

Coalition Supporting Young Adults

Darryl Young Jr

Executive Director

(502) 365-2570

For Immediate Release: The Coalition Supporting Young Adults invites the community to a free virtual conversation discussing issues high school aged youth face on their path to graduation and solutions to those barriers.

September 21, 2022 | Louisville, Kentucky

"I wish maybe more people would have reached out. We need a lot more people involved to reach out to help kids that are experiencing challenges outside of school."

Educational disengagement is one of the most critical issues affecting the Louisville community. The Coalition Supporting Young Adults, Kentucky Youth Advocates, The Book Works and several young adult stakeholders conducted research to better understand factors that lead to educational disengagement in youth and ways to prevent disengagement or to facilitate successful re-engagement. Educational disengagement refers to a situation where a student does not feel included, does not participate in school activities, is not enrolled, or has poor school attendance. For the purposes of our project, educational disengagement included, but was not limited to, dropping out of school, chronic absences, one or more suspensions, being behind on credits, lack of engagement in school activities (such as clubs, sports, other school-related extracurricular activities), or had generally negative feelings towards school, teachers, and staff.

The goals of this Youth-Led Educational Re-Engagement Research (YLERR) project were to identify challenges and solutions and, ultimately, improve meaningful access to supports. To that end, a small cohort of dedicated young adults led this work from start to finish. Utilizing the Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) framework, the cohort of young adults informed the survey creation and distribution, facilitated focus groups, analyzed data and determined themes, and researched solution recommendations for policymakers, advocates, and the general community.

"We know that, often, the people most impacted by an issue are the ones with the most creative and meaningful solutions. That's why we took this opportunity to hear from our communities' young people to learn about the issues at hand and craft recommendations for improvement," said Carli Mosby-Smith, Director of Strategic Initiatives at Kentucky Youth Advocates.

The result is a "solution brief" of youth-identified solutions and opportunities for the Louisville community. This brief highlights four primary areas identified by youth and young adults as having the greatest potential impact on our young people's paths to graduation and beyond: addressing student homelessness, increasing mental health supports, connecting youth with adults for guidance and life skills, and providing academic support.

CSYA is inviting the community to join us and our partners to a free virtual forum **Wednesday, October 5th from 10:00am-11:00am** as we unveil our Education Re-Engagement Solutions Brief. This event, free to the public, will feature insights from our research team, a panel of young experts to reflect on their

experiences navigating the Louisville education system, and education and community leaders responding to the solutions and recommendations presented in the brief. Register for the virtual event [here](#).

About Us

The Coalition Supporting Young Adults (CSYA) is a collective action initiative of community organizations and individuals who come together to address the needs of youth and young adults in Louisville, Kentucky who are disconnected, out of school and work due to structural racism, poverty, homelessness, educational disruption, childhood trauma, and related challenges.