

Massachusetts Workforce Board Association



Youth Strategy Framework White Paper

Policy and Program Recommendations for Expanding Opportunities for Youth in Massachusetts

1. Create a Governor's Youth Employment Initiative. Bring together public and private sector resources to create occupational opportunities for unemployed older youth. Support the expansion of the [Pathways to Success by 21](#) (P-21) initiatives to benefit the state's most-at-risk youth, and in-school youth by connecting them to work based learning opportunities.¹
2. Strengthen and support local Workforce Board Youth Council capacity, resources and responsibility. WIBs Youth Councils are the conveners of regional youth partnerships including employers, educators; youth service providers, human service and criminal justice organizations. Implementation in all regions of Youth Career Centers to coordinate activities for key youth workforce and education interventions.²
3. Expand support for School to Work Connecting Activities to support in-school youth and address the four year graduation rates.
4. Provide summer jobs funding for all 16 workforce investment areas under the YouthWorks initiative that have more than a 5% dropout rate in the school district.
5. Each Workforce Board through their Youth Councils should lead recovery dropout efforts with outreach workers dedicated to dropout recovery. WIBs are responsible to develop a district-wide action plan in every school district with a dropout rate greater than 5%. Plan will include early indicators, outreach and "alternative routes" to diplomas.³
6. Implement the recommendations of the Patrick/Murray Transition Workforce Development and Training Working Group Report on Youth and empower WIBs to manage performance outcomes/benchmarks in each region to reduce dropouts; improve graduation and labor force attachment rates for youth.⁴

¹ Massachusetts Workforce Board Association: WHITE PAPER--KEEPING OUR COMMONWEALTH COMPETITIVE: A WORKFORCE PRESCRIPTION FOR THE NEW GOVERNOR, December 2006
<http://www.massworkforce.com/documents/WhitePaperPrescription12-1-2006.pdf>

² See The Bristol WIB youth policy paper, titled *Strategic Priorities for Youth Services* as an example of effective local strategies
<http://www.bristolwib.org/youth/youthpaper.doc>
See Business Plan for North Shore Youth Career Center

<http://www.northshorewib.com/Career%20Center/NorthShoreYouthCareerCenterBusinessPlan.pdf>

³ Based upon the Boston Youth Transitions Task Force Report, *Too Big To Be Seen*
http://www.bostonpic.org/youth/Too_Big_To_Be_Seen.pdf

⁴ The Report of the Patrick/Murray Transition Team Working Group on Workforce Development, Sum, Harrington, etal. December 2006
<http://www.massworkforce.com/documents/WorkforceDevelopmentReport.pdf>