



American Youth Policy Forum

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

Indianapolis, Indiana

April 23-25, 2018

The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) is organizing a professional development opportunity for education leaders to explore how best to leverage opportunities in policy and practice to create a system of high-quality alternative settings to serve all students, including at-risk populations. The conference will consist of site visits, panel presentations, and group discussions with other attendees, local leaders, school officials, and students. This conference will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, beginning the evening of Monday, April 23, 2018 and ending by 1:00pm on Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

Attendees will have opportunities to learn about:

1. Strategies to develop multiple pathways for at-risk students, including:
 - a. Connections to college and career, including dual enrollment and transition activities
 - b. Work-based and project-based learning opportunities
 - c. Innovative instructional strategies
 - d. Social and emotional supports and wraparound services
2. Cross-system collaboration in service of at-risk youth, including:
 - a. Students with disabilities
 - b. Justice-involved youth
 - c. Youth in foster care
 - d. Other at-risk youth who have previously withdrawn from school or who are significantly academically off-track
3. Policy considerations that may affect at-risk students, including:
 - a. Delinquency prevention and recovery
 - b. Transition supports and structured pathways
 - c. High school diplomas
 - d. Accountability

Agenda

Monday, April 23, 2018

3:30 – 5:30pm **Complimentary small bites, coffee, and beverages available**

*The Alexander Hotel – Nourishment Hub, 2nd Floor
333 South Delaware Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204*

5:00-6:00pm **Registration and Conference Check-In**

The Alexander Hotel – CityWay Gallery, 1st Floor

6:00-7:00pm **Opening Dinner and Conference Orientation**

Hotel - CityWay Gallery, 1st Floor

Following dinner, AYPF staff will provide an overview of the conference agenda, folder materials, reflection journal, and introduce keynote speakers.

7:00-8:00pm **Setting the Stage: Creating an Education System to Serve At-Risk Students in Indiana**
Hotel - CityWay Gallery, 1st Floor

Speakers will set the education context for the state of Indiana and discuss the leadership at the state-level and collaboration between the Indiana Department of Education and Indiana Department of Correction for creating a system of high-quality education options for at-risk students, particularly youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

Speakers:

- **Courtney Bowling**, School Psychologist, Indiana Department of Correction: Division of Youth Services
- **Catherine Danyluk**, Director, Office of Student Services, Indiana Department of Education
- **Kimb Stewart**, Alternative Education Specialist, Indiana Department of Education

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

7:30-8:15am **Breakfast Available**
Hotel – Progue’s Run, 2nd Floor

8:30am **Bus Departs for Indianapolis Metropolitan High School**

9:00-10:30am **Early Morning Site Visit: Indianapolis Metropolitan High School**
Indianapolis Metropolitan High School
1635 W. Michigan Street (Door #8)
Indianapolis, IN 46222

Founded in 2004 and operated by Goodwill Education Initiatives Inc., the Indianapolis Metropolitan High School (Indy Met) is a free public school for students in grades 9-12. The Indy Met is focused on serving students who face significant barriers such as involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems, special education, homelessness, teen pregnancy, and other at-risk factors. The Indy Met offers small class sizes allowing for individualized attention in all core classes, and students are able to earn the Core 40 Diploma, Core 40 Academic Honors Diploma, or Core 40 Technical Honors Diploma. The Indy Met assists students in reaching their postsecondary goals with free dual-credit college courses, industry-recognized certifications, and the unique opportunity to be placed in a high-wage job immediately after graduation.

Visit will include:

- Tour of Indy Met and individual classrooms
- Student panel
- Discussion with teachers and administrators

10:45-11:45am **Late Morning Site Visit: Goodwill Excel Center of Central & Southern Indiana**
Goodwill Excel Center of Central & Southern Indiana
1635 W. Michigan Street
Indianapolis, IN 46222

The Goodwill Excel Center of Central & Southern Indiana (Excel Center) is a free public high school that gives older youth and adults the opportunity to earn an Indiana Core 40 high school diploma. Operated by Goodwill Education Initiatives Inc., the Excel Center opened in 2010 and has since expanded to 12 locations in Indiana, 5 of which are in Indianapolis. The Excel Center aims to prepare students for postsecondary education and work and improve their career potential by building higher skills and

specializations necessary to succeed in a 21st century workplace. The Excel Center model features an accelerated curriculum in the core areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, allowing students to earn credits at a faster pace. The Excel Center also addresses needs outside of the classroom, provides free drop-in child care centers, offers free transportation assistance, and gives students the ability to balance school and work schedules.

