



Youth Academy Program Description

Mission

The Mission of Youth Academy is to support each student socially, emotionally, and academically while developing resiliency and connections to be successful in school.

Program Overview

The Youth Academy serves a specific population of students who need additional resources to fully access academic and school settings. Our program provides transitional support for students needing intervention or recovery in a therapeutic setting to increase social and emotional skills.

The Youth Academy was established to serve several purposes; students may be eligible for enrollment:

1. Through Youth in Care team discussion and recommendation
 - Division of Child and Family Services or Juvenile Justice Youth Services
2. Upon return from residential or day treatment programs and/or home and hospital services and recommendation
3. District Support Team recommendation
 - At-risk behaviors (suicidal ideation)
 - Mental health diagnosis
 - Significant/recent trauma
 - Parent/student referrals will follow the DST process
4. By District Case Management or Safe Schools Referral
 - Assault
 - Distribution of illegal substances
 - Distribution of pornography
 - Fighting (serious bodily injury and serious and continuous disruption that threatens the safety of the school)
 - Gang activity
 - Sexual misconduct

Vision & Expectations

Youth Academy is a short-term program that provides a smaller learning environment to eligible students in grades K-12 at 4 sites. Youth Academy is designed to provide individualized instruction focused on serving the unique academic and behavioral needs of each student to increase long-term success once they return to their regular school placement.

- Prior to placement/enrollment, orientation meetings will be scheduled for each student with the Youth Academy Team, student, family, as well as the school team.
- Youth Academy provides academic coursework and social and emotional support for students.



- Students are expected to engage in therapeutic opportunities individually as well as in small and whole group settings weekly.
- Youth Academy has been designed to be a temporary enrollment/placement.
 - For students who need therapeutic, social, or emotional support, the length of stay will be based on the needs of each student and recommendations from the Youth Academy Educational Therapists, Teachers, and Administrators.
 - The Youth Academy Teams will collaborate with schools of record, YIC teams, and health professionals to determine goals for each student.
 - For students referred through DCMT, the length of stay will be at least six weeks. Recommendations will be presented at scheduled review meetings for each student.
 - Considerations will be made based on the end of quarter and timely transitions. DCMT also considers what may motivate each student to achieve their goals.
- School teams are expected to maintain positive relationships and connections by visiting students weekly. Staff may alternate which adults visit each week.
- Students will mainstream into classes at each grade level when they reach behavior expectations for engaging with larger peer groups.

Programs and Locations

- Our Elementary school program is located at Glacier Hills Elementary School. Students may be eligible for the four areas discussed above.
- Our Middle school program is located at Eastmont Middle school.
- HS - Diamond Ridge
- DCMT - District Office

Progress Monitoring

- While at Youth Academy, student's behavioral and academic progress will be monitored through the use of multiple data collection methods, including a level system, behavior tracking and assessments.

Positive Behavior Supports

- While at Youth Academy, students will participate in a token economy system and a variety of reinforcement strategies. These procedures teach learners what to do rather than what not to do and creates a more reinforcing environment (Cooper et al., 2020).

Exit Criteria & Transition Planning

- Student behavior and participation are monitored daily to assess readiness for returning to their regular school. When exit criteria are met, a transition meeting is scheduled with families and school staff.
- Students placed by DCMT, the district team will determine the required behavior expectations and exit criteria. Students remain at Youth Academy until those criteria are met.



- Students placed through YIC, DST or treatment centers, Youth Academy will collaborate to develop individualized Transition Plans with six- and twelve-week reviews. Collaboration with home schools is key.
- Students meeting their goals complete a reflection.

Considering Multilingual (ML) Students

- If a student is not a newcomer and is enrolled in a course at a middle school or high school that utilizes System 44 or Read 180, the same service will continue at YA and would count towards meeting the language goals for the student. If the ML student is performing at a Level 1 or is enrolled in a newcomer class, then an Individualized Language Development Plan will be created by the sending school to make recommendations for the continued language services that can be provided by licensed educators at YA.

Considering Special Education Services

Child Find

- The IEP team at the school of record will work closely with YA instructional and support staff to determine any suspicion of child find and will be the determining body for any student that is believed to be a student with a disability. All decisions for Prior Written Notice (including consent for testing) will be issued from the IEP team at the school of record.

Evaluation/Reevaluation

- The IEP team at the school of record will work to provide evaluation support for any suspected child find case while enrolled at YA. Instructional and support staff can participate in evaluation surveys or other relevant information gathering needs that the school of record IEP team requires to make a determination regarding eligibility for special education or related services or students who might qualify under section 504.

IEP Development and Timelines

- The IEP team at the school of record will work with the YA instructional and support staff to develop an offer of FAPE or maintain annual renewals for such purposes (IEP reauthorization). The staff at YA will assist with providing relevant progress monitoring etc. for teams to have meaningful present levels with which to develop new goals. The YA team will also provide relevant information and assist in creating timely and meaningful progress reports. Coordination for this particular IEP required item should be done in collaboration and under the supervision of administration from the school of record and administrative staff overseeing the YA program.

FAPE

- The agreed upon offer of FAPE, as documented in the agreed upon annual IEP, will be carried out by YA staff during the duration of student enrollment in the program.



Youth Academy Contract

Student: _____

Orientation Date: _____

Program Overview:

- Short-term, transitional support program
- Reduced schedule with a therapeutic focus
- Collaboration with family, school and YA to monitor progress and set goals
- Students return to their school of record when YA goals are met

Student Expectations:

- Attend regularly and on time
- Follow all district and school expectations
- Participate in therapeutic opportunities

Family Expectations:

- Maintain communication with YA team
- Ensure student attends school regularly
- Support YA team with student conduct and behavior
- When deemed necessary, family must pick up student or they will be transported to another location

School of Record Expectations:

- Visit students weekly to maintain or restore positive relationships
- Develop and support goals with YA team
- Attend orientation and 6-week reviews to support student progress
- Maintain status as IEP/504 team and provide necessary case management and related services.
- Facilitate and support the transition/return of student by collaborating with YA
- Support student enrollment needs (providing school counseling services, school year registration, CCR's, etc.)

Youth Academy Team Expectations:

- Facilitate a therapeutic, focused environment
- Provide individualized instruction both academically and socially
- Collaborate to develop goals and exit criteria for student
- Collaborate in the development and implementation of mainstream/transition plan

Student

Parent/Guardian

YA Staff

School of Record Staff