Guide to Education Programs for Out-of-School Youth in Portland and Multnomah County
4 ways to reconnect

You are here.

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA or GED

Contact YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Call a RECONNECTION CENTER

Get in touch with an INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM

Drop by your NEIGHBORHOOD HIGH SCHOOL
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Get Started

What is the Guide to Education Programs for Out-of-School Youth?

It doesn’t matter what experiences you’ve had with high school in the past; there are a surprising number of different options for you today. If you are considering a return to high school, this guide will help you take your first steps. It is a tool to help you connect to a wide range of options from large neighborhood high schools to small alternative programs. The programs in this Guide share the basic goal of helping you complete high school, continue your education, and succeed in life.

If you are a young person living in Portland and Multnomah County and you want to earn a high school diploma or GED and build skills for success in college and a career this guide is for you. Options are included for students who live in the Centennial, David Douglas, Gresham-Barlow, Parkrose, Portland Public, and Reynolds school districts. In general, the programs outlined in the Guide are available to students under the age of 21; however programs may have different eligibility requirements so you should contact them directly to learn more. (For programs that serve adult learners, visit Portland Community College, www.pcc.edu. or Mt. Hood Community College, www.mhcc.edu.)

Who should use this Guide?

This Guide was created for youth who are currently out-of-school and want to reconnect with their education.

Others who will find this guide useful:

• Parents, guardians, and family members of out-of-school youth.
• Counselors and staff members at youth-serving organizations.
• Friends, advocates, and mentors of out-of-school youth.
• School staff members and other educators.

The difference between a high school diploma and a GED

The programs in this Guide offer high school diplomas, GEDs, or both. A high school diploma is earned by completing a certain number of classes with a passing grade, which generally takes four or more years. A high school diploma can be earned in a traditional high school, as well as in an alternative program. The high school diploma is the most recognized certificate of high school completion by postsecondary education and training institutions.

The GED is a standardized test that can be taken to complete high school instead of getting a diploma. Generally, students taking the GED are at least 18 but students 16 and older may take the test if they are in a GED preparation program. There are several programs listed in this guide that will help you prepare for the GED and build skills for transitioning to college and/or a career.

How do I use this guide?

1. Explore the options in this Guide that are available in your school district.
2. Reach out to get connected:
   • Call the main contact person for your school district.
   • Contact a Reconnection Center.
   • Get in touch with an individual program listed in this Guide.
   • Drop by your neighborhood high school.
3. Get ready to for a fresh start in a school or program dedicated to your success.
School District Contacts

Main school district contacts for help returning to school

There is someone on the other end of the phone in your school district waiting to help you reconnect. The following numbers connect directly to the individuals or offices at your district that specialize in helping students get back in school.

**Centennial**  
503-762-3202  
www.centennial.k12.or.us

**David Douglas**  
503-261-8300  
www.ddouglas.k12.or.us

**Gresham-Barlow**  
503-618-2450  
www.gresham.k12.or.us

**Parkrose**  
503-408-2601  
www.parkrose.k12.or.us

**Portland Public Schools**  
503-916-3956  
www.pps.net

**Reynolds**  
503-661-7200  
www.reynolds.k12.or.us

Reconnection Centers

Another option for extra help returning to school

A Reconnection Center is a place where you can get help returning to school. At a Reconnection Center you will meet with someone who will help you understand all of the options available to you. You will be able to immediately start working toward your academic goals while at the same time getting the personal help you need to re-enroll in a program that is the best fit for you.

**PPS Reconnection Center @ Benson High School**  
546 NE 12th Ave, Portland OR 97212  
503-916-5729  
www.pps.net/departments/education/options/1779.htm  
*For PPS students only*

**Helensview Transition Center**  
8678 NE Sumner St, Portland, OR 97220  
503-262-4150  
www.mesd.k12.or.us/comm/ReconnectingYouth  
*For students from various districts*

**Alpha School Transition Center**  
876 NE 8th St, Gresham, OR 97030  
503-262-4050  
www.mesd.k12.or.us/comm/ReconnectingYouth/  
*For students from various districts*
Your eligibility for a specific program is usually determined by the school district in which you live. There are exceptions to this, however, so to be sure call the main contact listed for your school district to learn more about your options.

