



Highline Public Schools Connection Center & Learning Centers

Presentation for: Regional Re-Engagement Network 3/18/16



Our Team – Who We Are

- Anissa Sharratt: Re-Engagement Manager
- Alexa Wayman: Re-Engagement Counselor
- Kyle Moor: Social Worker
- Kipp Gallagher: Neighborhood House Youth Advocate for Re-Engagement
- Verena DeGeorge: Office Assistant
- Lauren McAllister: Office Manager
- Keishanna Russell: Registrar for cross-enrolled students
- Sharon Cawsey: Registrar for direct enrolled TLC students
- Learning Center South teaching staff: Michael McSweeney, John Mallory, & Karen Day (SPED)
- Learning Center North teaching staff: Susanne Rankin, Katy Stone, & Brandie Hicks (SPED)

Open Doors Partnerships w/ Highline

- ▀ Highline College
 - ▀ Gateway to College
 - ▀ ELL Excel
- ▀ South Seattle College
 - ▀ Career Link
- ▀ Southwest Youth and Family Services
 - ▀ Credit recovery track
 - ▀ GED track
- ▀ Graduation Alliance
 - ▀ High school diploma via online/remote track
- ▀ King County Superior Court
 - ▀ Case Management
- ▀ Neighborhood House/United Way
 - ▀ Case Management

