



Gateway Youth Programs specializes in positive youth development and working with youth of Darke County that may be in conflict, at-risk, or in need of support. The program/services focus on building the positive attributes young people need in order to be successful in their life. There is an emphasis on providing support and experiences to help youth transition through the stages of their developmental journey and gain skills necessary to deal with life's many challenges.



MISSION

We provide a unique mix of learning and social experience to develop competence, motivation, and behavior for a better life and stronger community.



www.councilonruralservices.org

Gateway Youth Programs is a unit of Council on Rural Services. Funding is provided in part by the Ohio Department of Education and Darke County Schools, Ohio Children's Trust Fund, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Darke County United Way, and local foundations.

Gateway Office

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The future rests in the hands and minds of our youth, who work to make our communities a better place for families to live and for children to grow.

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YOUTH PROGRAMS



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THE CONNECTION YOUTH CENTER



Our youth center provides a positive, safe and supervised setting for youth. We offer our youth opportunities to be involved with leadership and recreational activities, tutoring, educational field trips, service learning and life skills training.



COMMUNITY CONNECTORS



The Community Connectors program is designed to bring together students, their parents, schools, communities, faith-based organizations and businesses in mentoring programs. The program seeks to strengthen communities, encourage mentoring opportunities and create new pathways for civic engagement that will result in higher educational achievement, higher levels of well-being and health, and workforce readiness.

The program provides mentoring to youth grades 5-12 in Darke County by pairing students with role models who can help motivate and inspire them, as well as help them develop skills that lead to success in school and the workplace. The program offers three main components:

COMMUNITY CONNECTORS (continued)

1. School based youth advocates that meet 1:1 with students, facilitate small group mentoring within schools (focusing on problem solving, motivation, higher achievement, etc.) and focus on college and career preparation. Also job readiness and development with the older high school aged students.
2. Volunteer Mentors that meet regularly with students outside of school to provide additional life guidance and coaching.
3. Business partnerships that will help students develop work readiness skills. Business partners will meet with students to discuss employment trends and what they are looking for in employees. Businesses would also provide mentoring, job shadowing, and work experiences or internships if the student is age appropriate.

The goal is to help students get excited about their future – to be encouraged to dream big – and learn what it takes to put their dreams and goals into action by addressing the following core principals.

1. Setting goals to be prepared for the 21st Century Careers
2. Building Character
3. Developing Pathways to Achievement
4. Building Sense of Resiliency
5. Believing in a Positive Future

ACES (ACHIEVEMENT CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS)

Through a collaborative effort of the Darke County Educational Service Center, Darke County Schools and Council on Rural Services, we offer an alternative education program for students in grades 9-12 who are credit deficient or have no school engagement. ACES is designed with the philosophy that all students can learn and succeed when the conditions are conducive to their personal and educational needs.

Students must be referred by their home school administration and parent(s) or legal guardian must be in agreement with the referral. The unique aspect of the program is students that attend ACES are still students of their home school and receive their high school diploma from their home district upon completion of all local and state graduation requirements.

ACES has a certified teacher, educational aides and support staff that provide academic instruction and support to help students move towards graduation. The student's curriculum is aligned with the State standards and can be individualized for each student and allows them to work at their own pace.

Additional activities and services are incorporated to promote personal development as well as addressing prevention and intervention. Students also participate in job readiness activities and soft skill building to assist in employability.



TUTORING PROGRAM

The tutoring program is offered after-school and in the summer for students kindergarten through 12th grade. Students are provided one hour, one-on-one tutoring sessions weekly during each program quarter.



Referrals can be made by schools, social service agencies, parents, friends, or self referred. Upon enrollment, students will complete a WRAT assessment that is administered by our literacy specialist to determine students' academic deficiencies. There is a fee for tutoring that is determined by a sliding scale based on family size and income.