**Centennial School District**
To learn more about options if you live in the Centennial School District call 503-762-3202 or visit www.centennial.k12.or.us. Staff members will work with you to find a program that fits best for you.

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- Arata Creek School, p.8
- Centennial Learning Center, p.8
- Helensview School, p.9
- Insight School of Oregon, p.9
- Lents Education Center, p.9
- Mt. Hood Community College – Youth Employability Support Services (Project YESS), p.9
- North Star Alternative School Program – Serendipity Center, p.10
- Portland YouthBuilders, p.11

**David Douglas School District**
To learn more about options if you live in the David Douglas School District call 503-261-8300 or visit hs.ddouglas.k12.or.us. Staff members will work with you to find a program that fits best for you. Once you complete the initial registration process, you can immediately begin to earn credits while you work with a counselor to find the right program.

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- Portland Community College (PCC) Youth Empowered to Succeed! (YES!), p.11
- SE Works, p.12
- SERP Enterprises Inc., p.12

**Gresham-Barlow School District**
To learn more about options if you live in the Gresham-Barlow School District call 503-618-2450 or visit www.gresham.k12.or.us. Staff members from Alpha School or your original high school will work with you to find a program that works best for you and begin the process of enrollment.

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**Parkrose School District**
To learn more about options if you live in the Parkrose School District call 503-408-2601 or visit www.parkrose.k12.or.us/. Make an appointment with a staff member at Parkrose High School to develop a plan to meet your goals.

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**Portland Public Schools (PPS)**
To learn more about options if you live in Portland Public Schools (PPS) call 503-916-3956 or visit www.pps.net/departments/education-options/index.htm. You can also call a Reconnection Center, contact a specific program directly, or go to your neighborhood high school and talk with a staff member about re-enrolling.

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**Reynolds School District**
To learn more about options if you live in the Reynolds School District call 503-661-7200 or visit www.reynolds.k12.or.us. Staff members will work with you to find a program that meets your needs. You can also get extra help at Reynolds High School, a Reconnection Center, or the Reynolds Learning Academy.

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Finding the “Right Fit”

In this guide you will find programs that offer a variety of services and supports for students with different needs. You’ll see options for English-language learners (ELL), teen parents, students with special needs, students who need to work and earn money while completing high school, students who prefer to finish high school on a college campus, students who want to gain specific career skills, and many others. Use the chart below to find a program that interests you and works with your unique needs, then read more about it on the page number that is listed for each program.

| New Avenues for Youth | North Star Alternative School Program - Serendipity Center | Open Meadow High School | Outside In | Parkrose Alternative Center for Education (PACE) | Parkrose High School GED Program | Pathfinder Academy | Portland Community College (PCC) Gateway to College (PCC) Multicultural Academic Program (MAP) | Portland Community College (PCC) Youth Empowered to Succeed (YES!) | Portland YouthBuilders | Reynolds Learning Academy | Rosemary Anderson High School | Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center | SE Works | SERP Enterprises Inc. | Twilight Alternative Night School (Parkrose) | Youth Employment Institute (YEI) |
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= A Portland Public Schools (PPS) charter school where in some cases a student from a district other than PPS may enroll.
Alliance @ Benson Campus
546 NE 12th Ave, Portland, OR 97232
503-916-6486
www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/alliance/210.htm

Services Offered: A Portland Public Schools (PPS) operated program for students in 10th through 12th grade. Flexible scheduling from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. meets the needs of working or parenting students, as well as students who can attend school during traditional hours. Program’s focus is to support all students in earning a standard diploma. In addition, community-based experiences assist students in preparing for postsecondary education and the workplace.