Open Doors by Highline



- ▀ Learning Center North @ Salmon Creek



- ▀ Learning Center South @ Woodside



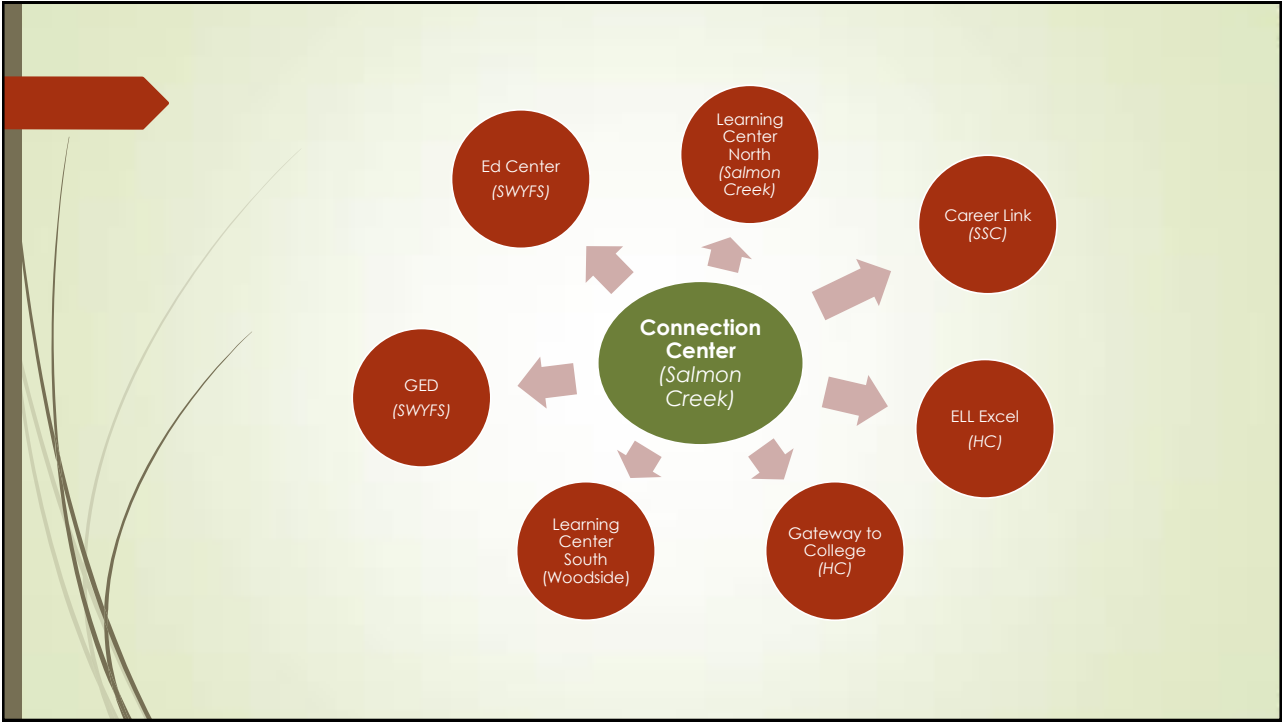
Program Overview

- Highline Public Schools (HPS) Connection Center (CC)
 - 1 Site on the Salmon Creek Campus @ 614 SW 120th Street
 - Focus: re-engage students disconnected from education for a number of reasons & reduce the barriers for their re-enrollment in a public education
 - Credit deficiency
 - School anxiety
 - Long term suspended
 - Truancy
 - Trauma
 - Pregnant and/or parenting
 - Dropped out
- Highline Public Schools (HPS) Learning Centers (LC)
 - 2 Sites
 - North (LCN) on the Salmon Creek Campus @ 614 SW 120th Street
 - South (LCS) on the Woodside Campus @ 18637 8th Avenue South
 - Focus: credit recovery
 - Drop-in centers
 - Blended instructional model
 - 2.5 teachers at each site
 - Serves students through Open Doors (1418) and Alternative Learning Education (ALE)

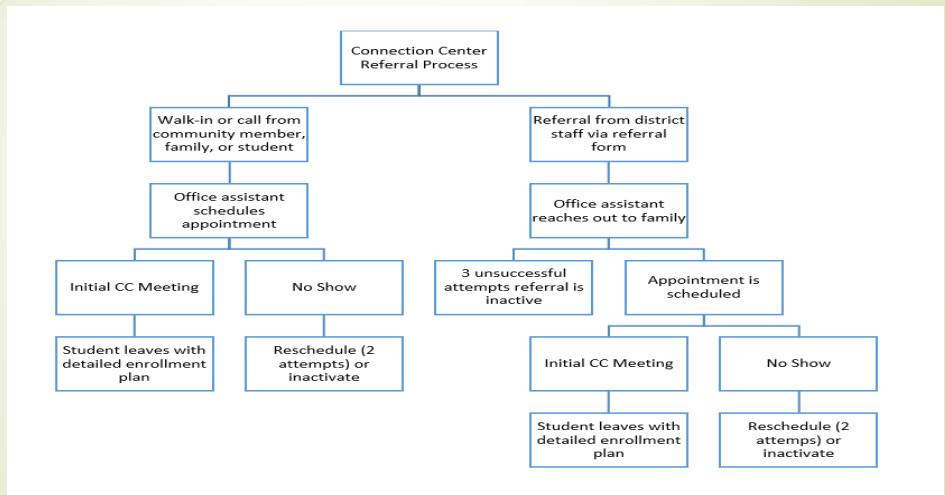


Connection Center

- Referral process
 - District Staff – Required electronic referral
 - Community/Student/Families – Phone call to Verena DeGeorge at (206) 631-7750
 - No requirements for student/family/community member to schedule appointment
 - No student or family seeking help is turned away
- Initial Connection Center Appointment
 - Student meets with Re-Engagement Counselor who facilitates a barrier assessment, goals discussion, review of educational history, graduation requirement check, requests additional records as needed, tracks down missing credits from transcripts, assists in filling out program applications as needed
 - Placement decision is made at this time
 - Student is given highly detailed and step-by-step information according to their individual placement plan
- Outcomes
 - Student is connected with another school or agency via communication between Re-Engagement Counselor and agency/school. Staff at other schools are given a heads up that a student is coming (no surprises policy)
 - If a student will be enrolling in one of our Learning Center sites, an intake is scheduled
 - Students who are not ready to move forward with an educational placement are given our contact information to return when they are ready



