

Ready Youth Learning Cohort Information and Timeline

An opportunity to conduct the enhanced Gallup Student Poll in your community, use the results to spark community awareness and ownership of a broader definition of readiness and take action to improve the outcomes for children and youth.

What Can Participating Communities Expect?

You, as a participating community, will be expected to:

- Administer the Gallup Student Poll to students in the 5th-12th grades during the month of October 2014. **This requires school district participation.**
- Engage at least one community partner who will assist in planning and implementing the community conversation.
- Use your resources to design and execute a community engagement process (could take one of several forms) that addresses the data, with an emphasis on sustained engagement. This requires a lead team who is responsible for overseeing the process and maintaining commitments.
- Share your data with your community and the Forum for Youth Investment.
- Explore how to involve young people in all aspects of the work.
- Have the ability to engage the media and key leaders as champions.

You will be a part of a Learning Cohort of communities across the country. You will receive training, coaching, peer network opportunities and tools. Highlights of the package include:

- Access to student perception data that previously was reported only to schools. This data allows for a conversation about action strategies that does not put the onus solely on schools, but rather encourages community-wide approaches to address concerns about student hope, engagement and well-being.
- Ability to explore Gallup Student Poll data by age, race/ethnicity, zip code and other demographics not available in the free version.
- Guidance on what other public data sets might be useful to bring into the conversation.
- Technical assistance from the Forum for Youth Investment to lead a community conversation around the data and what actions can be taken to address community concerns.
- Opportunities to learn from and share best practices with other communities.

Timeline:

Pre-Poll: Late Summer/Early Fall 2014

- Registration for the Gallup Student Poll
 - Registration must be completed by a school representative. If you are a community partner, you will need to enlist the cooperation of your local school district or school. More information about registration is here: <http://www.gallupstudentpoll.com/121085/Schools-Districts.aspx>
- Watch a recording of the webinar: Gallup Student Poll: Understanding the Purpose and Process. This webinar reviews the mission, scope, and methodology of the Gallup Student Poll, with detailed instructions on how to register and administer the Gallup Student Poll. Watch the recording here: <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/playback/Playback.do?id=818mfc>
- Join an informational webinar outlining the Ready Youth opportunity. The webinar information is available at <http://www.readyby21.org/ready-youth>.
- Complete the needed application by September 12, 2014.

Things to Consider During This Time:

- Define geography
 - Will you aim to survey a neighborhood, town, city or county? We encourage ambition.
- Define age groups
 - What grades will participate? Again, we encourage you to stretch a bit. If you must choose a small sample, Gallup recommends making it an entire grade in order to follow any trends in this cohort over time.
- Define your core team
 - Who will be leading this work?
 - How will you engage youth, not just in defining the problem, but in developing solutions?
 - If you are a superintendent, are there school or community coalitions that are a natural partner for Ready Youth?
 - Who are other community partners who will support this work?
 - Are there data experts (universities, research organizations) in your community who can help make sense of the data when you get it back and connect it to other local data sources?
- Engage youth
 - Are there youth that you can engage early on who can help promote the Poll and its importance?
 - How will you keep them engaged as you move toward the Community Conversation?
- Think through how you will administer the poll
 - How will you inform parents, teachers and the community?
 - Will you offer incentives for participation?

The Gallup Student Poll Administrator Manual addresses tips and sample notification letters here:

<http://www.gallupstudentpoll.com/157751/gallup-student-poll-manual.aspx>.

Poll Completion: October 2014

The Poll can be administered on Tuesdays through Fridays during October 2014.

Using the Data: Winter 2014-Spring 2015

- Execute a community engagement event (or series of events) that shares the Gallup Student Poll data and other relevant community data on youth readiness to highlight areas of strength and engage in action planning to change areas of concern.
- Sustain the effort through ongoing staffing and resources in order to continue to provide leadership and support to the community's desire for change.

Things to Consider During this Time:

- What other data helps define readiness?
 - What data is accessible in your community that will complement your findings? These can include Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data, local academic data and other local sources.
- How will you share the data?
 - What will your outreach strategy be: Town Hall meetings? Focus Groups? Press Releases?
 - Who is your audience? Will you provide a report? A website?
- How will you engage youth and promote youth leadership throughout the process?
- Who are your community champions? Who will help lead the event?
- How will you engage the media? Social media?
- What sustainable actions do you want to achieve? What are the best practices and remedies that are a good fit?
- What is your plan for following up?

Sustaining the Effort: Summer 2015 and Beyond

- Continue to implement your action plan to impact the hope, engagement and well-being of youth in your community.
- Participate in the Ready by 21 National Meeting in Spring 2015.
- Register for the 2015 Gallup Student Poll in order to track your progress.