



Youth Development Practice and Pathways Working Group

In 2022, major national youth development organizations and networks were recruited to explore how to engage their staff in the National Partnership for Student Success, a Biden Administration initiative managed by Johns Hopkins' Everyone Graduates Center, designed to support students' return to school by recruiting and training 250,000 additional adults as tutors, mentors, success coaches, post-secondary transition coaches, and wraparound support coordinators.

The group originally galvanized around the creation of **Voluntary Quality Standards** which affirmed foundational PYD principles and practices shared by the official technical assistance providers for the initiative (e.g. MENTOR, City Year, Communities in Schools) and the national youth development organizations that joined as supporting champions (e.g., BGCA, Camp Fire). The Voluntary Quality Standards were informed by over 20 national organizations and networks.

In November 2023, building off that momentum and with funding from the Leon Lowenstein Foundation for 2024, the group transitioned to focus on identifying the foundational youth development training needed for all adults working across the allied youth fields and to strengthening pathways for allied youth fields professionals. The working group includes more than 20 members, including national youth development organizations, higher education institutions, content developers, and national intermediaries. The group is co-chaired by the CEO of Camp Fire.

The work to identify and develop foundational youth development training, align credentialing efforts, and codify the work into a practice and pathways consortium continued in 2025, with renewed funding from the Leon Lowenstein Foundation. The work continues to be fully aligned and affiliated with the Partnership for Student Success as well as the goals of the Alliance for Youth Thriving.

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