



MCKENNA
INSPIRATION · INFLUENCE · IMPACT

NEW BRAUNFELS YOUTH CENTER: A Building for Our Future

COMMUNITY VISION

Youth in our community will have a safe and supportive place to connect with trusted adults and peers with access to support services as needed. Programming will take a holistic, trauma-informed approach to youth development that focuses on mental, physical and social well-being. Opportunities for care include:

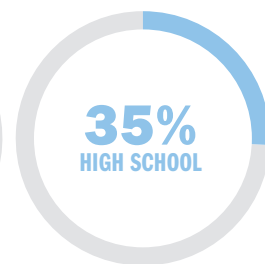
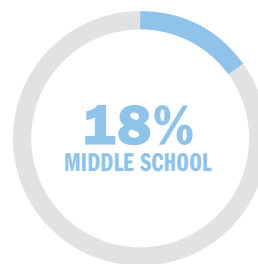
- + MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT
- + EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT
- + MENTORING
- + RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
- + NUTRITION
- + DEVELOPMENT OF LEADERSHIP SKILLS
- + CONTINUING EDUCATION PREPAREDNESS
- + FUN!

A SAFE PLACE FOR ALL

Creation of a youth center would provide a space for all middle and high school aged youth in New Braunfels to connect, learn, and build relationships. Outside of school-based athletics and extracurricular activities, there are no free or low-cost options for older youth in the community.

Data shows that youth in low-income households are less likely to access afterschool and summer programming due to cost, transportation, and other concerns. By 6th grade, middle-class students have spent 6,000+ more hours in afterschool and summer learning opportunities than low-income students.

PERCENT OF TEXAS STUDENTS ESTIMATED TO BE ON THEIR OWN FROM 3PM TO 6PM:

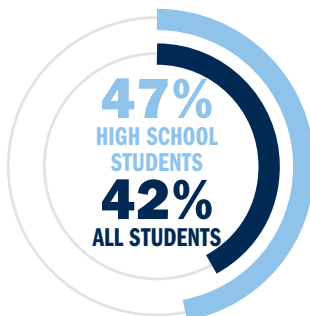


SUPPORTING YOUTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND FUTURE EARNINGS

Quality afterschool and summer care programs help students become more successful in school. A 2020 evaluation of the Texas Afterschool Centers on Education found that students regularly participating in programs had positive academic and behavioral outcomes.

Afterschool attendance increases the likelihood of being promoted to the next grade by:



2019 MEDIAN WAGES, COMAL COUNTY

No High School Degree	\$23,315
High School Degree	\$35,348
Bachelor's Degree	\$63,666

A high school diploma reduces the likelihood of an individual living in poverty. In Comal County, 13% of residents without a high school degree are considered to be in poverty compared to 7% of residents with a high school degree. Earnings also increase with continued education.

FILLING YOUTH'S DOWN TIME

Youth centers provide a safe and engaging environment during the peak hours for juvenile crime. According to the Afterschool Alliance, 26% of juvenile crime in Texas occurs between 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. While agencies statewide reported a decrease in probation referrals in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Comal County Juvenile Probation Office's Student and Family Empowerment (SAFE) Program, which addresses pre-offense truancy and behavioral concerns, received 153 referrals from Comal and New Braunfels ISD in 2020.

A LIFELINE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

A 2020 America After 3PM survey of Texas households found that afterschool programs help:



PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING






Afterschool programs benefit youth by supporting their physical and mental wellbeing. Statewide, 84% of youth in after school programs participate in physical activities. Physical activity and access to healthy snacks and meals support the mind-body connection and relieves a meal burden for food insecure families.

Research shows youth who engage in after-school programs are better at resolving conflict, more cooperative, and have improved social skills when compared to peers who do not attend afterschool programs. Afterschool programs provide supportive relationships with adults and build core life skills in order to prevent or mitigate Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). These skills help youth navigate the stress and challenges they face.

24%	Texas youth with multiple ACES
5.8	Average ACE score of youth served at Connections
2X	Increased likelihood of unemployment as adults for individual with 3+ ACES

CHANGE YOU CAN SEE AND FEEL

Creation of an inclusive, comfortable environment where youth feel welcome, supported and stimulated will have a positive impact in their lives:

ACADEMIC SUCCESS		<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ INCREASED SCHOOL ATTENDANCE+ PARTICIPATION IN STEM, ART AND OTHER ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES+ IGNITED CURIOSITY FOR NEW EXPERIENCES+ READY FOR COLLEGE, TRADE OR EMPLOYMENT POST HIGH SCHOOL
MENTAL WELLBEING		<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ IMPROVE THE SAFETY NET AVAILABLE TO YOUTH EXPERIENCING TOXIC STRESS+ CONNECT YOUTH WITH PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT MENTAL WELLNESS+ IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS BEFORE THE POINT OF CRISIS
POSITIVE AND COMPENSATORY EXPERIENCES		<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ INSPIRE A GROWTH MINDSIGHT+ ENGAGE YOUTH IN COMMUNITY LIFE+ ESTABLISH MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN YOUTH AND CARING ADULTS+ PROMOTE POSITIVE PEER RELATIONSHIPS
COMMUNITY PRODUCTIVITY		<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ HEALTHY FAMILIES PROMOTE A THRIVING ECONOMY+ INCREASED PARENT ENGAGEMENT IN SCHOOL+ REDUCED PARENT EMPLOYMENT ABSENTEEISM DUE TO CHILD CARE ISSUES
HEALTHY LIFESTYLES		<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ ACTIVE KIDS ARE HEALTHIER KIDS+ IMPROVED SELF-REGULATION, OPTIMISM AND PERSEVERANCE+ REDUCTION IN PEER PRESSURE TO EXPERIMENT WITH DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

NEXT STEPS

Youth in our community need us to come together to provide the support they need. For New Braunfels to reach full potential, we must make sure our youth thrive both physically and mentally. Their health and wellness is directly related to the health and wellness of our future as a community. Youth need a stronger support system than one entity can provide alone- it takes parents, schools, nonprofits, and community members working together.



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