Alliance @ Madison Campus
2735 NE 82nd Ave, Portland, OR 97220
503-916-5248
www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/alliance/208.htm

Services offered: Diploma. A Portland Public Schools (PPS) operated program serving older students who have attained 12 or more credits. Hours of operation are from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Students earn credit primarily through independent study and community-based experiences. Upon completion of the required 24 credits, students earn a standard diploma. Evening child care is available for students’ children.

Alliance @ Meek Campus
3905 SE 91st Ave, Portland, OR 97266
503-916-5747
www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/alliance/212.htm

Services offered: Diploma. A Portland Public Schools (PPS) operated alternative program for students in 9th through 12th grade that provides individualized academic instruction, work experience, and a series of professional-technical courses including arts and communication, automotive technology, manufacturing technology, and natural resources. The curriculum prepares students for postsecondary education and future careers.

Alpha School
876 NE 8th St, Gresham, OR 97030
503-262-4050
w3.mesd.k12.or.us/bak.ahs/Alpha%20Site%20Folder/home.html

Services Offered: Credit for up to one semester and placement in a program that best meets students’ needs. The Alpha School Reconnection Center provides students with academic assessments, credit evaluation, credit recovery, and identification of a “best-fit” education placement.

Arata Creek School
2470 SW Halsey St, Portland, OR 97060
503-262-4850
www.mesd.k12.or.us/ac

Services Offered: Diploma. Provides support for students ages five to 18 who have severe emotional needs, learning disabilities, and other health impairments. Program focuses on small groups, individual instruction, and wrap-around service coordination with care providers, state social workers, and juvenile court staff members as necessary.

Centennial Learning Center
17630 SE Main St, Portland, OR 97233
503-762-3202
www.centennial.k12.or.us/schools/clc

Services Offered: Diploma. Serves independent learners who prefer a smaller, more personal learning environment; students who need to recover credits and/or work at an accelerated pace; and youth who desire hands-on learning and a community based education.
Helensview School
8678 NE Sumner St, Portland, OR 97220
503-262-4150
www.mesd.k12.or.us/ae/helensview

Services offered: Diploma. An individualized alternative program for students ages 12 to 21. Offers specialized academic instruction and remediation, including special education and English-language learner services; family support services; onsite child development center for infants starting at six-weeks-old up to age four; transition planning for career and postsecondary education; career training and mentoring programs, including an onsite music studio and trades program; drug/alcohol/mental health support, including counseling and home visits; gang prevention and implementation of parole and probation plans; and onsite nurse and psychiatric nurse practitioners.

Insight School of Oregon
877-254-6744
or.insightschools.net

Services Offered: Online alternative high school where students can attend full-time or part-time, and courses offered are foundational, advanced placement (AP), and credit recovery. Insight School of Oregon is tuition free and was awarded full accreditation in the spring of 2008 by the Northwest Accreditation Commission.

Leadership and Entrepreneurship Public Charter High School (LEP High)
2044 E Burnside St, Portland, OR 97214
503-254-2537
www.lephigh.org

Services offered: Diploma. A public charter high school serving students in 9th to 12th grade with a focus on leadership development and entrepreneurship. Program includes a rigorous college prep curriculum, project-based instruction, interdisciplinary learning, service learning, and internships. LEP High also offers web-based credit recovery in the evenings. English-language learner (ELL) and special education services are available.

Lents Education Center
4905 SE Woodstock Blvd, Portland, OR 97206
503.771.7508
www.janusyouth.org

Services offered: Diploma. A relationship-based program with a goal to help students internalize control rather than react or adapt to external controls. Capacity is 40 students with an 8:1 student-teacher ratio. Students are referred to Lents from contracting school districts.

