

AHSI ASSOCIATION for
HIGH SCHOOL
Innovation
CREATING PATHWAYS & EXPANDING OPTIONS

AHSI: An Overview

AMERICAN YOUTH POLICY FORUM
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BUILDING A PORTFOLIO OF OPTIONS TO ENSURE ALL STUDENTS
GRADUATE

Talmira Hill, AHSI Director

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WHAT IS AHSI?

- National network of youth development organizations that *create pathways and expand options* to future success for all youth
- Members operate **276 schools** and programs in **35 states** and over **170 cities** nationwide - in all reaching over **38,000 students**
- **Formed in 2003** as the Alternative High School Initiative with generous support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Committed to *dropout prevention* and promoting high school *graduation, college completion & career achievement*

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AHSI is the premier national network of innovative high school practitioners in the U.S. targeting students who are not thriving in traditional settings.

- Big Picture Learning
- Communities in Schools of Georgia
- Communities in Schools National
- Diploma Plus
- EdVisions Schools
- Gateway to College
- National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families
- Our Piece of the Pie (June 2010)
- StreetSchool Network
- YouthBuild USA

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Association for High School Innovation
276 schools in the network as of March, 2010

Legend:

- Big Picture Learning (68)
- Communities in Schools (39)
- Diploma Plus (27)
- Edvisions Schools (54)
- Gateway to College Sites (24)
- StreetSchool Network™ (41)
- YouthBuild (23)
- AHSI Place-Based Partnership Sites (3)
Facilitated by National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families

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AHSI Distinguishers: Identifying the essential elements of effective small alternative high schools

AHSI Network Distinguisher Categories

1	Authentic Learning, Teaching and Performance Assessment
2	Personalized School Culture
3	Shared Leadership and Responsibility
4	Supportive Partnerships
5	Future Focus

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AHSI'S EXPERTISE & INNOVATIONS

- ❑ **Our Network of Collective Expertise**
 - Wide and diverse range of pathways to graduation
 - High quality schools and programs
 - Unique national forum for high school innovators
- ❑ **Our Place-based Partnerships (NLC-IYEF)**
 - Indianapolis-AHSI Partnership
 - Nashville-AHSI Partnership
 - Newark-AHSI Partnership

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AHSI POLICY CONDITIONS FOR LARGE SCALE SUCCESS

1. INCREASED COLLEGE ACCESS
2. NEED-BASED, ADEQUACY APPROACH TO FUNDING
3. RIGOROUS, REASONABLE ACADEMIC STANDARDS & ASSESSMENTS
4. STRONG ACCOUNTABILITY
5. EXPANDED OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS
6. OPEN SECTOR, READINESS TO OPEN ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOLS
7. COORDINATION WITH CITY AND OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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Learn more at www.AHSI.org

The Association for High School Innovation creates pathways and expands options to learn, succeed, and thrive. AHSI was founded in 2002 as the alternative high schools initiative with generous support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

AHSI now operates independently as a national network of youth development organizations operating over 275 schools and programs in 30 states and 170 cities nationwide. AHSI intends to lead - through innovation and thoughtful collaboration - a national response to the imperative that our country educate all youth.

Five Qualities That Distinguish AHSI Schools

- 1 Authentic Learning, Teaching and Performance Assessment
- 2 Personalized School Culture
- 3 Shared Leadership and Responsibility
- 4 Supportive Partnerships
- 5 Future Focus