



Districtwide Strategic Plan to Decrease Disengagement from Education

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DC GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

DC ReEngagement Center

Our Mission

As DC's ReEngagement Center (DC REC), we work urgently and purposefully, in collaboration with educational stakeholders and youth-serving organizations to ensure the successful re-engagement of opportunity youth in the District of Columbia to support their re-engagement, school completion, and career readiness.

Who We Serve

District youth
between the ages of
16 and 24

No secondary
credential

Not currently
enrolled in school or
an educational
program

Total Youth Disengaged

5,386*

Current number of youth between the ages of 16-24 years who are disengaged from secondary education (using the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate, or ACGR, methodology)

*Disengaged number received from OSSE/DAR

Key Themes Identified by Stakeholders on Student Need and Barriers

Economic Demands

Whole Student Supports

Dedicated and Caring Adults

Relevant Educational Program Options

Outreach and Awareness

Overarching Goals

1

DECREASE disengagement from education and implement student support systems that identify and support students at-risk of disengagement.

2

INCREASE Districtwide coordination, collaboration, and communication among critical stakeholders supporting reengagement.

3

AMPLIFY Districtwide advertising and marketing around reengagement efforts, graduation, and postsecondary and career paths.

Strategies for the ReEngagement Center

Stand-up a consortium of leaders to guide the implementation of the District-wide Strategic Plan.

Ensure the DC ReEngagement Center, alternative, and adult programs are widely known.

Serve as a central point for youth-serving organizations and agencies to connect and learn about all services that are available to disengaged and disengaging youth.

Share data about youth pathways, barriers, and types of programmatic options available to facilitate better services.



Districtwide Recommended Strategies

Area of Need	Strategic Goal	Strategies	Key Partners
Whole Student Supports	Build systems and structures so that youth at risk of disengaging get rapid and comprehensive supports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Early Warning Systems that allow LEAs to identify youth with disengagement warning factors to facilitate targeted supports. Co-locate wraparound services in school buildings, with a particular focus on housing and mental health services. 	LEAs, OSSE: (REC/H&W/K12/DAR/CIO), DME, DHS, DBH, CBOs
Dedicated and Caring Adults	Ensure that every student has an adult that knows them and is a caring, trusted relationship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand access to mentoring opportunities, particularly for at-risk students, potentially including peer or near-peer mentoring. Expand trained SEL professionals in every school (with a focus on schools with high numbers of at-risk students and/or track records of high disengagement) to better respond to student behavioral and mental health needs. 	LEAs, OSSE: (H&W/K12), CBOs, DBH
Relevant Educational Program Options	Provide additional work-based learning and other career-linked learning opportunities that feel exciting, motivating, and relevant to youth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand educational pathways to a high school diploma that incorporate work-based learning, apprenticeships, CTE and/or individualized, portfolio opportunities as part of the requirements to complete a secondary credential. 	LEAs, OSSE: (K12/CTE), DME, SBOE, PCSB, DCPS
Outreach and Awareness	Ensure the ReEngagement Center and alternative and adult programs are widely known.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch a coordinated, Districtwide marketing push to share information about the ReEngagement Center, alternative programs, and adult programs across multiple platforms. Identify opportunities for youth to participate and lead outreach efforts. 	LEAs, adult ed CBOs, OSSE: (REC), DHS, DBH, DYRS, DCPS

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