

# Pathways to Opportunity Project

Facilitated Conversation during the  
Alternative Accountability Policy Forum

November 16, 2015 | Marriott Coronado, San Diego

## FACILITATORS:

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ROBERT CLARK | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, YOUTHBUILD NEWARK,  
RCLARK@YOUTHBUILDNEWARKNJ.ORG

ARETHA MILLER | CEO, VENN GROUP, (ROSELANEMILLER@YAHOO.COM)

LESLIE TALBOT | FOUNDER & PRINCIPAL, TALBOT CONSULTING  
(LESLIE@TALBOTCONSULTING.COM)

## Our Challenge:

30% or 57,600 of young people (ages 16-21) in New York State are off-track or disconnected from school completely.

## Why the Pathways to Opportunity Project (#PathtoOpp)?

- Demand for improved school designs: 57,600 young people in any given year across NYS
- Time for charters serving off-track youth to be renewed
- SCSD request for successful school models to serve young people exiting detention

# #PathtoOpp Project Goals:

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- Recommend **key design elements & accountability measures** for schools serving off-track youth.
- Execute **statewide advocacy platform** to amend policies that negatively impact off-track student reengagement, learning and performance.
- **Provide support** to prospective & existing schools serving off-track youth.

# The Need for Improved Design Elements:

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- Why traditional high school designs are less effective.
- Off-track youth need targeted academic & nonacademic supports.

# Instructions for our Whole Group Conversations:

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## KWL Approach (whole group | 10 minutes):

- What do we **know** about effective design elements for schools serving off-track youth?
- What do we **want** to know about effective design elements for schools serving off-track youth?
- What did **learn** about effective design elements for schools serving off-track youth? (after small group reporting at end)

# Instructions for our Small Group Conversations:

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## Tackle Your Table Questions (small group | 20 min):

All tables: What is your definition of off-track youth? Come to consensus.

Table 1: What strategies do you use to evaluate student learning? How do you know these strategies are effective?

Table 2: What is the ideal staffing structure for schools serving off-track youth? Why?

Table 3: What supports do you provide students to ensure they achieve academic and personal success? How do you know these supports are effective?

# Modified Gallery Walk: Report Out

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## What did we Learn about Effective School Design Elements? (whole group | 15 minutes)

- Table 1: Strategies to evaluate student learning?
- Table 2: Ideal staffing structure?
- Table 3: Student supports?

# Next Steps:

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1. We will send summary notes from your poster sheets (provide cards or sign sheet)
2. Follow the #PathtoOpp Project work at:  
[https://www.facebook.com/pathwaystoopportunityproject? rdr=p](https://www.facebook.com/pathwaystoopportunityproject?rdr=p)
3. Feel free to contact us (cards on your table)

**We learned a lot! Thanks for sharing!**