Mt. Hood Community College – Youth Employability Support Services (Project YESS)
26000 SE Stark St, Gresham, OR 97030
503-491-7641
www.mhcc.edu/yess

Services Offered: Diploma and GED. Serves students ages 16 to 21 who live in Multnomah County. U.S. citizenship or work eligibility is required. Project YESS helps youth prepare for the GED, set career goals, find a job, and transition to college. Small classes, student support services, work readiness training, and job placement services are available.

Mt. Scott High School
6148 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland, OR 97206
503-771-8880
www.mtscottlearningcenters.org

Services offered: Diploma. A community-based alternative high school focused on small classrooms, differentiated teaching methods, experiential learning, and structured environments. Full-time counselors help students and families address underlying problems that have prevented prior success, with a focus on service learning and preparation for postsecondary education and careers.
NAYA Early College Academy – Native American Youth and Family Center
5135 NE Columbia Blvd, Portland, OR 97218
503-972-2461
www.nayapdx.org

**Services offered:** Diploma. A community-based alternative school serving students ages 14 to 20 who seek a hands-on, culturally-relevant, and student-centered learning environment with a blended high school and postsecondary curriculum. Students may earn up to two years of transferable college credit while completing high school. Programming integrates local native culture, family outreach, and community partnerships.

Open Meadow High School
7654 N. Crawford St, Portland, OR 97227
503-285-0508
www.openmeadow.org

**Services offered:** Diploma. A community-based alternative school providing hands-on, student-centered and individualized instruction, advocacy/case management, peer-support groups, pre-employment training, project-based service learning, and postsecondary education preparation. Services available for English-language learners (ELL) and teen parents.

New Avenues for Youth
314 SW 9th Ave, Portland, OR 97205
503-224-4339
www.newavenues.org

**Services offered:** GED preparation, day services, and case management. All programs are targeted to homeless youth from ages 12 to 25. Services offered include transitional housing, one-on-one mentoring, job development, service learning, outreach services, and ELL services.

Outside In
1195 SW 11th Ave, Portland, OR 97205
503-445-0976
www.outsidein.org

**Services Offered:** GED preparation for youth ages 16 to 24. Focus of the program is on homeless youth. Includes individualized tutoring, job readiness training and placement, work experiences and internships, postsecondary preparation and support, day program, case management, transitional housing, medical clinic, risk education, syringe exchange, medical outreach program, and tattoo removal.

North Star Alternative School Program – Serendipity Center
14815 SE Division St, Portland, OR 97236
503-761-7139
www.serendipitycenter.org

**Services offered:** Middle and high school program for students with attendance, academic, and behavior challenges. Full-day and half-day programs for students in 7th through 12th grade. Options for students in need of small group instruction, individualized programming, and a caring, relationship-based approach to education that promotes personal accountability and progress. A program that helps students transition from the high school setting to independent adulthood.

Parkrose Alternative Center for Education (PACE)
12003 NE Shaver St, Portland, OR 97220
503-408-2600
hs.parkrose.k12.or.us

**Services offered:** Diploma. “School-within- a-school” model located at Parkrose High School, with small classes and a focus on personal problem solving, goal-setting, regular attendance, and mutual support.

Parkrose High School GED Program
12003 NE Shaver Street, Portland OR 97220
503-408-2600
hs.parkrose.k12.or.us

**Services offered:** GED preparation for students ages 16 to 21 living in the Parkrose attendance area. Classes taught in English, and Spanish materials are available. Classes offered at the Parkrose High School campus in the evening.
Pathfinder Academy
8010 N Charleston Ave, Portland, OR 97203
503-307-2270
www.pathfindersoforegon.org

Services offered: GED preparation, credit retrieval for return to traditional high school, and school-to-work. Programs designed to serve pregnant and parenting students. Off-site child care available through Early Head Start. Services available for English-language learners (ELL).

