

Pathways to Success by 21



A GED Curriculum for Learners Ages 16-21

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Acknowledgements

Pathways to Success by 21, (P21), envisions a youth system in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that is efficient and effective in ensuring that all youth have the tools and supports necessary to be productive citizens by the age of twenty-one. The initiative is committed to listening to youth voices to guide goal-setting and implementation and to using objective evaluation data to measure the activities and successes of the initiative.

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INTRODUCTION

Pathways to Success by 21 (P21) is a statewide effort to improve the future prospects for vulnerable youth across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. P21 defines vulnerable youth as those aged 16-24, who are out-of-school, without diplomas, unemployed, or without the necessary skills to access careers and to become productive citizens. It seeks to foster greater collaboration between state-level youth-serving agencies, while simultaneously helping local and regional youth-serving systems to coordinate better the delivery of services to vulnerable youth.

P21 is designed to:

- **Increase the number of vulnerable young people succeeding** in secondary school, postsecondary education and training, and the labor market.
- **Decrease disparities along key indicators** for ethnic minority, low income, foster and court involved youth and youth with disabilities.
- **Re-align state and local resources and service delivery** through regional strategic planning to serve youth more effectively.
- **Inform state and federal policy for vulnerable youth** based upon regional strategic planning.
- **Create new investments in vulnerable youth** from state, federal and foundation sources.

Two of the many activities included in the P21 initiative are GED preparation classes at Holyoke Community College for learners ages sixteen through twenty-four and development of a specialized GED curriculum package for youth. This curriculum package includes input from Adult Basic Education service providers in Massachusetts. It identifies promising practices that are relevant and appropriate for the target group.