



# Education Engagement Sites Summary of Pilot Findings

Youth who become disconnected from school – due to suspensions, missing the transition to middle or high school, or other reasons – face steep challenges to graduating from high school. For seven weeks of the 2023–24 school year, partners launched a pilot Education Engagement Site to assist youth and families and support the student’s return to school.

## PILOT SITE PROGRAMMING

Support to:

- Set and reach education goals;
- Improve attendance, grades and behavior;
- Develop mental wellness skills; &
- Explore options for re-enrolling.

## PARTICIPANTS

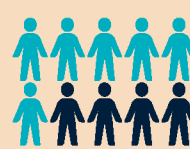
Middle and High School students (n=16)



63%  
Ages 12-15



50%  
Female



63%  
Black or African-American



## NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Extent to which student experienced suspensions, gaps in enrollment, absences, online-only learning, and unmet needs.



Youth shared multiple factors for disengaging with school, including experiencing bullying, limited mental health resources, learning challenges and literacy gaps

## ENROLLMENT STATUS EXAMPLES OF PARTICIPANTS

Chronically absent

Experiencing suspensions

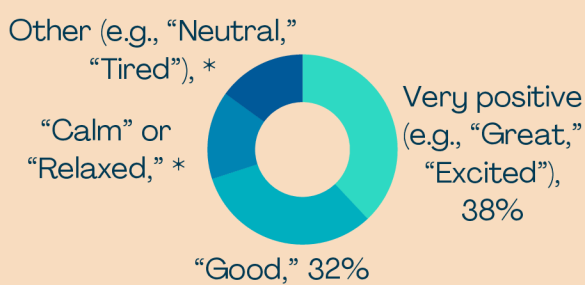
Learning online and needs more support

Not enrolled for 3 or more years

Not attending due to safety issues at or on way to school

## YOUTH EXPERIENCE WITH PROGRAM

n=34 participant days



Youth were asked at the end of each day to give one word describing how they were feeling, and the responses were positive.

\* Numbers are not shown for fewer than 6 occurrences.

## KEY PRACTICES IDENTIFIED

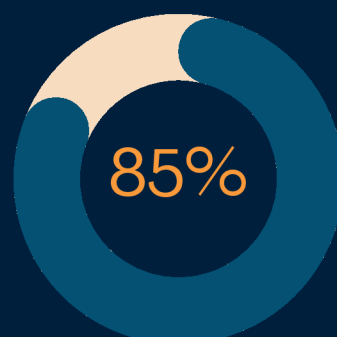
to promote school engagement

- 1 Build relationships
- 2 Encourage peer skills development
- 3 Set goals and problem solve w/ youth
- 4 Support self-acceptance and growth
- 5 Build neighborhood-based network

## PARTICIPATION AND RETURN TO SCHOOL

# 2.6

On average, participants attended the site for 2.6 days.



Most participants immediately returned to school following program involvement. The remainder were in the process of re-enrolling.

For more information about the Education Engagement Sites, visit [thebookworks.org/eduhub/](http://thebookworks.org/eduhub/)

Prepared by Kentucky Youth Advocates and The Book Works

