

Tips for CIPs

Open Doors Youth Reengagement

[Open Doors Youth Reengagement Programs](#) are extremely variable in design and outcomes. Not all Open Doors programs expect to graduate students.

When it comes to improvement planning, Open Doors 1418 Youth Reengagement programs will focus on metrics and objectives relative re-engagement, and not necessarily graduation. Many Open Doors programs are unfamiliar with ESSA-related school improvement efforts, processes, and supports.

Helpful Notes:

1. **The Open Doors contact may or may not be a principal.** The contact may be an administrator, a director, or other designation. The person may run multiple types of programs. Expect that the Open Doors contact has different experience than principals from the other schools you serve.
2. **Open Doors programs usually do not see themselves as schools.** The Open Doors programs that CIPs support are actually schools, called “R-type” schools. However, the Open Doors program staff may not see themselves as a school. Open Doors programs can elect to be coded as either a school or a program when they apply to OSPI. If an Open Doors program selected to be coded as an R-type school, the entity is identified for school improvement and responsible to complete a school improvement plan.
3. **Open Doors is not a credit retrieval program.** Open Doors serves students who are *severely* credit deficient, who have been pushed out or dropped out of school, and who are distinctly unlikely to graduate with their four-year cohort or otherwise. Open Doors is a student re-engagement program. Open Doors is *not* intended to be a back-on-track credit recovery program. While some Open Doors students may graduate with their 4-year cohort, the vast majority will not.
4. **An Open Doors Youth Reengagement program (R-type school) cannot improve its way out of improvement status.** Per state law, Open Doors is designed to serve students who are unable to graduate on-time or who may not graduate at all. School improvement plans for Open Doors cannot focus on meeting the 67% on-time-graduation rate metric. Open Doors school improvement plans should not attempt to alleviate the improvement status designation. Support the program to identify and prioritize metrics that are *continuous-improvement* focused, but not ‘out-of-improvement’ focused.



5. **Know that each program may have entirely different pathways and focus.** Open Doors programs operate with between one and four purposes. As an example, a program that is GED-plus won't likely benefit from improvement planning goals to "graduate" students, as graduating and earning a high school diploma is not the goal of the program or aligned to the services it may provide to students. Program focuses include the following types:
 - a. College
 - b. Career
 - c. GED plus
 - d. HS Diploma

Don't overly focus on completion

Open Doors Youth Reengagement is designed to serve older students who are significantly off-track and unlikely to graduate. The purpose of Open Doors is to help students make progress: to learn, to grow, and to reach goals. Student goals **may or may not** result in graduation. High school completion and graduation rates will not reach 67% in Open Doors. The CIP supports to Open Doors programs and schools may be slightly different than for other schools.

Other ways that CIPs can help

1. Inform the program about school improvement plans and planning. They may not be aware that they are required to have a plan, that the plan includes their partners, or how to utilize a school improvement plan (SIP) for continuous improvement. See the guidance [School Improvement Plans for Open Doors](#).
2. Educate the Open Doors leaders and staff about school improvement supports. Inform the principal or program leader of what a CIP provides, what funding exists, and how to apply.
3. Inform the program about the culture of school improvement. Discuss and describe how ESSA is different than NCLB.
4. Focus on hearing the program's strengths, hopes, and identified gaps.
5. Encourage inward focus on relevant measures of progress or growth that are unique to the program.

School Improvement Plans and Open Doors Programs

Example SIP goals for Open Doors

- Integrate project-based learning.
- Utilize program data in decision-making.
- Introduce or strengthen career and workforce opportunities.
- Establish GED-plus supports or testing center.
- Increase program pathways or add a pathway (career, college, GED-plus, or diploma)
- Identify and establish new partners or improve relationship with existing partners.



- Develop purposefully coordinated PD opportunities for staff with job-alike roles and student support providers (Ed Advocates, McKinney-Vento Liaisons, etc.)

Outcomes to consider when planning goals:

- Increase collaboration between the district and/or program provider and/or partners.
- Improve communication with students, families, staff, or partners.
- Improve student stick-rate.
- Increase the annual average amount of IAPs earned by students in the program.
- Increase graduation rates (if graduation is a goal of the program).
- Increase number of youth who obtain their GED.

Learn more about Open Doors Youth Reengagement

Please visit the [Open Doors Youth Reengagement](#) website to learn more about the program and to locate resources such as guidance and [Open Doors Youth Reengagement videos](#).

Recommended resources:

- [School Improvement Plans for Open Doors](#)
- [Improvement Planning for Open Doors](#)

See also:

- Open Doors WAC [Chapter 392-700 WAC](#):
- Open Doors RCW [28A.175.100: Statewide dropout reengagement program](#)