STUDENT RETENTION

AN INNOVATIVE, NO-COST APPROACH TO DROP-OUT PREVENTION AND INCREASING GRADUATION RATES ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

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THE MISSION

of The Louisiana National Guard Youth Challenge Program is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of 16-18 year old "at-risk" youths, producing program graduates with the values, life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens.

YOUTH CHALLENGE PROGRAM (YCP)

- FREE
- EDUCATION PROGRAM
- 1,400 GRADS YEARLY
- 3 PROGRAM LOCATIONS

- Camp Minden
  - February & August
- Camp Beauregard
  - January & July
- Gillis W. Long Center
  - April & October
WHAT IS YCP?

- **TEACHES 8 CORE COMPONENTS**

- **2 PHASED EDUCATION PROGRAM**
  - Residential (5 months)
  - Post Residential (12 months)

- **HOLISTIC APPROACH**
  - Structured & Supervised Environment
    - Males & Females separated
    - Restricted use of technology
  - Self-Care Emphasized
    - Balanced nutrition & Improved sleep habits
    - Master-level counseling staff

- Life Coping Skills
- Academic Excellence
- Job Skills Training
- Responsible Citizenship
- Leadership/Followership
- Health & Hygiene
- Physical Fitness
- Community Involvement
WHAT YCP IS NOT:

- **NOT** A BOOTCAMP.
- **NOT** FOR "BAD" KIDS.
- STUDENTS ARE **NOT** "COURT ORDERED."
- **NOT** A LAST RESORT.
- **NOT** A MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY.
- **NOT** A "ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL" CORRECTIVE APPROACH.
- **NOT** A PUNISHMENT.
- STUDENTS ARE **NOT** REQUIRED TO JOIN THE MILITARY.
PATHWAYS

- **HISET**
  - Approximately 80% of YCP students meet the state eligibility requirements needed to test for the high school equivalency exam.
  - Since 1993, nearly 14,000 students have taken the exam.
  - To date, 11,349 students have achieved their GED/HISET before graduating YCP!

- **COURSE CHOICE/CREDIT RECOVERY**
  - BESE-Approved Course Choice Provider.
    - February 2017
  - Students DO NOT drop out of school!
  - Students must be referred by school counselor.
  - Student attendance/enrollment verified by YCP.
HISET

• NO COST TO STUDENTS/SCHOOLS.

• GOOD FIT FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE CONSISTENTLY STRUGGLED TO FIND PERSONAL & ACADEMIC SUCCESS IN A TRADITIONAL SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT.

• STUDENTS & FAMILIES MAY PURSUE A HISET CREDENTIAL BY CHOICE DUE TO PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

• THE TEST OF ADULT BASIC EDUCATION (TABE) IS USED TO MEASURE ACADEMIC PROGRESS.
HISSET

- SMALL CLASSROOM SIZE (1:20)
- CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT SUPPORTED & SUPERVISED BY CADRE

- STATE CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS:
  - Develop individual curriculum plans based on each student's TABE results.
  - Provide both one-on-one & classroom instruction.

- STUDENTS WORK AT THEIR OWN PACE
  - Peer tutoring opportunities
  - Don't progress to the next lesson until they have mastered the content.
High School SPS: Strength of Diploma

The graduation index measures the quality of the diploma earned by each 12th grader. The “A” bar will remain at receipt of a diploma.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality of Diploma (Graduation Index): Student Results</th>
<th>Points Awarded</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS Diploma plus</td>
<td>110-160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional points awarded for students who graduate on time and meet requirements for one or more of the following:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Advanced Placement</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• International Baccalaureate</td>
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<tr>
<td>• JumpStart credentials</td>
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<tr>
<td>• CLEP</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• TOPS-aligned dual enrollment course completion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Associates Degree</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Four-year graduate</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Includes Career Diploma students with a regional Jump Start credential, as well as students earning a diploma who are assessed on an alternate diploma)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Five and six-year graduate with any diploma</td>
<td>50-75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Five-year graduates who earn an AP score of 3 or higher, an IB score of 4 or higher, a CLEP of 50 or higher, or an Advanced statewide Jump Start credential will generate 140 points.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HiSET/GED + JumpStart credential</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HiSET/GED (earned no later than October 1 following last exit record)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-graduate without HiSET/GED</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

- Post-Residential Action Plans (PRAP) assist students in developing realistic & attainable goals.
- Students are supported by community mentors & YCP case managers after graduation.
- Job training skills & additional educational opportunities yield increased graduate placement rates.
WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

VIDEO CLIP
COURSE CHOICE CREDIT RECOVERY

A PARTNERSHIP WITH SCHOOLS BENEFITING LOUISIANA STUDENTS.

