2016-2017 Reengagement Census Results: Executive Summary

This document contains self-reported 2016-2017 school year data from twenty members of the Reengagement Network in 14 states. Top-line findings include:

- Reengagement Network programs reached out to at least **40,000** disengaged students.
- **38,737** students completed the intake process at the center or program.
- Reengagement Network members placed at least **16,814** disengaged students into education programs
- Of those reenrolled via systematic reengagement efforts, **11,737** students remained enrolled, graduated, or obtained a high school diploma or equivalent within the academic year, and **1,961** entered a postsecondary course of study.
- Program data show a **69.8% percent aggregate "stick rate**," defined as still enrolled or have completed a credential by July 2017.

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Sites Reporting	13 of 13	15 of 17	17 of 18	21 of 22	20 of 24
Initial Contact	22,409	23,475	23,617	55,789	40,036
Placed	9,528	11,592	13,278	12,319	16,814
Stick Rate	71%	70%	71%	70.8%	69.8%

Background and Context

Recent reviews of U.S. Census data show more than 4.6 million young people ages 16-24 out of school and out of work, nationwide.[1] At least 27% of such disconnected young people lack a high school diploma. In response, reengagement programs across the country reach out and connect with this population of disconnected youth; assess students' educational and psychosocial needs; provide referrals to best-fit educational options as well as wraparound services; provide support to re-enroll; and provide support to stay enrolled for at least one-year post re-enrollment. Each Reengagement center and program in the Network customizes an operational model that best meets the needs of the community it serves. The National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute) provides hub staffing for the Network as well as resources at www.nlc.org/reengagement, thanks to support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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[1] http://www.measureofamerica.org/disconnected-youth/
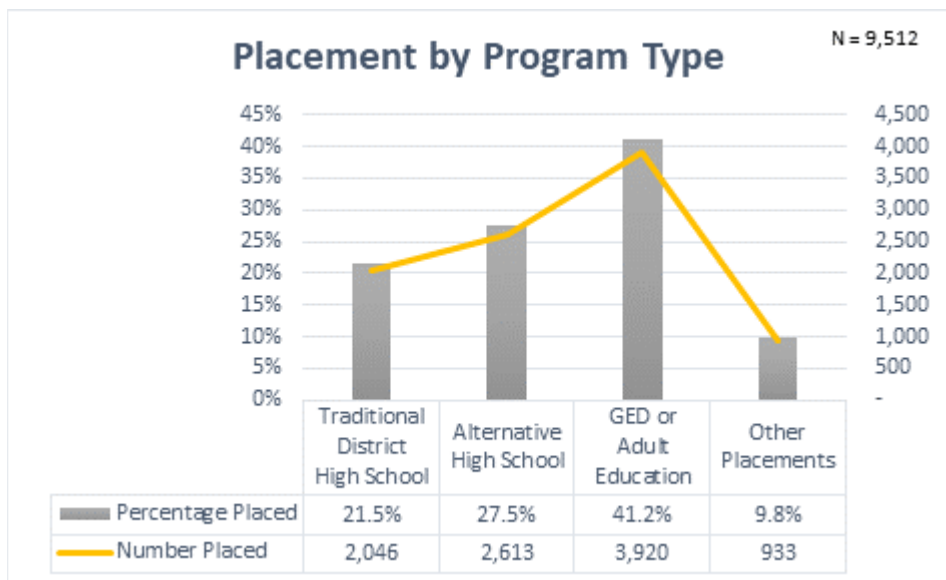
Outreach and Engagement

Due to changes in initial outreach approaches and some reporting variances, the number of students reported as targets of outreach methods dropped significantly from the previous year. This contributed to the number of students completing the intake process increasing to 38,737 students. Five sites did not track outreach efforts. In centers that conducted both outreach and intake, 55% of students approached via outreach efforts completed the intake process, consistent with prior year census data.

Outreach and Referral Methods

The most common methods Reengagement Network members used to connect with potential clients included text messages, peer recruitment, social media, and home visits. Less frequently used methods included mass mailings, automated calls, and other methods. Most students received referrals to reengagement programs from friends and family, other organizations, or through high school counselors and examination of school records.

