

What is a Youth Service Bureau (YSB)?

A YSB is an agency that is responsible for providing services and programs for all youth to develop positively and to function as responsible members of their communities. Additionally, YSBs assess needs of youth, identify gaps in service and coordinate services to fill those gaps. The services YSBs provide may involve programs related to youth development, juvenile justice, truancy prevention, and connection to community resources.

United Services, Inc. Youth Service Bureau serves Brooklyn, Canterbury, Eastford, Killingly, Plainfield and Sterling. **TEEG's Youth Service Bureau** serves Thompson, Woodstock, Pomfret and Putnam.

Why is there a focus on school attendance & following school rules?

When students attend school regularly, they are likely to experience higher academic achievement and build positive peer relationships. Regular school attendance also helps reduce the risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system. Additionally, regular school attendance increases the likelihood of high school graduation, which then empowers students to plan for college or careers. There are supports available to help students and families who are experiencing attendance issues and/or defiant behavior. Schools will work with students and their families to determine reasons for absences and develop steps to improve attendance and/or behaviors.

If attendance and/or behaviors do not improve, schools may refer students/families to a Youth Service Bureau (**YSB**) or other community-based organizations for additional help or support. In order to refer the student to a YSB, the school will prepare the referral form and seek consent from a parent. YSBs can support student attendance and provide services outside of school to increase positive behaviors.

A YSB may recommend or provide for any school-aged child:

- Academic supports which could include credit recovery and/or college prep programs
- Referral or access to individual or family mental health services and/or medical care
- Referral to other community-based intervention programs (including in-home services) targeting truancy and other behavioral concerns
- Educational advocacy
- Mediation
- Mentoring
- Parenting classes
- Positive social activities such as art, enrichment, and sports
- Referral for clean clothes, healthy food, stable housing, and/or transportation needs

What will happen when a referral is made to a YSB*?

- Once the YSB has received a complete and signed referral, they will reach out to the family via phone or send a letter to the family's home.
- YSB staff will explain the process to the family and ensure consent to move forward.
- If the family agrees to participate, the YSB will arrange a time to meet with the student and the family and gather information (including demographics, family & school information and needs and strengths of the student & family).
- The YSB will work with the school to address the individual needs of the student, such as assisting families with school meetings to support the student.
- The YSB will identify available and appropriate community supports for the student and review them with the student and their family.
- Based on family input, YSB staff may provide programming within the YSB and/or make appropriate community referrals.

*This process may be different based on the needs of the family and/or the resources available in your community.

Tips to maximize school success:

Partner with the school: Develop and strengthen relationships with your child’s teachers and administration.

Be involved: Know what’s going on in your child’s school and classroom. Monitor your child’s school progress - read school newsletters, contact teachers when you have questions, attend parent/teacher conferences, monitor progress through online grading systems, etc.

Pass on high educational aspirations: Encourage positive discussions around school. Talk to your child about the importance of an education and the benefits of school attendance from an early age.

Regularly monitor your child’s electronic devices and social media: Talk with your child about what’s appropriate and boundaries on social media. Open a line of communication without judgement or consequences. If your child is under 18, it’s your responsibility to know phone passwords, spot check social media / texts and be aware of the “apps” they are using.

Prioritize schoolwork: Stress that school and homework come before friends, sports and social media. Engage with your child around homework and follow through with consequences if they don’t meet expectations.

Support your child’s school activity participation: Encourage your child to be involved in extracurricular activities and programs. Kids who feel connected to their school are more likely to have better grades and school attendance.

Get help so your child succeeds: If your child is struggling, **don’t be afraid to ask for help – it takes a village!** Contact your child’s school to discuss supports.

Youth Service Bureaus

United Services, Inc.
Brooklyn, Canterbury,
Eastford, Killingly, Plainfield
and Sterling
www.unitedservicesct.org
860-564-6100

TEEG
Thompson, Woodstock,
Pomfret and Putnam
www.teegonline.org
860-923-3458

Parent referrals are accepted, just contact your local YSB directly!

Visit the Northeast Early Childhood Council www.neccouncil.org for more information on YSBs and forms.



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**Referral for
Community-Based
Services
through
Youth Service
Bureaus**

*A guide for
parents/guardians
& educators*



United Services, Inc.
Creating healthy communities

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*Community * Faith * Business*