

YES YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT

The Challenge

Currently, one out of four middle school students in Duval County receiving referrals leading to in-school suspensions identifies as Latino, and one out of six identifies as African-American. These damaging behavior reports follow them through their education years and out-of-school suspensions. When Children are suspended from school, they learn less, are less likely to graduate on time, and are more likely to be held back, this leads to them becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, and ultimately drop out. **Youth Empowerment Summit-YES**, research and work with students of all ages in the Duval county public schools, at-risk and low-income community areas that represent these students. We also offer workshops to educate parents and teachers on the deficiencies' in student academic achievement, and what they can do to push back against minority students being pushed out - and help all children of color succeed.

Fact

African-American and Latino students, when compared to their White peers, show significant differences in student academic achievement from the early grade years to and through postsecondary completion.

Minority Student Academic Achievement Gap:

20% - Black

34% Hispanic

49% - Caucasian

Of Florida students that are proficient in Reading:

62% - Black

70% - Hispanic

82% - Caucasian

YES YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT

Of Florida students Graduate from High School:

27% - Black

34% - Hispanic

42% Caucasian

Of Florida students obtain a post-secondary education (Associate or Higher)

Our Approach

In light of the widening academic achievement gaps between White students and their African-American and Latino peers, is the reason **Youth Empowerment Summit-YES** launched our Societal Development Solutions 101 & 102 programs. **The YES SDS – 101 & 102** is a Student Success Initiative, deploying empowerment strategies in the Jacksonville metropolitan and Duval County areas which collectively represent the largest percentage of first-generation, low-income and minority student populations.

Our programs have been introduced to the public schools, community organizations and youth church organizations through four key strategies to ensure more underrepresented students are prepared to [pursue and complete high school](#) and are given [the chance at a postsecondary education](#) and [acquire the skills necessary to obtain high-demand, high-paying jobs](#). Those strategies are strategic investing, building and reforming systems, public and political building, collaborating and convening. The YES programs are currently being implemented across the public and private education continuum, starting with Early Grade Success, continues through High School, College and Career Readiness and on to Postsecondary Completion.

A Focus on the Continuum

Early grade preparedness is essential, but that preparedness falls short unless students transition to middle and high school environments that foster a high-expectations, college-going culture, and high-paying job readiness, challenging them with academic rigor and relevance.

YES YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT

Our Impact

Youth Empowerment Summit-YES, measures its need and impact within the Jacksonville, FL (Duval County) Student Success Initiative using a number of short- and long-term indicators, including tools such as the Duval County Public Schools Annual Reports, Florida Department of Education – District Reports, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.

Our success will be measured by our ability to use our four key strategies to shrink the widening academic achievement gaps between White students and their African-American and Latino peers across the Jacksonville Florida education continuum. Our goal is to empower early learning students through Life Coaching with behavior and/or life traumas while also increasing the number of first-generation, minority and underrepresented students in Jacksonville entering a post-secondary education and the workforce with the skills necessary to obtain high-demand, high-paying jobs, stimulating and growing the state’s economy and helping meet the state’s workforce talent demands.