Program Type

Fourteen Reengagement Network members submitted data for the numbers of youth placed into different types of education programs and schools. The 2016-17 School Year census shows a decrease in the percentage of students placed into GED or Adult Education and Alternative school programs and an increase in Traditional District High School and Other types of placements in comparison to the 2016 Census. The Other Placements category includes online programs, employment, middle and elementary school for younger students, as well as post-secondary and dual enrollment programs.

Placement by Program Type N = 9,512

	Traditional District High School	Alternative High School	GED or Adult Education	Other Placements
Percentage Placed	21.5%	27.5%	41.2%	9.8%
Number Placed	2,046	2,613	3,920	933

Referral Partnerships

The 2016-17 Census gathered information on partnerships between Reengagement Network members and other providers, and the kinds of services offered. Eighty percent of respondents made referrals to job training; 70% reported partnerships with their local workforce board. The most common service partnerships focused on housing and mental health.

Partnerships and Serivces Offered N = 20

Type of Service Offered
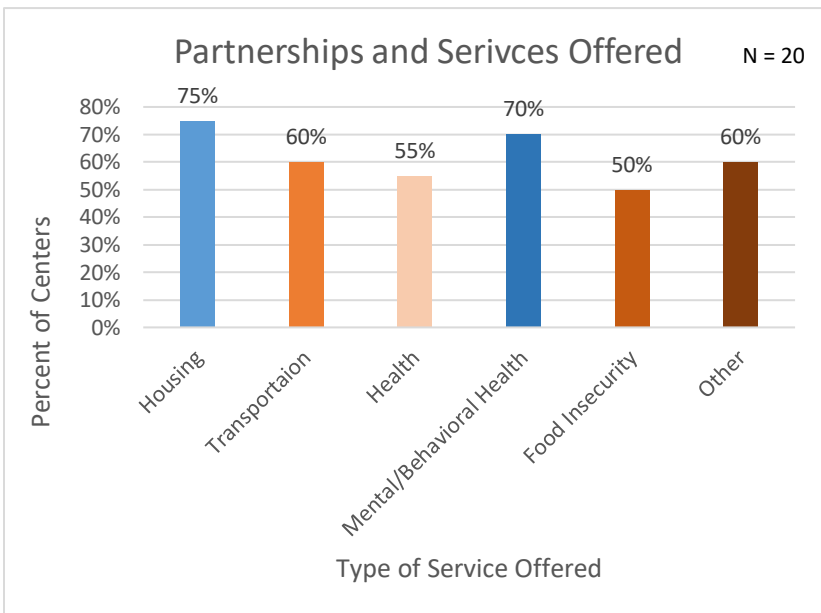
Persistence or "Stick" Rate, and Graduation

Persistence Rate:

As in prior years, the 2016-17 Census asked sites to report on each program's rate of persistence after reenrollment or "stick rate" - the percentage of students who persist in or graduate from an education program in the academic year in which they reenroll. This summary, and Reengagement Network members, calculate the rate by placing the total number of students still enrolled at the end of the school year, those who graduated, and those who complete a diploma or equivalent over the total of students who reenrolled in schools due to the reengagement effort.

The average reported stick rate across eleven sites, representing 11,737 students out of 16,814 students placed, came in at 69.8%, very similar to prior years. The median stick rate stood at 70.7%, implying that the aggregate average skewed slightly high as several sites reported very high stick rates. A larger range in stick rates appeared this year, from 57% to 89%. Most fell in the 65% to 76% range.

Graduation: For the third time, the annual census has produced a picture of how many students receiving reengagement support move through to graduation after reenrollment. Of the 11,737 students reported as making progress in the eleven sites, 1,271 students received a diploma equivalent and 936 received high school diplomas. The remaining 9,530 students remained enrolled at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. 781 students from prior cohorts completed a diploma or equivalent during the school year.

Early Stick Rates

For the second time, the 2016-17 Census collected information about students' persistence over the short term after re-enrollment – an "early stick rate." Some reengagement practitioners use this measure to identify more precisely when persistence issues originate.

