

Denver's Youth Agenda

Guiding Principles:

Engaging Stakeholders: Stakeholders understand the relevance and urgency of the agenda and will work together to move the agenda forward

Developing Strategies: Build cross-systems capacity and utilize existing data in order to identify need, ensure access to services, and foster principles of youth development to achieve systemic outcomes

Coordinating Infrastructure: Align initiatives and clarify roles around defined outcomes, and coordinate systems through a collaborative effort

Sharing Accountability: Agree on common data points and form working agreements on shared responsibilities for advancing the youth agenda

Goals and strategies:

Health

Goal #1: An increased percentage of youth will participate in physical activity at least 60 minutes per day by working together to support

- recess in schools
- increase participation in youth sports programs
- ensure access to recreation centers and other facilities

Goal #2: Youth will have increased access to comprehensive health education giving youth the necessary resources they need to make responsible health decisions for themselves

- motivate them to maintain or improve their health through prevention and intervention strategies
- formulate guidelines for implementing comprehensive health education programs in schools
- increasing access to developmentally appropriate comprehensive health education for Denver's youth

Education

Goal #1: By the end of 9th grade, all youth are at or above grade level and have the support they need to graduate.

- After-school programs and other enrichment opportunities during out-of-school time
- Services that strengthen young people's connection with school, inspire learning, and support families
- Making sure young people successfully complete each benchmark grade — and those preceding it in good standing
- Support from parents, mentors, and community-based organizations in order to assist schools with keeping students on track

Goal #2: Youth will have increased access to positive, out-of-school-time activities and supports to build the skills and competencies needed to meet the growing demands of a global economy.

- Address out-of-school factors including low birth weight, inadequate health care, food insecurity, environmental pollutants, family relations/family stress, and neighborhood characteristics
- Provide quality early childhood education, after-school programs, mentoring/tutoring, parental involvement activities, and other supportive programs
- Expanded opportunities for achieving the skills essential for future success— including problem solving/critical thinking, information management, self-direction, and the ability to collaborate, be innovative, and achieve a sense of self-worth

Safety

Goal #1: An increased percentage of youth will avoid criminal activity.

- Teaching and modeling respect and nonviolent conflict resolution
- Comprehensive and coordinated screening and assessment to identify areas of concern for youth and help direct resources to persons and communities most impacted
- Data and system coordination to ensure youth receive targeted primary and secondary prevention and early intervention services
- Strength-based services for the youth and family, and alternative solutions to referrals to court.

Goal #2: An increased percentage of youth will not experience juvenile victimization.

- Ensure children feel safe and are protected in their schools and neighborhoods
- Reduce delinquent behavior, including gang involvement
- Safeguard our young people from violence
- Coordinated approach to provide primary and secondary prevention and support services