



*Creating Futures
Every Day*

Alternative Schools Network

Since 1973, Alternative Schools Network (ASN), a not-for-profit organization in Chicago, has been working to provide quality education with a specific emphasis on inner-city children, youth and adults, and supporting community-based and community-run programs to develop and expand training other educational services in Chicago's inner-city neighborhoods.

In addition to supporting direct services, ASN had advocated for community-based services in which the people involved are active participants in developing and running programs rather than passive recipients of services.

Today, ASN helps shape policies and programs, based upon its impressive track record of operating successful education, employment and support service programs.

Goals of the Alternative Schools Network

- **Resource Development** – to identify the necessary resources that support educational programs and effective learning at alternative schools;
- **Technical Assistance and Training** – to provide technical assistance and training across the city and build support and cooperation among and between alternative schools;
- **Advocacy** – to impact and shape public and private policy in education, employment, social services and other areas as they relate to and affect inner-city youth and families.

Alternative Schools Network Programs

- **Re-Enrolled Student Project** is a partnership between ASN, its member schools and the Illinois State Board of Education, with the goal to expand services for re-enrolled students, providing service to 800 out of school teens who have re-enrolled to attain their high school diploma.
- **Youth Scholars, Skills, Service (YS3)** provides 225 youth in the care of the Department of Children and Family Services who are not enrolled in an educational or vocational program and do not have a high school diploma or GED with the opportunity and resources to attain their educational goals and become independent and productive adults.
- **Youth Experiencing Success** provides academic and mentoring services to out-of-school youth at 15 schools, which serves over 300 students citywide. Students are enrolled and linked to an on-site mentor who provides them with counseling, assessment, support services and advocacy.

- **Project New Futures** works with high school junior and senior participants in the YS3 Program (see above) to help them successfully transition from high school to post-secondary careers, training, or college.
- **Compass Counseling** provides counseling services to select students, ages 14 to 24, at 12 ASN schools.
- **Added Chance Career Education** annually trains about 180 youth and places 130, preparing them for meaningful, long-term careers.
- **PraXis Project** is a school leadership and capacity building initiative supporting high school directors and teachers with their school improvement goals by sharing experiences, ideas and initiatives within ASN and through collaborations and support from external partners.
- **Youth Leadership Development (YLD)** ensures youth voices in policy debates at the city, state and national level, YLD brings youth from across the city to receive training, participate in rallies, serves as panelists at academic and other conferences, attend events planned and led by young people.

For more information, please call Jack Wuest, Executive Director, at 312/259-2360.