Early Stick Rates, continued

Three sites reported complete data on persistence of nearly 4,000 students, at the 30-, 45-, 60-, and 90-day points after initial reenrollment. For these sites, the first 90 days brought persistence levels slightly higher than the national average for the whole school year.
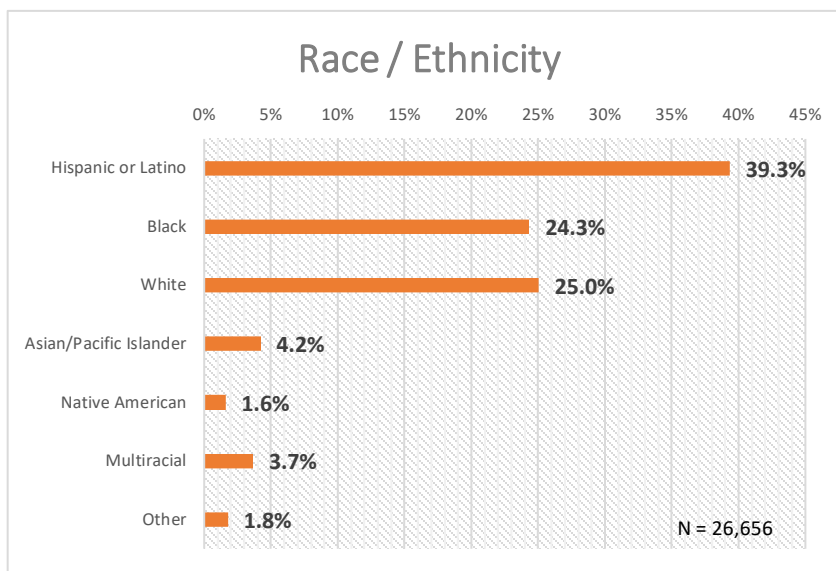
Note: Stick rate calculations place an emphasis on sustained enrollment thanks to reengagement. At present, the rates do not provide a broader picture that would reflect the results of reengagement programs' efforts to link youth to employment, housing, and other wraparound services.

Early Stick Rate N= 3717
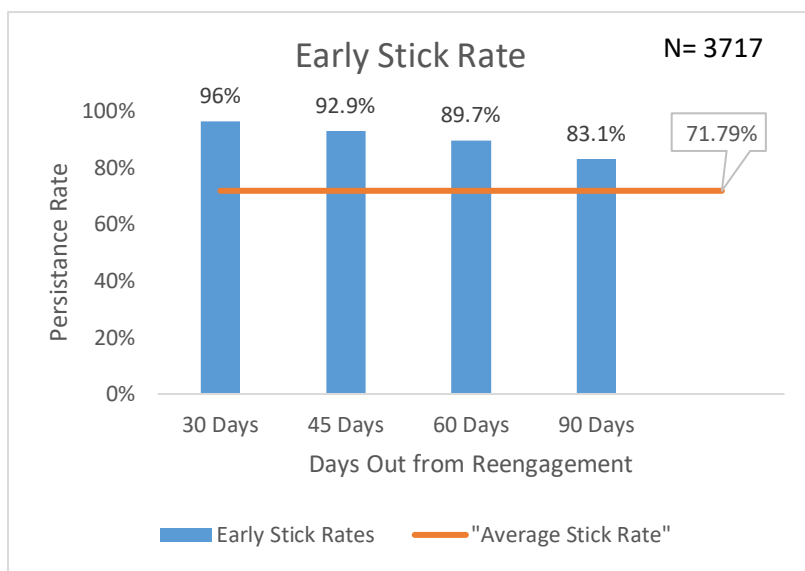
Demographics

For the fourth year running, the Reengagement Census collected demographic information on race, ethnicity, age, as well as grade level and credit accumulation of students placed. These data help round out an understanding of whom the Reengagement Network currently helps.

