but he was supported through this and graduated with a high school diploma.
- Veronica had been out of school for two years, often had angry outbursts and threw chairs. Staff worked with her to stay in school. She graduated and is now an EMT at a major hospital.

