

Gonzales Youth 21st Century Success Initiative: A Cradle to Career Government, Education, Community & Workforce Partnership

The Gonzales Youth 21st Century Success Initiative is a cradle to career collective impact effort initiated by the City of Gonzales and the Gonzales Unified School District envisioned to strengthen a City-wide vibrant eco-system that ensures every Gonzales child succeeds today and into the 21st Century.

VISION: Gonzales is a City abundant with healthy, productive, engaged and successful children, families and community members via ample avenues to well-being and prosperity.

MISSION: To create a City-wide vibrant eco-system that ensures every youth will succeed in the 21st Century.

OUTCOME: Every child is inspired, informed and prepared for 21st Century Success.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Partners will utilize culturally competent, evidence/best practice(s)-based, data-informed and real-time, results-driven decision-making.
- Cross-sector, multi-disciplinary and community-wide engagement and shared ownership, investment and accountability is continuously fostered, renewed and deepened.
- Meaningful opportunities for youth and their families to engage, influence and lead at all levels are provided.
- An assets-based approach frames all efforts.

CORE STRATEGIES:

1. **CULTIVATE HIGH EXPECTATIONS CITY-WIDE:** from youth, their parents, their teachers to government, faith, school and community leaders to business owners, all stakeholders hold high expectations for youth and provides the supports necessary for the youth to meet them
2. **USE CRADLE TO CAREER ROADMAP TO DRIVE SUCCESS:** Explicitly adopt and localize best practices/effective models of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) cradle to career collective impact strategy implementation
3. **CULTIVATE ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LINKAGES:** Cultivate cross-sector economic and workforce development linkages with intentional reciprocity: businesses gain skilled employees and youth are prepared to successfully compete and gain livable wage career opportunities. The GY21CSI is fully, explicitly integrated into the City's Community Economic Development efforts.
4. **EXPAND STEAM EDUCATION:** provide ample curricular, co-curricular and out-of-school time experiential learning and career pathways are developed across the K-16 span.
5. **ENSURE SCHOOL READINESS:** investments are made in early learning, parent education and socio-emotional readiness

6. **STRENGTHEN HEALTHY, NURTURING & VIBRANT ECO-SYSTEM:** Core characteristics of a healthy City-wide eco-system are strengthened, especially the following:
- a) Caring, Connected Community
 - b) Stable Personal & Public Safety
 - c) Mental, Physical & Spiritual Health
 - d) Effective Education
 - e) Strong Economy
 - f) Sustainable Environment

CORE OPERATIONAL VALUES:

- Results Clarity, Accountability & Transparency
- Trusting, Healthy, Smart & Strategic Relationships
- Challenges are openly addressed
- Successes are celebrated

GOAL/OBJECTIVES & INDICATORS:

All Gonzales Youth acquire the developmental assets necessary to graduate on-time from high school equipped with the competencies required for the next phase of becoming contributing adult citizens. Special emphasis will be given to ensuring youth obtain key developmental assets in the following 5 domains:

1. Academic Success/Learning
2. Healthy Lifestyles
 - Physical Health/Thriving
 - Socio-emotional Well-being/Connecting
 - Life Skills
3. Civic & Community Engagement/Leading
4. Career Exploration & Readiness

PRIORITY OBJECTIVES:

YOUTH: All Gonzales youth have caring connections and are supported to acquire key developmental assets and achieve critical milestones, including:

1. A Positive Self-Identity, including identifying as a Scholar, Citizen & Leader
2. School Readiness, Academic Success & Career Exploration
3. Healthy Attitudes, Habits & Life Skills
4. Crafting an achievable Success Plan that encompasses Education and Career Goals as well as Life Skills and Civic Participation
5. Earning Enrollment Eligibility for College/Post-secondary Training
6. Applying, Enrolling and Graduating from College/Post-secondary training
7. Entering a Productive Career with the Life Skills Necessary for Long-term Success