Race / Ethnicity

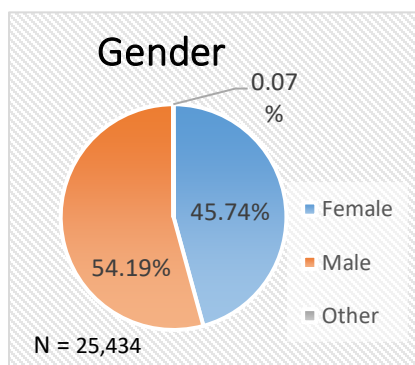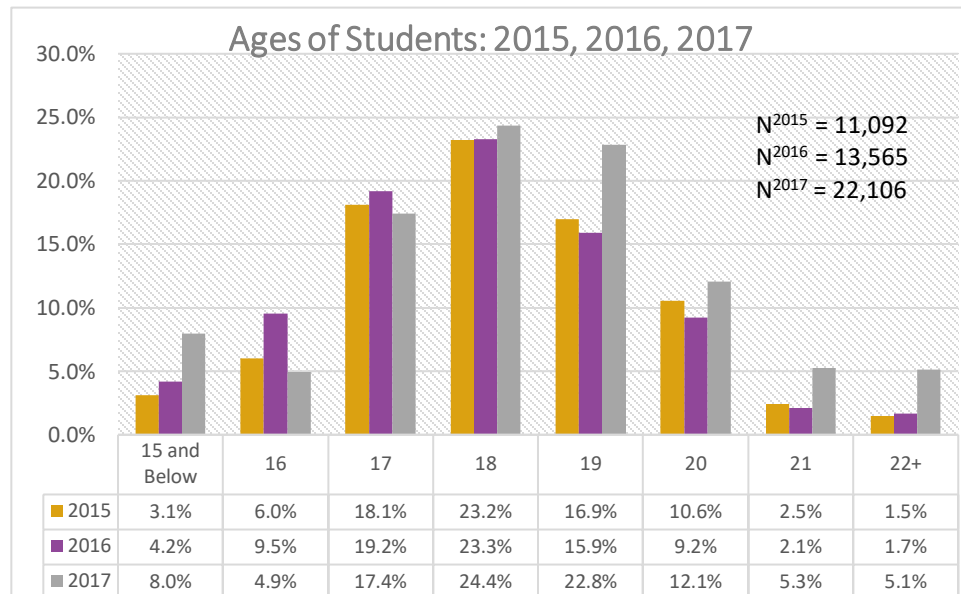| Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
Hispanic or Latino	39.3%
Black	24.3%
White	25.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.2%
Native American	1.6%
Multiracial	3.7%
Other	1.8%

N = 26,656

Race/Ethnicity

Relative to the 2015-2016 Census, the latest Census saw sites reenrolling higher percentages of Hispanic/Latino, White, Multiracial, and other students, and lower percentages of Black and Asian/Pacific Islander students. The decrease in Black students likely reflects the statistical influence of including figures from one large network with a large proportion of White and Hispanic students, which had not reported in prior years. Outreach to Hispanic students may also have increased overall. Note: These figures do not reflect a calculation of reenrollment rate by race or ethnicity.

Demographics, continued

Age of Youth
Trends in age of youth at time of placement continued as before with a peak at 18 years of age. This year also saw an increase at the lower and upper ends of the spectrum.
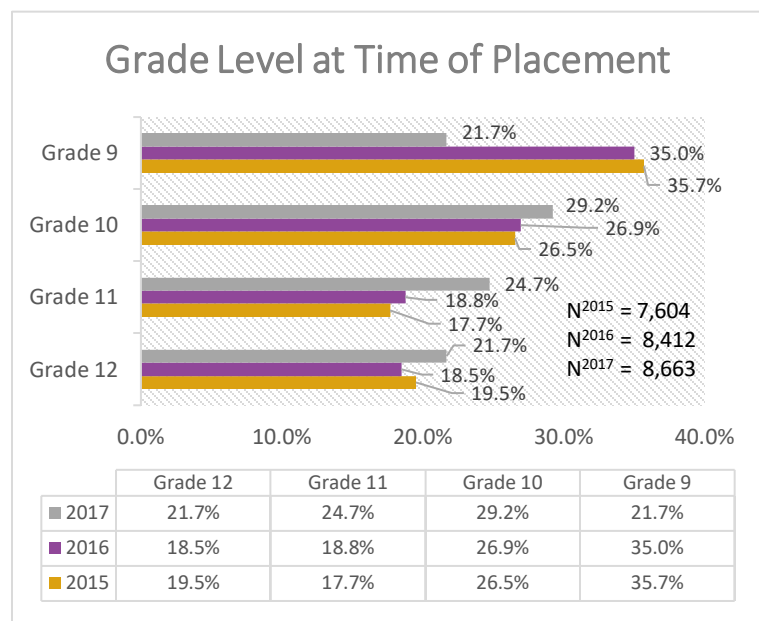
Ages of Students: 2015, 2016, 2017

