

MILESTONE 4: COMPLETING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION OR TRAINING

MILESTONE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Michelle Yazurlo

Assistant Superintendent,
Yonkers Public Schools

Idalia Agüero

Director of District School Counseling

Samuel Wallis

Executive Director, Yonkers Partners
in Education (YPIE)

Miguel Pacheco

Admissions and Recruitment,
Lehman College (CUNY)

Donald Whitley

Associate Professor/Admissions,
Westchester Community College (SUNY)

Christopher Johnson

Professional School Counselor,
Yonkers Public Schools

Brenda Cardoza

Family Welcome Center, VIVE

What is your five-year goal for the selected Milestone?

The Yonkers Public Schools in partnership with Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE) will aim to increase the number of Yonkers young men of color who enroll in college and/or career technical education (CTE) programs following high school graduation. To accomplish this broad goal, we will be taking a multi-pronged approach, which includes partnering with stakeholders and creating a comprehensive post-secondary education plan and assisting with financial aid programs.

At this juncture, our overall goal for Yonkers graduates who are young men of color is to achieve a 15% increase in enrollment in an associate and bachelor's degree for the next five years. The following specific goals, subject to refinements (especially increases) as the work progresses:

- a 3% increase in enrollment in a two-year program (16.48 to 19.48).
- a 3% increase in a four-year program (29.36 to 32.36)
- a 2% increase for students transferring students from a two-year to a four-year program

Context for the Work

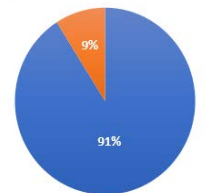
The graduation rate in Yonkers public schools is 91%, which is high by national standards. However, this graduation rate is not converting to commensurately high rates of enrollment and persistence in post-secondary educational programs and training. Current data suggests that of our young men of color who graduate from Yonkers, only 29.36% complete a bachelor's degree, and 16.48% complete an associate's degree.

Our Current Impressions + Insights: Informing our Year 1 Strategic Activity

Without yet having engaged in a deep, systemic effort, we have a number of impressions and insights that inform our first year of strategic work:

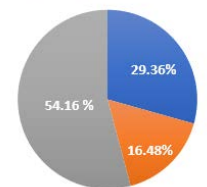
- Consistent with the research on college access and persistence, we know that our students perform best at colleges that offer programs that are supportive and inclusive, and have a student body that reflects racial and ethnic diversity. These same settings offer financial resources and other services and supports to promote student academic development and persistence.
- While we have these impressions and can name some institutions that reflect these conditions and have successful programs for our young men of color who graduate Yonkers (e.g., Lehman College's Urban Male Leadership), we have not systematically reviewed and identified all regional institutions for these features.
- We know that partnerships with institutions and nonprofit organizations, and enhanced family engagement work, will also be important to reduce barriers to access and increase persistence; as part of this work, we need to develop a seamless pathway that supports a strong transition from K-12 to post-secondary education.

High School Graduation Rate



■ High School Graduation rate ■ High School Non-Graduation rate

College Degree Attainment



■ Bachelor's Degree Attainment ■ Associate's Degree Attainment ■ Unknown



What progress do you hope to achieve by the end of year one implementation?

Strategic Activity AY23-24

DATA REVIEW TO INFORM ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review data obtained by YPIE to analyze which colleges young men of color have the highest success rates in a 2-year program Gather information on services provided to parents to inform and formalize a family engagement plan for next academic year. Our data source will be National Student Clearinghouse: A nonprofit and nongovernmental organization and the leading provider of educational reporting, data exchange, verification, and research services. Their work—performed in a trusted, secure, and private environment—provides numerous time—and cost-saving benefits to students, schools, administrators, and requestors.
YPS ALUMNI ALLIANCE	We will create an Alliance of YPS alumni, young men of color, who can serve as ambassadors and advisors to this work—to spawn innovation, raise awareness and build bridges, and support new partnerships and initiatives
PILOT PARTNERSHIPS	<p>Create partnerships with the colleges who have the highest rates of success for a 2-year program for young men of color.</p> <p>Partner with Westchester EOC (SUNY) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide yearly support for young men of color who have graduated high school and are facing challenges with the college enrollment process for the 2024-2025 academic school year. to support students interested in CTE certifications in nurse aid/pharmacy technician/CDL and other available options by April of 2024.
GUIDANCE DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a list of focus colleges and universities that will inform the secondary professional school counselors' which colleges young men of color have the best success rates. utilize the focus list to identify the resources each college offers for financial aid and student aid programs. Create a manual that consolidates the following resources: ASAP/HEOP/SEEK and supports an understanding of the requirements for the students to apply, and the procedures to become a member. Measure the yearly enrollment and re-enrollment of colleges and universities. Calculate the yearly figures in increases and/or decreases for evidence of effectiveness based on our baseline figures.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH + FAMILY ENGAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with YPIE and community stakeholders to hold annual college fairs for youth and their families, to increase understanding of the college process. Create an annual calendar that offers clinics and workshops to assist students and their parents with their college and financial aid applications for the 2024-2025 academic school year.