



*Incorporating Postsecondary Bridging
Practices into Traditionally Non-
Academic Settings*



Context

PSB Pilot



The PSB pilot was conceived to engage out of school youth ages 16-21 disengaged from school and/or work. The pilot sites we chosenre the E3 Power Centers, where OSY are able to obtain a secondary credential and become connected with additional education and work opportunities.

E3 Power Centers

The E3 Power Center model is a neighborhood-based pivotal access point for re-engagement services. These services provide critical academic skills and employment readiness services with wraparound supports to young people using positive youth development as a cornerstone along three interrelated pathways: Education, Employment, and Empowerment, the three E's.

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E3 Centers support youth obtaining their GED and seeking work or educational opportunities afterward



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PSB Pilot Structure

- 2 Coaches and 2 Instructors provided services across the initial 4 E3 Centers
- Coaching Intervention & Academic Writing Intervention
- 5 - 8 week structure
- Partnership with the Community College of Philadelphia



E3 Transitions Services: Before & After

The Back on Track model provided a new framework for E3's to think about post-secondary planning with young people, and back-mapping that to E3 programming overall

Individualized Transition Services

E3s provided individualized advising to members to plan their next steps after completing programming at the center. Advisors and case managers had to connect with members 1:1 to discuss their desired pathway, often near the end of their progression toward their credential.

Postsecondary Pathway

Our programming, and later technical assistance, helped to establish a generalizable approach for transitions within the centers. When members enter the center, they are asked about their postsecondary goals, and directed to the appropriate pathway from the start of their journey.



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Vision for Sustainability

E3s are shifting their identity from drop-in GED centers with additional wraparound services, to sites that support young people in Philadelphia toward seeking out the right postsecondary opportunities, with GED completion as part of its central means to that end

- ◆ E3s are committing to a promise of not only a secondary credential, but also a college and career pathway



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A Future Focus from Day One

Centers now use language like “future focus” and “postsecondary pathways” in both their internal and external messaging to current and prospective members to ensure that members’ vision of the future extends beyond completing their GED

From the start of their experience at E3, new members know that staff is invested in helping them decide what they will do after they’re done



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New Center Structures

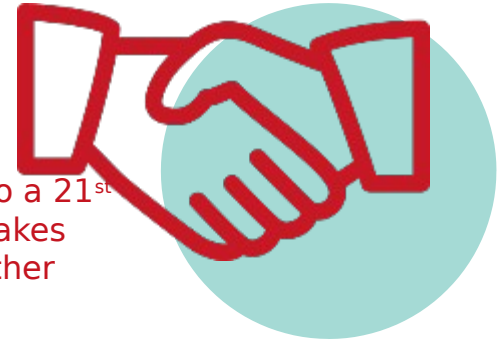
Each of the centers is implementing their own level of 21st Century / College and Career instruction that all members can benefit from when they begin at the center

E3 North

- ◆ Students receive College and Career instruction in a Career Pathways course that occurs twice a week
- ◆ After 4 weeks, students and staff together assess which pathway is appropriate: intensive postsecondary education prep for bridging, prep for a paid internship, basic PSE prep
- ◆ Depending on the pathway, at the close of the 6 week prep period students bridge, begin internship, or reassess readiness for intensive prep courses

E3 Center City

- ◆ All students are rostered into a 21st Century Skills class, which takes place daily along with the other GED classes
- ◆ After 6 weeks, students split off into an intensive course focused on either postsecondary education or a paid work experience
- ◆ Upon completion of each course, students either bridge into a postsecondary institution or begin a paid work experience





Thank You!

Questions?



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