



American Youth
Policy Forum

Creating a System of High-Quality Education Options to Serve All Students

The Curtis Hotel, 1405 Curtis Street, Denver, CO 80202
February 15-17, 2017

Overview and Goals:

With the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), there is a renewed emphasis on making sure all young people have access to high-quality educational opportunities that prepare them for success in postsecondary education and the workforce. For states and districts, this means developing and holding accountable an array of high-quality educational options for vulnerable student populations, including alternative settings. The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) is organizing a learning exchange and study tour for state leaders to explore how states can leverage opportunities under ESSA to create a system of high-quality alternative settings to serve all students.

Through site visits, panel presentations, and small group discussions, participants will gain an understanding of:

1. Opportunities under ESSA to develop multiple pathways
2. Opportunities and challenges that come with developing alternative programs and schools that meet the needs of their unique student bodies
3. Policies to help facilitate development of high quality alternative settings including:
 - a. Reengagement/Alternative Education for At-Risk Students
 - b. Accountability & Assessment
 - c. Student Supports
 - d. Structured Pathways

Participants will leave with a better understanding of the conditions, especially accountability systems, that can ensure of broad range of multiple pathways including alternative settings and an idea of how/what can be replicated in their own states.

Agenda:

Wednesday, February 15th

- 5:30pm** **Registration and Event Check-In**
The Curtis Hotel, Patty Cake Meeting Room, 2nd Floor
- 6:00pm** **Opening Dinner and Welcome from Colorado**
The Curtis Hotel, Patty Cake Meeting Room, 2nd Floor
- Katy Anthes, Commissioner, Colorado Department of Education

Thursday, February 16th

7:30am Breakfast Available

The Curtis Hotel, Hopscotch Meeting Room, 3rd Floor

8:00-9:30 am Morning Presentation: Understanding Colorado's Efforts: Re-engagement, Student Supports, and Structured Pathways

The Curtis Hotel, Hopscotch Meeting Room, 3rd Floor

This session will provide specifics on the strategies that Colorado has been pursuing at the state-level regarding re-engagement, student supports, and structured pathways.

- Judith Martinez, Director of Dropout Prevention and Engagement, Colorado Department of Education
- Gretchen Morgan, Chief Learning Officer, Careerwise
- Steve Dobo, CEO and President, Zero Dropouts

10:30-12pm School Visit: Gateway to College at Front Range Community College

3645 West 112th Avenue, Westminster, CO 80031

12:00-1:00pm Lunch and State Team Conversations

3645 West 112th Avenue, Westminster, CO 80031

State teams will be asked to reflect on their work to share with the group during our evening session.

2:00-3:30pm School Visit: Colorado High School Charter at Colorado Construction Institute

4800 Race St, Denver, CO 80216

3:30-4:30pm Debrief Time: GrowHaus Conference Space

4751 York St, Denver, CO 80216

The GrowHaus is a nonprofit indoor farm, marketplace and educational center in Denver's Elyria-Swansea neighborhood, next to Colorado High School Charter (CHSC). As a primary partner of Colorado High School Charter, they help to support a community-driven, neighborhood-based education by serving as a hub for food distribution, production, education, and economic development. A short tour and information will be provided before moving into the conference space to reflect upon the day.

6:30-8:00pm Dinner Presentation: District Leaders Developing Structured, Supportive Pathways for Students

The Curtis Hotel, Patty Cake Meeting Room, 2nd Floor

State teams will be asked to share in 3 minutes or less their lunchtime conversation. Following share-outs will be a presentation from the perspective of District leaders.

- Patricia Quinones, Assistant Superintendent of Innovation, St. Vrain Valley School District
- Diane Lauer, Assistant Superintendent of Priority Programs and Academic Support, St. Vrain Valley School District
- Janet Laning-Krug, Student Assistance Coordinator, Douglas County School District; Founder and Coordinator, DC Student Support Center

Friday, February 17th

7:30am Breakfast Available

The Curtis Hotel, Hopscotch Meeting Room, 3rd Floor

8:00-9:00am Morning Presentation: Colorado's Approach to Accountability for Alternative Education Campuses

The Curtis Hotel, Hopscotch Meeting Room, 3rd Floor

This session will provide details on Colorado's approach to accountability for alternative settings.

- Jessica Knevals, Accountability and Policy Specialist, Accountability, Performance and Support Division Colorado Department of Education
- Melissa "B" Sanders, AEC and Accountability Senior Consultant, Accountability, Performance and Support Division, Colorado Department of Education
- Erin Loftin, Professional Development Coordinator, Improvement Planning Unit, Colorado Department of Education

10:00-11:30am School Visit: Futures Academy

14707 E 2nd Ave, Aurora, CO 80011

12:00-2:00pm Lunch and Final Debrief

The Curtis Hotel, Patty Cake Meeting Room, 2nd Floor

This session will include a brief presentation on what we know so far about accountability for alternative education under ESSA. Following that discussion, state teams will be asked to reflect on the information shared and indicate what additional information will support their efforts to develop and hold accountable multiple pathways for all students.