

YDAC Task 1: Alternative Learning Pathways Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 15 2017

In Attendance:

Takea Waters (special needs daycare - Bridges), Amber Green(Americorp/YDAC), Micah Stauffer (Director of Secondary Education – WCBOE), Tom Evans (Retired Banker/Henson Foundation/YMCA), Andrea Berstler (ED – Public Library), Samantha Scott (Child & Family Center/Foundation), Joe Giordanno (JA Fellow Program), Chris Bozaic (Chesapeake Healthcare), Andy Kitzrow (Deputy City Admin), Mark Thompson (WCBOE – Pupil Personnel)

Recap from Last Meeting (Sam)

See Minutes

Current Requirements for HS Diploma (Micah)

Graduation requirements in MD

- 21 credits (4 English, 3 Math but enrolled in math for 4 years, 3 Social Studies, 3 Science, 1 Fine Art, 1 PE, ½ health, 1 tech Ed, 2 Completers such as language/CTE/advanced tech = 18.5
- Remainder 2.5 credits come from electives
- State assessments in English 10, algebra I, biology and government
 - Gov't is the only one they have to pass
 - The others are currently being field tested but not required yet (but will be soon)

College and career readiness assessment now required – if students don't score high enough on verbal and math – have to go through interventions and retest

SATs and PSATs are now offered in school

Disengaged kids often “hit the wall” from day 1, not just because of a certain class or requirement. By 16 or 17 years old, many only have a few credits

Although there are state requirements, there is a decent amount of leeway in terms of how kids get these credits- particularly 11th and 12th grade

20% of any type of instruction has to be with a certificate teacher – can be any type of class

Brief discussion on kids in GED programs or home-school – don't technically get a diploma from us

Kids who drop out of HS, even if enrolled in alternative learning programs, still don't “graduate” from our schools and are counted as drop outs. Certificate students also count as drop outs.

Basic skills are important and missing even prior to high school (reading, writing, etc)

Alternative Curriculum Ideas

2 potential models

College & Career Ready through MSDE is really more college readiness

1. Developing a career readiness pathway
 - Traditional school in the morning, evening school at night
 - Middle of the day – get businesses to take on kids as apprentices
 - “pre-apprenticeship” can count as a complete course
 - Make the curriculum look different
 - Math and English combined, online, etc...
 - Will need job skills
 - Social worker/liaison to connect kid, family, job, etc...

2. Second Idea
 - Create programs similar to CTE
 - But rather than a large number of certifications, get a few so they have some vocational training

Businesses – will want to know who is paying kids and who pays workmans comp? Many kids don't even have an ID in order to get paid. 9th, 10th grade kids may be better off shadowing

JA – has 7 certified job coaches – each kid gets a job coach

- Skills such as writing a resume
- Life skills
- JA financial literacy package
 - 12 weeks (At least 1 hour per week of this training (one-on-one))

Micah has put in the budget for 2 positions next year

- Will need help with transportation
- Job skills
- The job placements – shadowing to working
- Assistance with basic skills such as reading
- Mental health services

Start looking at kids at end of 9th grade year

With no outside support, and 2 new positions – could maybe serve 10 to 15 students

Follow-up

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2:00 to 3:30.

We will continue this discussion and create a list of goals in order to identify a program idea to present to the board and community.