



AMERICAN YOUTH POLICY FORUM e-bulletin

Contents

>Upcoming AYPF Events >AYPF Publications and Resources >Recommended Reading and Resources
>About AYPF

UPCOMING AYPF EVENTS

Mark your calendars – events you don't want to miss

Thursday July 29, 2010 – 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm EDT: *Building a Better School Day: The Massachusetts Expanded Learning Time Initiative*

This webinar will examine the creation, implementation, and results of the Massachusetts Expanded Learning Time Initiative. Presenters will highlight the need for more time in school, discuss best practices and models for ELT, and explore the impact of Massachusetts ELT, which adds 300 hours to the school year in targeted schools for more enrichment opportunities, increased instruction time, and more time for teacher planning and professional development. The presentation will include a session with the former principal of the Clarence R Edwards Middle School, the highest performing ELT school in Massachusetts. The webinar will also address recommendations for policy that can support expanded learning time at the local, state, and national level. **Space is limited.**

Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/339043008> or click on the button below:

REGISTER NOW

Thursday, August 5, 2010: Disconnected Youth: Defining the Population and Exploring Solutions

Much attention has been given to the number of students who drop out of high school, yet significant numbers of these students eventually do earn a credential. Our robust "second-chance" system plays a critical role in ensuring these students successfully engage in education and employment opportunities, but these programs often face significant policy challenges. This forum will describe the heterogeneity of the disconnected youth population, provide an overview of research-supported best practices, and include a panel of practitioner-experts to explore policy challenges and solutions. Presenters include a representative from MDRC (NY); Molly Baldwin, Executive Director, Roca Inc. (MA); and Toyce Newton, President, Phoenix Youth and Family Services (AR). You are encouraged to pre-submit questions for our panelists to jlerner@aypf.org

AYPF PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES



AYPF is pleased to announce our YouTube™ debut! More videos have been made available! Please visit our channel at: <http://www.youtube.com/amyouthpolicyforum>

Webinar Video- Preparing College- and Career-Ready Students: Elements of Successful Programs

This webinar examined the elements of program models that have demonstrated effectiveness in preparing students for postsecondary access and success, based on the results of rigorous evaluations. The webinar was anchored by the findings of the AYPF publication, *Success at Every Step: How 23 Programs Support Youth on the Path to College and Beyond*, and featured two of the included program models. First Things First is a comprehensive school reform model that aims to transform struggling schools by transforming relationships and improving instructional quality, and Early College High Schools are small schools that directly connect underrepresented students with a college experience and allow them to earn significant college credits while still in high school. The webinar also addressed the role of policy in supporting local, state, and national goals for college and career readiness. The webinar recording is available at <http://www.aypf.org/Webinars/Wb062210.htm>

New Forum Brief - Building a Portfolio of Options to Ensure All Students Graduate

This forum highlighted the work of the Association for High School Innovation (AHSI), a collaboration of education providers and advocates that works to create pathways and expand options to future success for all youth. Over the past seven years, AHSI members have engaged in a variety of efforts at the state and local level to create and sustain the development of education options to ensure all students graduate. Presenters shared lessons learned from their work along with implications for policy. Presenters included **Talmira Hill**, Director, Association for High School Innovation (NH); **Elliot Washor**, Co-Director, Big Picture Learning (RI); **Nick Mathern**, Associate Vice President, Policy & Partnership Development, Gateway to College National Network (OR), and **Dr. Vincent Mays**, Director, Office of Alternative Education, Newark Public Schools (NJ).

New AYPF Issue Brief - Building Capacity to Promote College- and Career-Readiness for Secondary-Level English Language Learners

This issue brief explores opportunities for educational systems to develop strategic policies and programs to enhance the success of adolescent English language learners (ELLs). The brief is based on lessons learned from a May, 2010 AYPF fact-finding trip to Austin, Texas for state-level policy leaders. Highlighted policy issues include building human capital to provide rigorous instruction for ELLs; developing partnerships to support both rural and urban districts; creating policies and programs that are responsive to the diversity within the ELL population; and increasing college access for ELL students. The brief concludes with policy guidelines for enhancing system-wide support for this rapidly-growing group of students. (June 2010)

