



C H A R T E R S C H O O L

YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School
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Parent and Public Engagement Policy*

The mission of YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School is to provide out-of-school youth in Philadelphia with the broadest range of tools supports and opportunities available to become self-sufficient, responsible and productive citizens in their community. To accomplish this mission, YouthBuild Philadelphia relies heavily on the support of parents and our community stakeholders.

Engaging Parents

Because our students are making significant changes in their lives, YouthBuild Philadelphia relies on our students' parents and other family members to encourage and motivate our students to attend school regularly, to do the work that they are asked to do at School, and to persevere in their efforts to achieve their goals. To be able to offer these critical supports to their students effectively, it is essential that parents and other family members know what the School is about and how the School's staff are attempting to help students change their lives. Thus, YouthBuild Philadelphia actively works to engage and inform parents and other family members by—

- welcoming them to attend the initial information sessions for new applicants
- scheduling Community Nights for family members so that they can learn more about our programming,
- inviting parents to their students' ethnography presentations each Spring, and
- communicating directly with them through their student's Case Manager.

In addition, for students who are determined to be eligible for Special-Education services, parents are always members of those students' Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Teams.

Engaging Community Stakeholders

Our community stakeholders are essential to the mission of YouthBuild Philadelphia. Not only do they provide vocational and advanced academic opportunities for our students, but they also provide feedback on the performance of our students in the community. And with this information, the School constantly fine-tunes the programming at the School so as to better position our students to meet their post-secondary goals in the community setting of their choice.

YouthBuild Philadelphia has a range of ways to engage community stakeholders, and these include:

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- establishing and maintaining—
 - “bridge” programming for students in the Spring and Summer sessions of the academic year so that students can begin to work on their post-secondary goals while they still have the support of the School’s staff. Our academic “bridge” partners include Community College of Philadelphia, Peirce College, Esperanza College, and Thaddeus Stevens College;
 - similar “bridge” programming for students in vocational fields;
 - employment opportunities with a wide variety of employers through our Post-Secondary Career Development Department; and
 - community-service opportunities for our students, who are also part-time AmeriCorps Members;
- inviting a wide variety of educational and business leaders to our periodic Open Houses and fund-raising events;
- holding meetings of the Board of Trustees that are open to the public;
- maintaining a Volunteer Program through which members of the community can tutor, mentor and otherwise support our students; and
- maintaining a dynamic and informative website and social-media program.

* Parent and public engagement policies are required of schools which receive Title I funding. However, because all of our students are at least 18 years of age, YouthBuild Philadelphia does not receive Title I funding.