

## ATTACHMENT 3

### Action Area Eligible Activities

#### Educational Supports: Increase parent, community and business involvement in education

Evidence-based or promising practice programs and services in this category should address outcomes and performance measures that result in:

- (1) Increased business participation and contributions to education and programs for youth;
- (2) Expanded student supports, including tutoring, out-of-school time programs and mentoring;
- (3) Stronger parent engagement and support of their children's education;
- (4) Support for parents of special need students;
- (5) Career exposure through business involvement/internships;
- (6) Business mentoring - pipeline to work program;
- (7) Certification programs;
- (8) Increased scholarships, non-financial resources and support services for students engaged in post-secondary education;
- (9) Provide digital and blended learning opportunities utilizing current technology;
- 10) Access to services for student who have received school disciplinary actions, including suspensions and expulsions.

#### Rationale:

Students who demonstrate a proficiency in reading on grade level by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades, are more likely to be on track to graduate high school. Children who have developed early reading and math skills are more likely to achieve these educational milestones. In Palm Beach County, Middle and High School achievement scores for Math and English Language show a large discrepancy among different groups of students achieving at grade level.

Students that miss more than ten (10) days of school are less likely to succeed compared to their peers and out of school suspensions account for a percentage of those absences. A John Hopkins study, in 2013 of 9<sup>th</sup> graders in Florida found that only 38% of students who experienced two or more suspensions graduated from high school. Middle school students in Palm Beach schools average 10% Office Discipline Referral, 4% In School Suspension, and 6% Out of School Suspension. While high school students average 13% Office Discipline Referral, 5% In School Suspension, and 6% Out of School Suspension. Black students encompass both the majority of suspensions across grade levels as well as the lowest graduation rates both state and countywide in comparison to other races.

In 2016, Youth surveyed in Palm Beach County reported that their top areas of concern were access to educational supports, incidence of violence and safety and the need for additional family support (YMP p.24). In recent years, there has been increased violence in schools and the community adding to traumatic experiences in environments that are dedicated to engaging and educating our youth.

Birth to 22 will focus on the following indicators for academic achievement: entering school ready to learn, reading and math proficiency, attendance and absenteeism, suspensions and graduation rate.

For more information on how PBC youth are doing on Meeting Educational Standards, please review the Birth to 22 appendix 3.1.3, p.48-58.

Below is a compilation of the many recommendations for services:

***Suggested Uses of Available Funds (based on recommendations included in the Youth Master Plan):***

- Provide accessible personal guidance and mentoring support to parents to encourage engagement and navigation of the school system, including but not limited to certificate programs and trade apprenticeships and career development.
- Improve education and training to parents through provision of free books, parenting classes with cultural inclusivity, and use of social media to provide parenting tips.
- Provide experiential learning opportunities for students with local businesses to train, coach, mentor and educate on practical job skills.
- Engage businesses to provide learning opportunities in a nontraditional school setting.
- Linking School District Initiative with Post-Secondary initiatives (1st year GPA, 2nd year persistence and emergency scholarship support).
- Provide educational support, mental health support and other wrap-around services for youth who have been suspended or expelled from school.
- Increase training and professional learning opportunities for all frontline professionals working with disconnected youth to promote equitable practices, including:
  - Cultural competency training with a focus on understanding homelessness, depression, and gender identity among LGBTQ youth;
  - Racial and gender equity training;
  - Special needs awareness and inclusivity training;
  - Trauma informed care.

Please review the Birth to 22 appendix, Section 3, subsection 3.3.2

(<http://pbcbirthto22.com/pdf/APPENDIX%20YMP%20SECTION%203%20ONLINE.pdf>), for an additional list of Evidence-Based and emerging programs.