*Briefs and trip reports are available online at <http://www.aypf.org/events>.
Publications are available online at <http://www.aypf.org/publications>*

RECOMMENDED READING AND RESOURCES

Check these out – recommended reading from the AYPF staff

Disconnected Young Adults in New England: Understanding the Challenge Nellie Mae Education Foundation

Background Paper prepared for the Nellie Mae Education Foundation by Ephraim Weisstein and Flora Traub. The paper provides a brief overview of the scope, scale, and consequences of the current Disconnected Young Adult (DYA) challenge and presents data on characteristics of the DYA population nationally and in the six New England states including data on specific subgroups of DYA. The report explores reasons young adults detach from the educational system and their subsequent experiences navigating education and training options, includes an overview of four emerging innovative models to provide the reader with a greater understanding of current practice and possibilities for the future, and examines the public policy context and promising policy innovations that may make the education system more flexible and supportive of high risk and disconnected young adults.

Recruiting and Retaining Older African American and Hispanic Boys in After-School Programs: What We Know and What We Still Need to Learn Public/Private Ventures

Created in partnership with the Collaborative for Building After-School Systems (CBASS), this *GroundWork* brief provides an overview of promising strategies for recruiting and retaining middle- and high-school-aged African-American and Hispanic males in after-school programs. The findings are based on a review of relevant literature and interviews with 10 after-school programs identified by CBASS intermediaries as successful in these areas. The brief is the third in P/PV's *GroundWork* series, which aims to summarize available evidence on a variety of social policy topics to provide a firm foundation for future work.

Disposable Youth: Education or Incarceration? Strategic Publishing Group

This new book suggests that a way to keep young people from dropping out of high school and entering the justice system and incarceration is to reorganize American high schools around the career academy concept. The book demonstrates how career academies substantially reduce the high school dropout rate, prepare students for work, and prepare students to enter postsecondary educational institutions while graduating ninety percent of the enrolled student population. By dramatically increasing the number of students who graduate from high school and by preparing them for work as well as college, the authors contend that career academies can reduce crime and the number of people in prison.

Transforming the High School Experience: How New York City's New Small Schools Are Boosting Student Achievement and Graduation Rates MDRC

Taking advantage of lottery-like features in New York City's high school admissions process, this study provides rigorous evidence that new small public high schools are narrowing the educational attainment gap and markedly improve graduation prospects, particularly for disadvantaged students.

Chicago High School Redesign Initiative: Schools, Students, and Outcomes Consortium on Chicago School Research at the University of Chicago

Between 2002 and 2007, the Chicago High School Redesign Initiative (CHSRI) opened 23 small high schools. Implemented in partnership with Chicago Public Schools, this initiative aimed to provide populations of low-performing students in under-served areas of the city with high quality, small high schools. This report shows that this initiative did accomplish much, but not all,

of what it was intended to do. The CHSRI schools seem to have created an environment that encouraged student attendance and persistence in schools, students' academic outcomes are similar or slightly better than those of similar students, and CHSRI schools were very effective at graduating the students who were most at risk of not graduating. However, being slightly better than similar students does not mean that the students are college ready.

AYPF ANNOUNCEMENTS

AYPF is now accepting internship applications for the Fall (September – December) 2010 period

To be considered for an internship, please submit a resume, detailed cover letter, and five-page writing sample to Loretta Goodwin at LGoodwin@aypf.org

Please note: *AYPF does not publish and distribute an August issue of the e-bulletin. Please look for the next issue of the AYPF e-bulletin in September. We do encourage you to check the AYPF Web site over the coming months to find out what is being developed and scheduled for the fall of 2010.*

Have a very enjoyable summer!

The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF), a nonprofit, nonpartisan professional development organization based in Washington, DC, provides learning opportunities for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers working on youth and education issues at the national, state, and local levels.

AYPF events and publications are made possible by a consortium of philanthropic foundations: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, William T. Grant Foundation, Charles S. Mott Foundation, and others.

To subscribe or unsubscribe, please e-mail aypf@aypf.org with your contact information.

American Youth Policy Forum
1836 Jefferson Place, NW; Washington, DC 20036
202-775-9731 (phone) 202-775-9733 (fax)
www.aypf.org