Continuation High School Afterschool Programs

Step Up Summit – November 4, 2010

TEMESCAL Associates

Group Agreements

- Be engaged in all activities
- Avoid side conversations
- Agree to disagree
- Turn off your cell phone or put it on vibrate (including texts and emails)

Session Goals

- Participants will
  - Develop a better understanding of the unique needs of continuation high school youth
  - Identify various ways in which afterschool programs at continuation schools are working to meet these needs
  - Engage in a discussion of policy recommendations that would help support afterschool programs at continuation schools

California Continuation High Schools

- Continuation high schools have been in operation in CA since 1919 as a response to working students
- Now serve varied population – youth who face credit deficiencies and other challenges
- 525 continuation high schools across CA enroll over 70,000 youth
- Continuation high schools vary in terms of quality, structure, and outcomes

From the article, "Going the Extra Mile: Afterschool in Continuation High School Settings," by Sam Piha and Laura Karosic

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Unique Features of Youth

- Vulnerable group of young people who are considered “at-risk” because of various challenges
- Many lack credits needed for graduation, fundamental academic/organizational skills
- Many are disengaged from communities, schools, and positive adult role models
- 3 times more likely to be in foster care, use alcohol and drugs, and be involved in violent behavior
- Higher concentration of English Language Learners and racial minorities

Video: Ralph J. Bunche Afterschool Program

Discussion

- What images, words, or phrases from the video are still with you?
- What unique needs of continuation students does the video highlight?
- What came through to you as very important?

Unique Features of Schools

- Flexible schedule and curriculum – only obligated to teach 4 hours per day on the 4 core subjects
- Most are small and lack gyms, kitchens, libraries, etc.
- Attendance issue - truancy and drop-outs are already established problems
- Small staff size = responsible for different roles & functions
- Staff motivation is variable – some at the end of careers and are worn out; others young & energetic

Survey Results: Executive Summary

Most common offerings:

- Programs that offer credits toward graduation;
- Programs that offer tutoring;
- Programs that utilize credentialed teachers;
- Programs that provide youth leadership opportunities;
- Programs that offer instruction and/or remediation;
- Programs that have partnerships with community colleges;
- Programs that offer community service and volunteering.

Survey Results: Executive Summary

Least cited offerings:

- Programs that support recent graduates;
- Programs that refer recent graduates to outside programs;
- Programs that employ youth; and
- Programs for pregnant teens and new parents.

Survey Results: Executive Summary

Survey participants want to learn more about:

- Programs that employ youth;
- Programs that support recent graduates;
- Programs that offer community service and volunteering;
- Programs that utilize multiple funding streams; and
- Programs based on partnerships with community colleges.

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Survey Results: Executive Summary

Survey participants are least interested in learning more about:

- Programs that offer tutoring;
- Programs that offer credits toward graduation;
- Programs that offer instruction and/or remediation; and
- Programs that utilize credentialed teachers.

Discussion

- How does your program meet the unique needs of continuation students?
- What funding streams does your program use?

Policy Recommendations

- **Attendance Expectations.** The expectations regarding program attendance, adult-to-student ratio, and cost per student should be amended for programs operating in continuation high schools.
- **Multiple Funding Streams.** There should be a focused attempt to coordinate other relevant funding streams that target high-risk youth and which could bring supplemental services to the youth and the program.
- **Extended Day, Not Supplanting.** Because of the "last chance" nature that these settings represent, it is important that these afterschool programs work very closely, almost merging with the continuation school.
- **Supports for Young Adults.** There should be efforts to build bridges between the programs that serve continuation high school youth and those that serve young adults who are 19 years and older – youth who were formally considered high-risk and disconnected.

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School data and survey from the article, “Going the Extra Mile: Afterschool in Continuation High School Settings,” by Sam Piha and Laura Karosic

For more resources on afterschool programs in continuation high schools (articles, videos, and research), go to:

www.temescalassociates.com

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