THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGING OLDER YOUTH IN AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

THE WHY, HOW, WHAT, AND POTENTIAL OF HIGH SCHOOL AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS
WHY HIGH SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A “REAL NEED”, NOT A “JUST NICE TO HAVE”

The Secret To Success In Older Youth Afterschool Programs is “Relationships, Relationships, Relationships”

• Connecting Students To School
• Typical Age-Related Disconnection With Parents
• Traditional Secondary Education Model Teaches Subjects Not Students
• Provides The Additional Time And Support Allowing Students To “Catch-Up”
• Provides An Important “Safe Zone” and Another Much Needed “Safety Net” For Older Youth
Older Youth typically have a minimum of 8 hours a day of free time to spend.

Some of these competitors are positive activities.

However, some of these competitors are also high-risk or negative activities.

Because Older Youth are in the midst of developing and practicing their own agency and self-determination, they “Vote With Their Feet”.

Because every High School has its own culture, Older Youth Programs must have the ability to be “Custom-Built” specifically for that school.
When we talk about what Older Youth “Need”, we are talking in the context of what they need to succeed academically. This is accomplished through the Afterschool Program working directly with School Site Administration in looking at specific school-site and student data. Examples: Homework Help, Athletic Tutorials, Targeted Interventions, and Credit Recovery.

It is also working collaboratively with the Instructional Day to coordinate and integrate different modalities of learning in the Afterschool space that directly supports that instruction. Examples: Project-Based Learning, 21st Century Skills Development, Work-Based Learning.
When we refer to what Older Youth “Want”, we are talking in the context of what they actually and really want to do.

This is accomplished through the Afterschool Program surveying the entire school’s student population.

Then comes the “crazy” part… We actually give them exactly what they asked for.
THE CURRENT DIRECTION OF HIGH SCHOOL AFTER-SCHOOL FOCI

Nutrition, Healthy Living and Behaviors

Drug Prevention

Social Emotional Learning

Trauma-Informed Practices

Workforce Readiness
The Stereotypical Views and Mindsets Regarding Older Youth Afterschool and Afterschool Itself

Lack of Awareness Regarding Older Youth Afterschool Programming Successes and Potential

It’s New Programming, So New Thinking And Approaches vs. Status Quo

The Valuable Role and Contribution Older Youth Afterschool Programs Can and Should Have In Workforce Readiness

Communicating The Real Need For More Older Youth/High School Programs
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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