

YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN BLAIR COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS:

15.2%

of the labor force aged
16-24 in Blair County
is **unemployed.**

LOW ↓
COMMITMENT

toward school was reported
as the highest risk factor
(46%) for students in
Blair County

According to the
latest **REACH &
RISK REPORT**

7,227

children in Blair
County are at
**MODERATE
-HIGH RISK**
of school failure

HOW TO GET

INVOLVED

Barriers for our youth lead to disconnection. Financial insecurity, lack of social supports, limited transportation, mental health needs, substance abuse, and other barriers for youth cause enormous costs, decrease the overall health of our community and hinder the economic growth.

As a community, we need to provide pathways to opportunities for all children and youth. It's important to include and hear the voices of youth and their families.

How to get involved?

You're invited to help create a culture of engaged youth who are healthy and have sustainable and gainful employment. Join our efforts to develop and implement actionable steps to solve the problems.

YOUTH CONNECTION

It's our community's future.

AN INITIATIVE OF HEALTHY BLAIR COUNTY COALITION



TO OUR YOUTH:

*You are wanted. You are welcome.
This is your community, too.
There is a place for you and we need you.*

TO OUR ADULTS:

Our youth need you. Get Involved.

HealthyBlairCountyCoalition.org

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Join the Healthy Blair County Coalition
and the support the Youth Connection Initiative

We need your voice, we need your action
to engage our community youth.

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ABOUT

YOUTH CONNECTION

Who are disconnected youth?

Teens and young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 who are not in school and not in the workforce.

Data from the 2016 Measure of America Report indicates that 11.7% of American youth and 10.8% of Pennsylvania youth are considered disconnected. Blair County's rate of disconnected youth is 13.6%, or 1,900 youths and young adults.

The Youth Connection Task Force of the Healthy Blair County Coalition has accepted the challenge to find resources and implement ways to reach and engage our community's youth, reinforcing with them that they are wanted, they are needed, and they are our future.

We need our youth to grow, succeed, and we need to encourage them to get involved and make sure they know how to get involved.

No one organization has the resources to address this problem, but through community collective impact, we can make a positive difference. To accomplish this goal, the Youth Connection Task Force has created four work groups:

- School Attendance and Academic Success
- Mentoring
- Workforce Development
- Pro-Social Activities and Community Engagement

In addition, the task force recognizes the importance of existing school and community interventions.

The Youth Connection Task Force has several outreach programs and communication tools in place including the HBCC website's Youth Connection page, podcasts, and Facebook.

How Can I Learn More?

Visit the HBCC website at <http://www.healthyblaircountycoalition.org/rural-impact-county-challenge/> to learn more.

814-317-5108 ext. 305

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OUR PODCASTS

Healthy Blair County Coalition's Youth Connection Task Force invites you to listen to their series of podcasts featuring personal stories shared by our community's youth and adults discussing elements that create youth disconnection, the effects on their lives, and steps they are taking towards making positive changes.



YOUTH CONNECTION TASK FORCE Coleen and Patty

Healthy Blair County Coalition's Youth Connection Task Force took on the challenge to design a program to reach and engage our community's youth to share the message they are wanted, they are needed, they are our future. Listen to Coleen Heim, Director of the HBCC, and Patty Sauka, District Attendance Director at Altoona Area School District, talk about the urgency our community is facing concerning youth issues and how to reach adults to share the message that we need our youth to grow and succeed. We need to encourage youth to get involved and show them how to get involved.



LITTLE/BIG Carolyn and Shaina

Being a mentor means many things, but most importantly, it's being there for another person and guiding them along their journey toward success. Mentors and the Mentees learn and grow from this experience that can last a life time. Listen to this journey, which took many twists and turns.



MENTORING THROUGH THE GRADUATE INITIATIVE PROGRAM Matt and Taylor

Matt Kimberlin, a counselor at the Tyrone Area School District Middle School, and coordinator for the Tyrone Graduation Initiative Program, and Taylor, one of his recent graduates, discuss this program and the impact it made in her life. Listen to her story and the amazing changes she has made. Her story reflects the challenges faced by many youth. Thanks to caring adults her life changed. Taylor is an inspiration.



SCHOOL, PARENT, PHYSICIAN PARTNERING Patty and Dr. Sweeney

Patty Sauka, Attendance Director for Altoona Area School District, and Dr. Kathleen Sweeney, Doctor of Osteopathic medicine at Altoona Family Physicians, discuss the relationships between student engagement and school attendance and how doctors' offices play a large role in this relationship. Listen to the importance of building bridges from doctor to parent and parent to school, developing lines of communication for the success of our children.



WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT Amy and Stephanie

Amy Horwath, Vice President of Mission Services at Goodwill of the Southern Alleghenies, and Stephanie Deliveir, Vice President of Human Resources for Sheetz, Inc. discuss ways our community is working to help youth overcome challenges and barriers to their path toward a successful career. Every path is different. Blair County has jobs and careers available along with all the necessary resources to enable youth and young adults to be successful in every path. *They share how the HBCC's Workforce Development Committee is collaborating to identify available services, resources, and trainings.*



RAGS TO RICHES Catherine and Lisa

Catherine "Katie" McCabe, entrepreneur of several businesses, including the Greenbean Coffee House, shares with Lisa Hann, Executive Director of Family Services Incorporated and member of the Youth Connection Task Force, her path from a rough and difficult childhood to becoming a strong, confident, and successful businesswoman. Katie talked about being on her own at age 15 after being kicked out of her house, dropping out of school and making poor decisions and to what led her to choose success and happiness.



EVOLUTION COUNSELING Tessa and Howard

School truancy is a serious problem and can have long-term negative effects on the student, as well as the family. Listen to how a single working parent, and his teenage daughter, worked with Evolutions Counseling to develop proactive skills and ideas that resulted in positive results. With this team approach, they stayed motivated and were successful in solving the truancy problem.

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