Visit will include:

- Tour of Excel Center
- Discussion with teachers and administrators

Noon-12:45pm **Lunch and Large Group Reflection**
Goodwill Excel Center

Participants will break for lunch and be asked to reflect on their experience, ideas, and lingering questions in their reflection journals and during large group discussion.

1:30-3:30pm **Afternoon Site Visit: Options Charter School**
Options Charter School, Carmel Campus
530 West Carmel Drive
Carmel, IN 46032

Options Charter Schools (Options) are free public charter schools with two campuses that serve students in the northern suburbs of Indianapolis. The Carmel campus (grades 9-12) opened in 2002 and was one of the first charter schools in Indiana, and the Noblesville campus (grades 7-12) opened in 2006. Options has designed a school experience with the purpose of ensuring success for students who have previously struggled in the traditional large public school environment. At Options, students are not asked to conform to the system, rather the system has been designed to accommodate their needs and past experiences to ensure maximum achievement. Through small class sizes and an individualized academic approach, the highly trained instructors and staff propel students to achieving academic success both in high school and postsecondary.

Visit will include:

- Tour of Options Charter and individual classrooms
- Student panel
- Discussion with teachers and administrators

3:30pm **Board Bus for Return to Hotel**

3:30 – 5:30pm **Complimentary small bites, coffee, and beverages available**
The Alexander Hotel – Nourishment Hub, 2nd Floor

4:15-5:30pm **Small Group Debrief and Large Group Share-out**
Hotel – Progue’s Run, 2nd Floor

Participants will break into small groups to discuss specific state- and district-level policies and practices needed to support high-quality education options for at-risk students. Small groups will reflect upon how current policies and practices can be expanded to reach more youth and identify opportunities for cross-system collaboration. Groups will then share out ideas to the large group. To close, participants will brainstorm information, ideas, and action steps to present to their colleagues when they return home.

6:00pm **Dinner in Downtown Indianapolis (*on your own*)**

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

6:30-7:15am **Breakfast Available and Hotel Checkout**
Hotel – Progue’s Run, 2nd Floor

7:30am **Bus Departs for Marion Academy**

8:00-10:00am **Early Morning Site Visit: Marion Academy Open Campus**
Marion Academy Open Campus
2107 N. Riley Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46218

Marion Academy is a charter school network with three campuses that opened in 2015. The Marion Academy Open Campus is an alternative school that serves students who have been suspended or expelled from Indianapolis Public Schools and districts in the surrounding suburbs. Marion Academy aims to prepare students to transition into postsecondary education and work, with a focus on college and career exploration and workplace readiness. Marion Academy offers the Core 40, Core 40 Honors, and the Core 40 Technical Honors Diplomas and also encourages students to receive at least one industry-recognized certification. Marion Academy is committed to the achievement of each individual learner through goal setting and the development of an Individualized Learning Plan, while also creating a learning environment that fosters the ideals of community, scholarship, respect, and responsibility.

Visit will include:

- Discussion with teachers and administrators
- Tour of Marion Academy and individual classrooms
- Panel of Marion Academy and former Hillside Academy students

10:30-11:45am **Late Morning Site Visit: Hillside Academy at Marion County Juvenile Detention Center**
Hillside Academy Campus
2451 N. Keystone Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46218

Hillside Academy, one of the Marion Academy campuses, is designed for students detained in the Marion County Juvenile Detention Center (MCJDC). The goal of Hillside Academy is to provide quality educational services while students are detained. Hillside Academy provides a quality, standards-based education for each student in residence at MCJDC, continues identified instructional objectives for each student in residence, and provides an instructional transition for students entering and exiting the program. Students at Hillside Academy can transition to Marion Academy’s Open Campus, therefore the educational program is designed to ensure a seamless transition of work and credits.

Visit will include:

- Tour of Hillside Academy and individual classrooms
- Tour of MCJDC
- Discussion with teachers and school/facility administrators

Noon-1:00pm **Lunch and Final Large Group Debrief**
Marion Academy Open Campus

Participants will break for lunch and be asked to reflect on their experience, ideas, and lingering questions in their reflection journals and during large group discussion. To close, participants will commit to and record on a self-addressed postcard three action steps that will do when they return to their work.

1:00pm **Conference Adjourned and Return to Hotel**