Connection Center Referral Process



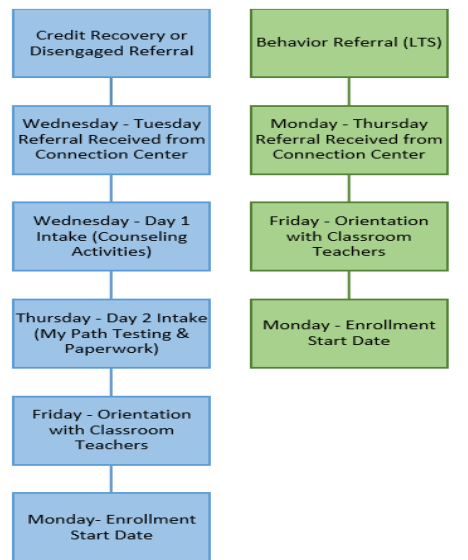
Connection Center Barriers

- Volume of Referrals
 - Due to the volume of referrals we receive from district staff, our wait times for an initial appointment are often two-three weeks or more. If a family needs to reschedule or no shows, it can take them a month or more to get an initial appointment
- No shows for an initial appointment
 - 32% of our appointments no show
 - 377 initial CC appointments scheduled August 2015 thru February 2016. 119 of those were no shows
- Location
 - In the north end of the district, not a centralized location
 - On a busy school campus, can make it challenging to meet with certain populations of students
 - School anxiety
 - Behavior/safety concerns
- Transportation
 - Students from the south end of HPS have difficulty getting to us
- "Dumping Ground"
 - Inappropriate referrals at times for students who are finding success at other schools or programs
 - Receive numerous referrals for behavior and/or discipline
 - The information we receive on the reason for a referral is often inadequate or nonexistent and rarely have other interventions been documented
- Records
 - Unless a student has had regular attendance and enrollment in HPS, we often struggle to track down records
 - Students typically have a number of records from various places
 - Large amounts of fines keep us from obtain official transcripts and consolidating credits

Learning Centers

- Enrollment Requirements
 - Referral from Connection Center for enrollment
 - Attend 2 day intake (occur weekly - WED/THS unless a school holiday or break)
 - Orientation with classroom teachers (occur weekly - Friday)
 - HPS Enrollment Paperwork and additional documents associated with WAC and funding requirements
- Program Components
 - 2.5 teachers per site
 - Basic classes to meet graduation requirements
 - Students are asked to attend at least 4 days/wk for a 3 hour session (AM 9:00 – 12:00 & PM 12:30 – 3:30)
 - Students work at their own pace. They are encouraged but not required to attend daily and the more hours they put in, the faster they retrieve credits
 - Access to Social Work, Counseling, Case Management
 - Funding through Open Doors and ALE models
- Instructional Model – Blended Learning
 - Individual & online via Edgenuity
 - Contracts/ Packets
 - Group and in-person via Reading, Social Studies, and Science groups
- Outcomes
 - Graduate
 - Return to Neighborhood School
 - Transfer to another program
 - Dropped for Non-Attendance or lack of academic progress

Learning Center Referral Process



Learning Center Barriers

- Employment & Work Schedules
- Motivation
 - Other priorities that keep students from attending
- Mental Health
- Drug/Alcohol Addiction
- Student Behavior
- Fairly consistent difference in attendance/engagement and therefore funding rates between our two learning center sites (graph on previous slide)
- Engagement in online instruction
 - Many students come to us thinking that it will be easy to complete their high school diploma online. After a week, they realize online learning isn't for them

Partnerships

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Partnership Highlight Neighborhood House/United Way

- In support of Open Doors and youth re-engagement in south king county, United Way initiated a RFP to fund a full-time Youth Advocate for Re-Engagement through Neighborhood House and located at the two HPS Learning Center sites.
- In October 2015 our Youth Advocate was brought on board (Kipp Gallagher)
- Kipp supports our team by providing case management services to the Open Doors students enrolled in our Learning Center sites.
 - Connects them with services through Neighborhood House or other community supports
 - Connected two of our open doors students to a STEM program at Neighborhood House
 - Access to additional transportation resources
 - Maintains weekly contact
 - Co-Facilitator of weekly intake process
 - Further developed our data tracking and information management
 - Moved our program from paper based to electronic attendance monitoring