



## Orange County Public Schools

U. S. Department of Labor Regional Meeting

May 21, 2008

Atlanta, GA

---

# DOL Grant Initiatives

- Intensive Focus on Student Achievement
    - 8 Intervention Specialists serving 4 high schools and 4 middle schools
    - 2 Intervention Specialists assigned to Alt. Ed. (school to work and other DJJ sites)
    - Goals= work with students and families focusing on attendance, dropout prevention, reconnection to home school, academic focus
  - Employability & Job Experience
    - 1 Resource Staff for training and work experience
    - 2 Dropout Retrieval Specialists for dropout prevention and vocational training
  - Gang & Juvenile Delinquency Reduction
    - 4 Outreach Workers (Orange County Sheriffs =2, Orlando Police Department =1)
-

# Grant Target Components



- Increase the educational achievement among juvenile offenders and at-risk youth.
- Decrease the dropout rate among juvenile offenders and at-risk youth.
- Provide work experience and internships for out-of-school juvenile offenders.
- Reduce the number of youth in grades 8-12 involved in gangs and youth violent crime.

Shirley Johnson-Delgado, Grant Administrator  
Kati Pearson, Program Specialist

---

# Highlights

---

***Our First 10 Months!***

---

# Intervention Specialists

- Youth Enrichment Services (YES) is an intervention based program designed for at risk students at selected middle and high schools in Orange County Public Schools. Students who are at-risk of being unsuccessful at school or who are involved with the Department of Juvenile Justice are eligible for the program.
  - The students will work with an Intervention Specialist who will closely monitor attendance and behavior, provide academic support and mentoring, refer students for tutoring and/or credit retrieval, provide individual counseling, provide employability skills, and build positive rapport with the student and family.
  - The intervention specialist will work with the Administrative Staff, School Resource Officers and the Department of Juvenile Justice. Youth Enrichment Services will keep parents informed of student progress, create a supportive environment for students, and keep accurate records.
-

# Partnerships

- Orange County Public Schools
- U.S. Department of Labor
- City of Orlando
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Orlando Police Department
- Orange County Sheriffs Department
- Workforce Central Florida
- Metropolitan Urban League
- University of Central Florida
- National Urban Alliance
- Ninth Judicial Circuit Court Administration
- Vision Quest



# Other Successes

- OCSO Extra Deputy
- Detention Center Interviews
- City of Orlando office space for outreach WFC.
- Rev. Frank Thompson's Parent Trainer Resource
- Career Project Curriculum
- Summer Program



# Website

## YOUTH ENRICHMENT SERVICES

[About](#)

[Goals](#)

[Services](#)

[Links](#)

[Contact](#)



***BUILDING SCHOOL DISTRICT-BASED STRATEGIES FOR  
REDUCING YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN GANGS AND VIOLENT  
CRIME THROUGH A WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT APPROACH***

***ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS & U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR***



# Online Mentoring

- Partnership with the University of Central Florida Psychology and Sociology students
- Paired with targeted students at schools
- 30 minutes twice a week



# Homebuilders

- Alternative Program
- Services high school students
- Receive a facilities manager certification & OSHA certification
- On-the-job training
- Service Learning



---

# Professional Development

## ■ Partnerships

- ❑ OCPS Professional Development Services
- ❑ National Urban Alliance
- ❑ University of Central Florida

## ■ Focus

- ❑ Black and Hispanic Male Study
- ❑ Single Gender Study
- ❑ Culturally Responsive Instruction
- ❑ Acceleration versus Remediation
- ❑ Exploratory Dialogues
- ❑ Courageous Conversations
- ❑ Ruby Payne's *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*
- ❑ Other Research-Based Best Practices



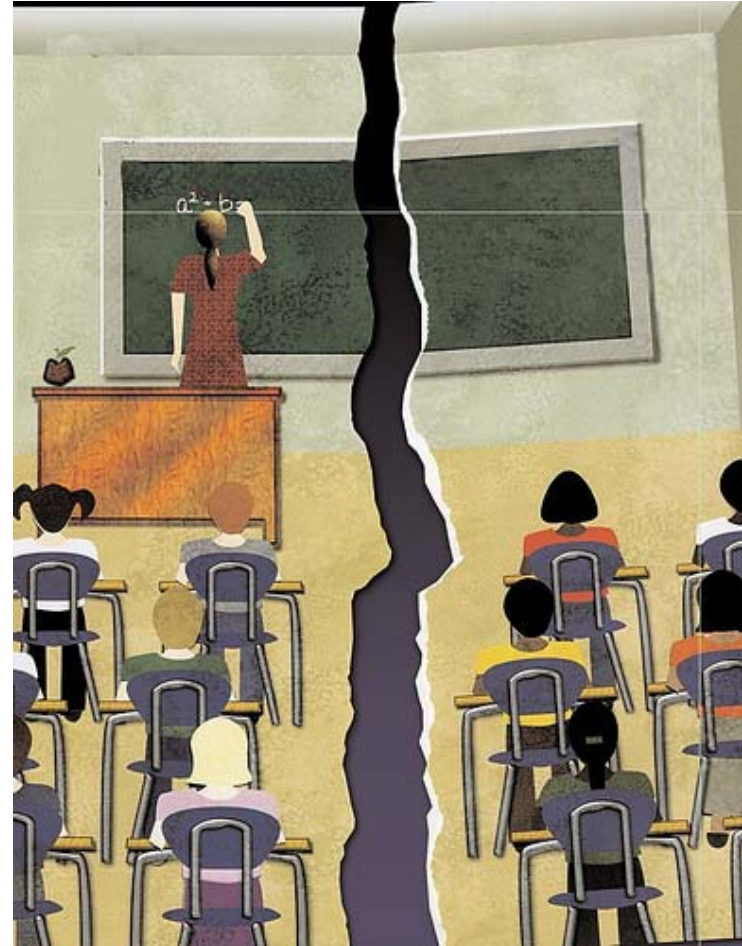
# Black & Hispanic Male Study

- An awareness in the perception and prospective of how we educate male students of color.
- The proposal provides school leaders with a framework that identifies the reasons why male students of color are disengaged in the learning process and as a result these students' educational experiences are less successful than other students.
- The framework is complete with the causes, problems, and resources leading to the implementation of strategies/best practices.
- The goal of this proposal is to assist schools to create equitable outcomes for all students.



# Achievement Gap

- B+ District
- Gap exists between white and non-white students
- ESE, LEP, Black, Hispanic, Free and Reduced Lunch subgroups perform under district average
- 4 percentage points closure in a six year period



---

# An Empowerment Workshop for Female Teens and Their Parents

- Off The Court 2008, Saturday, June 7th, 2008, Orlando, Florida
- 28 Girls Attending
- "Off the Court!" is a forum designed to help our young ladies reach their full potential by providing workshops and speakers to discuss the importance of education, leadership, teamwork, image and self esteem.
- We believe if we provide a strong foundation both On and "Off the Court!", we can minimize teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, physical and emotional abuse. Our goal is to build healthy young ladies with diverse options for a successful future.

 **"off the Court!"™**

---

# Oprah's Big Give

- Special opportunity to be involved
- Local ABC TV station given \$10,000 by national affiliates to do great work
- Chose newly appointed Orlando Police Chief, Val Demings
- Goal: reduce youth violence



# Challenges

- Consequence/Transition Center
- Hiring Freezes
- Contracts with partners





# Questions?

---

