



DC <sup>RE</sup> ENGAGEMENT  
CENTER



# DC ReEngagement Center

Office of the State Superintendent of Education

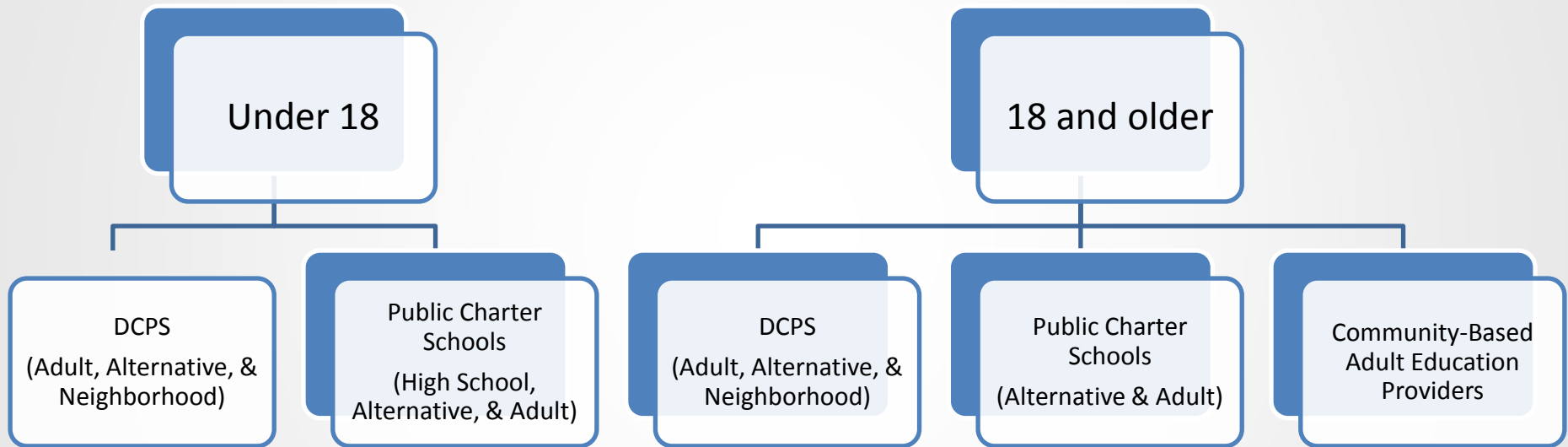


# DC ReEngagement Center 101

- **Who?**
  - ✓ District youth (ages 16 - 24) who dropped out of school and have not yet attained a high school diploma/GED
- **What?**
  - ✓ Conduct targeted outreach; accept referrals and walk-ins
  - ✓ Assessment of academic and non-academic needs
  - ✓ Refer to good-fit options toward attaining high school diploma/GED
  - ✓ Support re-enrollment process
  - ✓ Provide ongoing support for at least one year post-enrollment (including connection to non-academic services to support academic success)
- **Where?**
  - ✓ Co-located at DOES Headquarters – well-known by youth, in high-need neighborhood, train/bus accessible, access to work preparation/placement services
  - ✓ Virtual platform – [BackonTrackDC.org](https://BackonTrackDC.org)
  - ✓ Co-located with partners throughout the city



# Educational Partnerships





# Barrier Remediation Partnerships

- **Department of Employment Services (DOES)**
  - ✓ Employment recruitment events.
  - ✓ Subsidized employment opportunities.
- **Department of Human Services (DHS)**
  - ✓ Specialists screen youth for benefits eligibility and collect all required documentation.
  - ✓ DHS eligibility staff co-locates weekly at ReEngagement Center.
- **Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)**
  - ✓ Specialists screen youth for mental health/substance abuse barriers and make referrals to DBH or core service agencies.
- **District Department of Transportation (DDOT)**
  - ✓ Specialists can order DC One Cards for those students who qualify under the “Kids Ride Free” program.
- **OSSE’ Division of Early Learning**
  - ✓ Specialists can determine eligibility and provide child care vouchers directly to youth.



# Referral Partnerships

Government  
Agencies

Community-  
Based  
Organizations

Family/Friends



# Accomplishments as of January, 2018

- Since opening on October 20, 2014:
  - ✓ 1,403 overall short intakes completed (via phone, email, referral, or walk-in).
  - ✓ 860 clients have gone through the entire intake process since launch.
  - ✓ 635 out of the 860 clients have been reenrolled in a school or program.
  - ✓ 64 youth have graduated or earned a high school diploma, GED, or NEDP.



# Who is being served?

- 87 percent of clients are African American
- 50 percent of clients are male and 50 percent are female
- Median age is 20
- Median last grade completed is 10th grade
- 22 percent of clients had an IEP or 504 plan at one point prior to dropping out.
- Median Numeracy and Literacy Levels
  - ✓ Fourth Grade Math
  - ✓ Seventh Grade Reading
- 67 percent of clients placed are pursuing a GED, 31 percent are pursuing a traditional high school diploma, and 2 percent are pursuing an NEDP.



# Barriers

Barrier	Number/% with Need
Child Care	176 (20%)
Employment	320 (37%)
Public Assistance	192 (22%)
Housing	231 (27%)
Mental Health	120 (14%)
Transportation (under 22)	479 (84%)
Transportation (22 and over)	225 (77%)





- **BackonTrackDC.org: An Alternative “Front Door”**
  - ✓ The public, ReEngagement Center (REC) specialists, schools, and youth-serving agencies can easily access up-to-date information on educational programs through this centralized online tool.
- **Texting and Calling**
  - ✓ Each month, REC staff send text messages to and call youth who have been withdrawn from school for more than 30 days.
- **Door – to – Door Canvassing**
  - ✓ In September 2017, a street outreach team contacted more than 4,000 households in targeted neighborhoods with the goals of providing information to residents about how to connect to the REC and collecting demographic and contact information for youth who are eligible for REC services.



- **Co-Located Intakes:**
  - ✓ REC staff conduct co-located intakes at Virginia Williams, DC General Family Shelter, at the Sasha Bruce Drop in Center, and at the LAYC Drop-in Center in Columbia Heights.
- **Conduct trainings with staff** who make direct referrals at agencies and organizations that work with disengaged youth.
- **Develop formal referral partnerships** with agencies and organizations that serve educationally disengaged youth.
  - ✓ DC Office of the Attorney General, DC Superior Court's Criminal Division, and US Attorney's Office developed formal diversion program with the REC and the Department of Employment Services.
  - ✓ Designation of the DC REC as a "primary vendor" in the TANF program, administered by DC Department of Human Services



# Questions?

- **Contact:**
  - ✓ Ja'Sent Brown, Director at [Jasent.Brown@dc.gov](mailto:Jasent.Brown@dc.gov)
  - ✓ Isaac Hammond-Paul, Deputy Director at [Isaac.Hammond-Paul@dc.gov](mailto:Isaac.Hammond-Paul@dc.gov)
- **Referrals:**
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