Portland Community College (PCC)
Gateway to College
2305 SE 82nd, Portland, OR 97216
971-722-6213
www.pcc.edu/pccprep

Services offered: Diploma and college credits toward an associate degree. This program is for students who have left high school before graduation, have fewer than 17 high school credits, have at least an 8th grade reading level, live in a participating school district, have struggled with grades and attendance, are ready for a challenging academic experience that has the potential to last for two or more years, and are interested in pursuing a college degree.

Portland Community College (PCC)
Multicultural Academic Program (MAP)
2305 SE 82nd Ave, Portland, OR 97216
971-722-6213
www.pcc.edu/pccprep

Services offered: Intensive English classes, with a focus on academic English, including reading, writing, and speaking. A bridge program for non-native English speakers to prepare for completion of a GED or high school diploma. This program is for new immigrants who have left high school before graduation, live in a participating school district, are able to make school a commitment by attending class regularly, and are interested in a variety of academic and vocational opportunities.

Portland YouthBuilders
4816 SE 92nd Ave, Portland, OR 97266
503-286-9350
www.pybpdx.org

Services offered: Diploma and GED. A community-based alternative school where students gain vocational and leadership skills by spending alternating weeks in the classroom with experienced teachers and at job sites, either building affordable housing or working in a computer technology program. Students receive a living stipend, an education award, and at least 12 months of support services once they transition out of the program to assure success in postsecondary education and career placements.

Reynolds Learning Academy
20234 NE Halsey St, Fairview, OR 97024
503-667-4673
www.reynolds.k12.or.us/rla

Services Offered: Diploma. Traditional core academic subjects are taught along with a trades-focused crew program. Targets students who thrive in a smaller learning environment.
Rosemary Anderson High School – Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center
717 N Killingsworth Ct, Portland, OR 97217
503-797-7222
www.portlandoic.org

Services offered: Diploma and GED. Spanish GED preparation available. A community-based alternative high school that provides at-risk and disadvantaged students with a culturally responsive academic program, postsecondary preparation, and career exploration. Services available for English-language learners (ELL) and teen parents.

SE Works
7916 SE Foster Rd, Suite 104, Portland, OR 97206
503-772-2300
www.seworks.org

Services offered: GED preparation, postsecondary education, and training placement. Focus is on small class sizes, individual attention, case management, and weekly one-on-one tutor sessions. SE Works also facilitates work placement, connects students with paid internships, and provides guidance as students transition to higher education and training.

SERP Enterprises Inc.
2601 SE 160th Ave, Portland, OR 97236
503-761-7253
www.serpenterprises.com

Services Offered: Diploma. Programs for students with disabilities and special education needs. Focus is on social and emotional support and skill development for an independent adulthood.

Twilight Alternative Night School (Parkrose)
12003 NE Shaver St, Portland, OR 97220
503-408-2600
hs.parkrose.k12.or.us

Service offered: Diploma. Classes meet in the evenings one time per week with the expectation of significant out of class homework. Classes focused on graduation requirements and life skills. This program is particularly suited to parenting students.

Youth Employment Institute (YEI)
1704 NE 26th Ave, Portland, OR 97212
503-280-1058
www.yei.org

Services Offered: GED preparation for pregnant, parenting, and non-parenting youth ages 16 to 20. Program offer onsite child care, paid internship placement, gang prevention services for young women, and a work experience program. Work programs available in the summer.
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Success for All Students – *Cradle to Career*

The truth is, learning doesn’t begin and end in the classroom. It’s up to all of us. In order to succeed, every child needs both an education and a broad, nurturing support network. In other words, transforming young people into healthy, independent adults is the job of the entire community. This philosophy is at the heart of a movement called Cradle to Career, and the Portland Schools Foundation is spearheading it in Portland and Multnomah County. The Cradle to Career (C2C) partnership is a long-term, county-wide initiative that includes partners from Pre K-12 schools, higher education, local business and government, non-profit organizations, parent, student, and community stakeholders, with the goal of ensuring the sustained success of every child in Portland and Multnomah County from cradle to career.

*Join the movement – visit www.thinkschools.org.*