

Common Resources: Washington Youth Reengagement

Youth Reengagement in Education

In school settings, youth reengagement means identifying and supporting youth who have left, dropped out, or disconnected from school. To mitigate the barriers to school reengagement, many social service and other supports are required. Youth reengagement requires a wholistic approach.

The Re-engagement Ecosystem

The [National League of Cities](#) (NLC) developed a model called the Re-engagement Ecosystem. The Re-engagement Ecosystem highlights six high-leverage areas for supporting youth between the ages 16-24 who are not presently in school or working, also known as "[Opportunity Youth](#)"..

This model was developed to highlight the specific resources and supports opportunity youth may need to be successfully reconnected.

To learn more, watch the recorded presentation "Reengagement Core Concepts" on the Open Doors Youth Reengagement [YouTube playlist](#).



Washington state resources and services

See the chart below for Washington state resources. The chart is aligned to the six components of the Re-engagement Ecosystem. The list is not exhaustive, yet it is a collection of commonly accessed and frequently requested supports for youth reengagement work.

<p>Education options & points-of-entry</p>	<p>Open Doors Youth Reengagement Program Serves older students, ages 16-21, that are severely credit deficient and who have left traditional and/or alternative school or who are at risk of leaving. The Program reconnects youth to school and aids student progress towards GED and diploma earning, college experiences, and career skill building.</p> <p>Alternative Learning Options A variety of education options in Washington public schools including alternative schools, online learning, programs serving pregnant and parenting teens, and others.</p>
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	<p>Community & Technical Colleges There are statewide options for reengaging into education through community colleges and technical colleges. GED and diploma earning are offered as well as vocational and technical arts degrees. Look for the college's Basic Education for Adults to support older youth and adults of all ages.</p> <p>Regional Attendance & Reengagement Coordinators: Washington state has nine educational service districts (ESD). Each ESD covers a region encompassing multiple school districts & counties. Your region's ESD Attendance & Reengagement Coordinator can assist educators, case managers, counselors, and schools with student reengagement.</p> <p>District Reengagement Supports: Many school districts employ reengagement specialists, registrars, and other staff that work to reengage and enroll youth of all ages back into school. Contact your local school district for more information.</p> <p>Washington Youth ChalleNGe Academy (WYCA): WYCA is the premiere academic and life-coping intervention program for every high school in the state. A National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program in partnership with OSPI, the Academy is FREE to disengaged youth residing in the State of Washington. It is the WYCA's goal to collaborate with all school districts to identify students who are ideal candidates for this opportunity from among those who have either dropped out or are at-risk of dropping out of high school. Students attend the 5 ½ month residential program and return to their school with up to eight (8) credits to use towards on-time graduation.</p>
<p>Workforce, training, and career</p>	<p>Career Connect Washington Career Connect Washington works with schools and employers across the state to give meaningful, real-world job experiences to students of all ages, and workers up to 30.</p> <p>Job Corps At Job Corps, students have access to room and board while they learn skills in specific training areas for up to three years. It is a residential career training program for people ages 16 through 24. Students complete their high school education, train for meaningful careers, and get assistance to obtain employment. Job.</p> <p>Skill Centers washingtonskillscenters.org Students learn skills needed to meet industry standards, earn credit, and more. See the overview video.</p> <p>SkillSource A nonprofit agency that manages programs to develop a skilled workforce in the North Central Washington area.</p> <p>Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) strives to improve the quality of the</p>

	<p>workforce, increase economic self-sufficiency, and meet skills requirements of employers. Youth programs are available across the state that provide skills, funding to youth, and other career supports.</p> <p>YouthBuild Youth Build primarily serves young people who lack a high school diploma and financial resources. Through the program, youth reclaim their education, gain job skills, and become leaders in their communities.</p>
<p>Social support services</p>	<p>Basic Food DSHS (wa.gov) Basic food benefits, also called SNAP, helps people with low incomes by providing monthly benefits to buy food.</p> <p>McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children & Youth Program Works to ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness are able to attend and fully participate in school. See also the Washington state contact list of district Homeless Education Liaisons</p> <p>Migrant Education Program OSPI Ensures high-quality education programs and supplemental support services for migratory children and youth. Health and education supports are available to eligible youth and families. Coordinators can be contacted at various ESDs.</p> <p>Office of Homeless Youth (wa.gov) the Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection Programs (OHY) leads the statewide efforts to reduce and prevent homelessness for youth and young adults. Visit the site to locate local providers for youth in your programs.</p> <p>Youth Services Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Welfare and CPS • Mandated reporting • Foster Care and Transitional Supports
<p>Physical and behavioral health</p>	<p>When can a minor access health care without parental consent? WashingtonLawHelp.org Use the webpage to see the age of access for health services in Washington state. As of October 2022: At age 13, youth can access outpatient mental health treatment and substance use treatment services on their own. Youth can independently and confidentially access birth control, abortion, or prenatal care at any age. Confidential and private sexually transmitted disease or infection testing can be accessed at age 14.</p> <p>Apple Health (Medicaid) HCA In Washington State, Medicaid is called Apple Health. Apple Health provides preventative care, like cancer screenings, treatment for diabetes, pregnancy, and high blood pressure, and many other health care services.</p>

	<p>ESD Navigators for Behavioral Health Resources OSPI Each ESD region has a dedicated Health Coordinator/Navigator. They support school districts and staff to locate and navigate suicide prevention and behavioral health services and supports.</p> <p>Directory of certified behavioral health providers a list showing mental health providers and substance-use treatment providers in each county of the state.</p> <p>Sexual and Reproductive Health Washington State Department of Health provides a list of statewide Clinic Locations and a separate page specific to abortion resources</p>
<p>Juvenile justice, reentry, and foster care</p>	<p>Community Passageways Creates alternatives to incarceration for youth and young adults through committed relationships centered on love, compassion, and consistency. Community Passageways support youth and young adults at every stage of the criminal legal process—from prevention to detention. This is designed to replace the school-to-prison pipeline with a school-to-life success pipeline.</p> <p>District Truancy Liaison OSPI School districts all have a person to coordinate and address excessive absenteeism and truancy to the office of the superintendent of public instruction Foster Care Liaisons/DCYF Contacts OSPI Search for the Foster Care Liaison/Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) contacts in your district or area.</p> <p>Institutional Education OSPI See the <i>Education Advocate Programs</i>. Education Advocates support youth re-entry through a case management model. They assist incarcerated youth to successfully re-entry into education and the community from facilities.</p> <p>Justice for Girls Coalition of Washington State Supports include advocacy and training across multiple systems including school, mental health, health, housing, child welfare, and juvenile justice.</p>

Paths to postsecondary pathways

[Become an Apprentice \(wa.gov\)](#) Apprenticeship combines on-the-job training with related classroom instruction, all under the supervision of a journey-level professional. Apprentices get paid while they learn and develop knowledge, skills, and abilities in a new career field.

[Community & Technical College Locations | SBCTC](#) Locate the colleges near you by viewing a [map](#). Get in touch with the [Basic Education for Adults](#) services that can support older youth and young adults.

[Employment Projections | ESD](#) Employment projections provide job seekers an idea of how many jobs exist within industries and occupations, how the number of jobs are expected to change and what the future demand for workers will be.