Creating a Climate Of Care Through Relationships to Overcome Trauma in Urban Schools

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Introductions

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Putting the “Y” in AUSY
Why Youngstown?

- Population decline of 60% between 1960 and 2010
- Youngstown has the lowest median income of any city with more than 65,000 people
- Youngstown is listed as the 9th most dangerous city in the US
- The high school graduation rate is 65%
Why Youngstown?

In 2015, the Ohio Legislature issued State Bill 70, nicknamed “The Youngstown Bill.”*

SB70 states any school district with 3 years of academic distress will have the school board dismantled, replaced by a hand-picked board and a CEO. The CEO has the authority to close schools, re-negotiate union contracts, and open community schools to replace failing schools.

*Youngstown was the only district that met this criteria
Who We Serve

We grew from approximately 75 student to a current enrollment of 220. 36% of the students are at grade level and 64% are considered credit deficient. We continue decrease this achievement gap even more by the end of the school year.

- Ages 14-21
- Credit deficient and traditional
- 100% receive free lunch
- 100% have been personally affected by gun violence
- 61% have been affected by drug addiction
Our Start...

2013- AUSY began as a Dropout Recovery School.
2015- The school became a school of choice for the students in the Youngstown community.
2018- The school relocated from a 6 room office building to a 20 room technology center.
2018- Added 22 plus program.
2019- We have been approved by the Ohio Collegiate Board to provide these certifications to adults as NCUS Tech.
In 6 years, 232 students have graduated from AUSY.
Making a Future

*Seeking to be a community agency that addresses our community’s health, wealth, education, and safety.
The primary focus was to increase graduation among marginalized students. As time progresses, we are aspiring to lead the nation in educating urban youth by changing the paradigm of how education is delivered.

This includes:

- Variation of Curriculum offerings
- Engagement/ Growing Relationships
- Trauma Sensitive Approach
- Community Activism
Curriculum

- Career Prep
  - WorkForce Academy
  - STNA certification
  - Microsoft certification
  - CompTIA certification
  - Robotics/Fanic

- College Prep
  - Partnered with Eastern Gateway CC so students earn Associate's Degree with diploma

- Project Based Learning in every classroom

- Selective Community Partnerships

- Academic Coaching to support all learners
Engagement Coaches

- Keep track of attendance
- Meet with every student
- Give rides to and from school, work, appointments
- Home visits with guardian
- Offer incentives to attend school regularly
- Provide field trips and social events

Who’s assisting with removing students’ barriers in your school? Are you reactive or proactive?
Growing Relationships

- All staff is responsible for providing a confidential outlet for students to ask for help or advice
- All staff must consider restorative justice opportunities
- Confidential food pantry
- Washing students’ clothes
- Taking students out to lunch
- Celebration Celebration
- Provide afterschool Snacks

What do you do to build relationships with your students?
Making a Difference
Trauma Informed

- Build trust
- Use restorative practices
- Think of your most challenging student. What do you know about them?