- NO COST TO STUDENTS/SCHOOLS.

- GOOD FIT FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE MOTIVATED TO ACHIEVE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.
  - Opportunity to "catch up"/"get back on-track" in a distraction-free atmosphere
  - Maintain/Complete courses virtually on a YCP campus

- SCHOOL COUNSELOR MUST MAKE RECOMMENDATION
  - YCP does not make pathway decisions for students.
  - YCP relies on counselor expertise to verify courses
COURSE CHOICE
CREDIT RECOVERY

- COURSEWORK COMPLETED VIRTUALLY
  - YCP INSTRUCTOR FULLY PRESENT TO ASSIST

- FULLY-ACCREDITED CORE, ELECTIVE, & AP CURRICULUM.

- EOC & LEAP 2025 TESTING DONE ON-SITE AT NO COST TO THE HOME-SCHOOL.

- GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS ARE ADDRESSED WHILE STUDENT IS ON YCP CAMPUS.

- INCREASED ACCOUNTABILITY, MFP RETENTION, & GRADUATION RATES.
WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

BY JULY 2018:

- 48 students will have completed the CCCR pathway at YCP.
- Over 127 Carnegie Units will have been earned.
- 58 EOC/LEAP 2025 Assessments will have been taken.
- 32 schools will have retained MFP funds they would have otherwise lost.
WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

VIDEO CLIP
By July 2019:

- All CCCR Pathway students will be ACT tested.
- YCP will offer credentialing to CCCR students.
- YCP will offer WorkKeys testing.
- Students will be earning additional, YCP-specific, transferable credits towards their diplomas!
WHO IS AN IDEAL CANDIDATE?

PLACE MAT CONSENSUS

- Use the paper and markers provided.
- Draw a large circle in the center of the paper.
- Create a section for each person in your group to write in by drawing a line from the outside of the circle to the edge of the paper.
WHO IS AN IDEAL CANDIDATE?

PLACE MAT CONSENSUS

- In your section, make a list of attributes you think an ideal YCP candidate should possess to be successful in the program.
- What qualities does a student referred to the HiSET pathway need?
- What qualities does a student referred to the CCCR pathway need?
WHO IS AN IDEAL CANDIDATE?

PLACE MAT CONSENSUS

- What kind of student can benefit from what YCP has to offer?
- What might a traditional student gain from attending YCP?
WHO IS AN IDEAL CANDIDATE?

PLACE MAT CONSENSUS

- Share the attributes you've written with your group.
- If everyone agrees on an attribute or description, add it to the circle.
- Display your consensus on the wall!
REFERRING A STUDENT

- IF REFERRING A STUDENT TO THE HISET PATHWAY, ONLY THE INITIAL REFERRAL IS NEEDED.
- IF REFERRING A STUDENT TO THE CCCR PATHWAY, BOTH THE REFERRAL AND COURSE RECOMMENDATION FORM IS NEEDED.
- EDUCATION COORDINATOR WILL VERIFY PATHWAY AND/OR COURSES.
REFERRING A STUDENT

- Assess each student in your group's pack.
- With a partner, complete a referral for each student.
- If you refer a student to the CCCR pathway, what courses would you recommend?

A

B

C

D
REFERRING A STUDENT

- HOW CLOSE DID YOU GET?

A  B  C  D

HISET  HISET  CCCR  CCCR
SUCCESS STORY

- BEGAN YCP - GILLIS LONG: 10-15-17
  - 17 years old
  - More than a year behind in school credits

- COURSES COMPLETED & PASSED:
  - English 4
  - Chemistry
  - Environmental Science
  - Spanish 1
  - Spanish 2
  - Pre-Calculus
  - World History

- GRADUATED YCP: 3-24-2018
  - Returned to High School

- HS SENIOR GRADUATION 5-19-2018!
IMPACT

VIDEO CLIP & TESTIMONIALS
Take two minutes and jot down thoughts on the following questions:

- Think about a student (or students) you know who can benefit from the YCP opportunity.
- How can the Youth Challenge Program positively impact your students?
- How can the Youth Challenge Program positively impact your school or district?
- What are your next steps to partner with YCP to help your students achieve success?
- How can you help support counselors at your school or in your district?