$N^{2015} = 11,092$
$N^{2016} = 13,565$
$N^{2017} = 22,106$

	15 and Below	16	17	18	19	20	21	22+
2015	3.1%	6.0%	18.1%	23.2%	16.9%	10.6%	2.5%	1.5%
2016	4.2%	9.5%	19.2%	23.3%	15.9%	9.2%	2.1%	1.7%
2017	8.0%	4.9%	17.4%	24.4%	22.8%	12.1%	5.3%	5.1%

Gender

0.07%
45.74%
54.19%
■ Female
■ Male
■ Other
N = 25,434

Gender
Similar to the 2015-2016 Census findings, this year's census found significant variation among participation in programs by gender. Among the 18 sites that shared gender information, the ratio of males to females ran as high as two to one and as low as one male: two females.

Grade Level at Time of Placement
Thirteen sites reported students' grade standing at time of placement. In contrast to prior years, the most current data show a decrease in the percent of students in 9th grade. Sites did not report grade level information for 1,458 students; other categories account for the balance.

Grade Level at Time of Placement

$N^{2015} = 7,604$
$N^{2016} = 8,412$
$N^{2017} = 8,663$

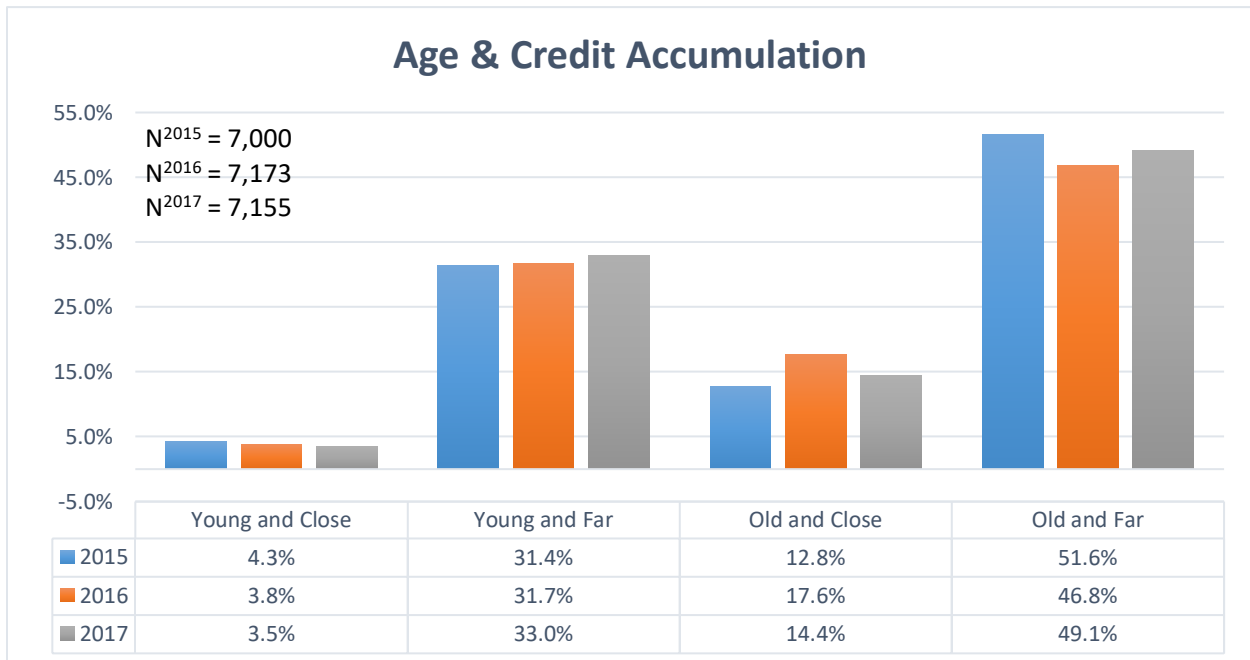|	Grade 12	Grade 11	Grade 10	Grade 9
■ 2017	21.7%	24.7%	29.2%	21.7%
■ 2016	18.5%	18.8%	26.9%	35.0%
■ 2015	19.5%	17.7%	26.5%	35.7%

Demographics, continued

Age/Credit Accumulation

The Census asked sites to report summaries of age and credit accumulation expressed in terms of the matrix of old, young, close and far.

