

Opportunity Youth Action Plan 2.0 (or Multiple Pathways to Graduation)

In late 2014 the Opportunity Youth Work Group of the Road Map Project (RMP) developed an action plan focused on building a regional system to **reconnect opportunity youth** to education pathways. The six strategies in the plan fell into four areas of system-building work: Improving supply, increasing coordination, improving quality and increasing awareness and access. Significant work has been underway by multiple partners to implement that plan, and the latest review of implementation, conducted in June 2016, pointed to areas of success and much continued work ahead.

During fall of 2016, in conjunction with a strategic refresh process for the Road Map Project as a whole, CCER is working with partners to develop a revised plan to guide the next phase of work related to opportunity youth. The revised plan should reflect changes in the local landscape and an increasing emphasis across the Road Map Project on strategies that address underlying conditions and contributing factors. In addition to ensuring strong reengagement pathways are available for opportunity youth, we must also focus on preventing disconnection from high school. As a result, the new draft plan is organized into two sections, one focused on preventing high school students from becoming opportunity youth, and a second focused on strengthening the reengagement system.

Since work got underway on the Opportunity Youth Action Plan, reengagement system capacity has expanded significantly. We now have over 2,000 Open Doors seats in the Road Map Project region and some 2,500 in King County (14 programs up from 4 in 2013-14). All of our region's community colleges participate in Open Doors partnerships, as do 6 of 7 Road Map region school districts. For youth who are over age 21, new competency based diploma options have begun at nearly every community college in the region. Given this significant expansion in supply, the next phase of work focuses largely on supporting and improving the design, quality and outcomes of existing programs.

Another significant development since work got underway on the original action plan is increasing leadership from King County Employment and Education Resources. Three new infrastructure positions have been created at King County over the past year to support this work (reengagement system manager, outreach manager, and employment manager). These new positions and the potential for Best Starts for Kids (BSK) levy funds to support this work going forward constitute a promising milestone in terms of sustainability. In addition to public funds (BSK, Open Doors, WIOA, BFET), the United Way and Raikes Foundation are critical private funding partners in the opportunity youth space. Also, several new initiatives have been launched in close alignment with this work since the action plan was developed (Opportunity Works, Generation Work, 100K Opportunities).

Additional feedback is now being gathered from many stakeholders and potential implementation partners (e.g., RMP Opportunity Youth Advisory Group, RMP Education Results Network, RMP Data Advisors Group, King County Reengagement Network, King County Youth Advisory Council, area superintendents, etc.), with the goal of launching the revised plan in January 2017.

Opportunity Youth Action Plan 2.0 - DRAFT

Goal 1: Keep High School Students on Track	Goal 2: Reengage Opportunity Youth
<p>1. Help districts use data to assess and strengthen portfolio of pathways to graduation <i>Target: 90% of students graduate on time each year</i></p>	<p>1. Strengthen reengagement program design and quality <i>Target: 50% of OY who reengage complete diploma or GED within 2 years (currently 25%)</i></p>
<p>2. Support implementation of early warning interventions in 9th grade at targeted high schools <i>Target: 17% of 9th graders have six or more absences plus at least one course failure in 9th grade (currently 31%)</i> <i>Target: 7% of 9th graders experience a suspension or expulsion in 9th grade</i></p>	<p>2. Expand college and career exploration and transition supports within reengagement programs <i>Target: 60% of those who complete a diploma or GED enroll in some PS pathway</i> <i>Target: 60% of those who reengage earn 45 credits plus a credential</i></p>
<p>3. Improve school climate at targeted high schools <i>Target?</i></p>	<p>3. Strengthen regional outreach and reengagement efforts <i>Target: 70% of dropouts reengage within 2 years of leaving school (currently 42%)</i> <i>Target: 70% of ReOpp referred youth re-enroll (currently around 50%)</i></p>
<p>4. Expand access to high-quality Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways in targeted sectors <i>Target?</i></p>	<p>4. Improve data collection, reporting and use –at the program and systems level <i>Target?</i></p>
CROSS-CUTTING EQUITY LEVERS	
Advocacy for equitable policy & funding	
Youth, family and community engagement	
Data disaggregation	
<p>Potential youth indicators for Goal 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % graduating on-time, by subgroup • % graduating, extended, by subgroup • % triggering early warning indicators, by subgroup 	<p>Potential youth indicators for Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % dropouts who reenroll, by subgroup • % dropouts who complete HS, by subgroup • % dropouts who enroll, persist in PS, by subgroup
<p>Potential system indicators for Goal 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of districts doing analyses of off-track students • % of high schools with early warning teams and interventions • % of high schools gathering and using school climate data 	<p>Potential system indicators for Goal 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of reengagement programs participating in quality TA initiative • %/# of reengagement programs w/ integrated employment offerings • %/# of districts with mechanisms in place to reach out to dropouts

DRAFT STRATEGIES