Young and close	Under 18 years of age, graduation possible within one year
Young and far	Under 18 years of age, two or more years off-track
Old and close	Over 18 years of age, graduation possible within one year
Old and far	Over 18 years of age, two or more years off-track

Age & Credit Accumulation

$N^{2015} = 7,000$
$N^{2016} = 7,173$
$N^{2017} = 7,155$

	Young and Close	Young and Far	Old and Close	Old and Far
2015	4.3%	31.4%	12.8%	51.6%
2016	3.8%	31.7%	17.6%	46.8%
2017	3.5%	33.0%	14.4%	49.1%

The six sites that collect these data reported that around half of all youth placed, 49.1%, fall into the "Old and Far" category, an increase of 2.3 percentage points from 2015-16. These six reengagement programs reported placement of 3 percent fewer "Old and Close" students. Overall participation in the Young and Close category barely shifted. The percent of Young and Far students placed rose by 2 percentage points.

Student – Staff Ratio

For the first time, sites reported how many case managers work in the reengagement program, and how many students they serve. The average ratio came to 52 students per single staff member, though this varied across sites from 23:1 to 75:1.

Additional note: San Diego Pilot Program

The San Diego Youth Development Office (SDYO) commissioned one of the first formal evaluations of a reengagement program, for a three-year pilot *Pathways* program in place from 2014-2017. Although the SDYO evaluators did not look at disaggregated data in a manner comparable to Census data, methods included examination of a comparison group. Overall, the study found that *Pathways* produced positive outcomes in areas such as student graduation, internship completion, and employment. A notable 75% of reengaged students in San Diego enrolled in high school or college, or become employed due to the program, and youth enrollment in the *Pathways* Reengagement Pilot Program produced a 10% greater likelihood to remain in school than their peers. Note: the SDYO researchers approached placement and stick rates differently. To learn more visit http://www.sandiegoydo.org/initiatives/.

Methodological Note

The findings presented above represent totals of the data reported by reengagement sites for the 2016-2017 academic year, by category. Not all sites submitted disaggregated data for each indicator; therefore, the summary of data for each indicator reflects different sample sizes. In some cases, the variance in availability of disaggregated data makes it difficult to identify trends across the full Reengagement Network.

Author and Editor

Christie Joesbury, 2017-2018 Heinz Graduate Fellow at the YEF Institute, administered the Census and analyzed results. Micael Guzman, 2018 University of Chicago Fellow, re-checked figures and prepared the final document.

Reengagement Network Sites Reporting, 2016-2017:

Allentown, Pennsylvania:	Allentown ReEngagement Center, *Allentown School District, Communities in Schools, and the Lehigh Valley Workforce Investment Board*
Boston, Massachusetts:	Reengagement Center, *Boston Private Industry Council*
Brockton, Massachusetts:	Pathways Center Dropout Prevention & Re-Engagement Program, *Brockton Public Schools*
Chicago, Illinois:	Student Outreach and Reengagement Center (S.O.A.R.), *Chicago Public Schools*
Des Moines, Iowa:	Des Moines Public Schools Reengagement, *Des Moines Public Schools*
Dubuque, Iowa:	Re-Engage Dubuque, *Dubuque Community Schools*
King County, Washington:	King County Reengagement Provider Network
Los Angeles, California:	YouthSource Centers, *Los Angeles Unified School District & City of Los Angeles*
Minneapolis, Minnesota:	We Want You Back, *Minneapolis Public Schools*
New York City, New York:	Referral Centers for High School Alternatives, *NYC Department of Education*
Omaha, Nebraska:	D2 Center
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:	Re-engagement Center, *School District of Philadelphia*
Phoenix, Arizona:	Reengage Phoenix, *College Depot, Burton Barr Central Library*
Phoenix, Arizona:	Opportunities for Youth, *Multiple Locations*
Portland, Oregon:	Reconnection Center, *Portland Public Schools*
Tucson, Arizona:	Youth on the Rise, *United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona*
Washington D.C.	DC Reengagement Center, *Office of the State Superintendent of Education*
Washoe County, Nevada	Re-Engagement Center, *Washoe County School District*
Colorado	Colorado Youth for a Change, *Multiple Districts*
Missing this year:	*Fast Forward Center, Dayton, Ohio*

Map of Reporting Sites: