**K-12 & College Partnerships   
Community Needs Assessment**

When assessing the viability of a potential partnership between a school district and a college focused on the needs of more vulnerable populations, it is useful to look for key indicators of a commitment to serving struggling students and out-of-school youth. By gathering the responses to these questions, you can better determine if a community has:

* Demonstrated investment of resources to serve struggling students and out-of-school youth,
* Active and healthy partnerships to meet the unique needs of specific populations,
* Realistic expectations of the program and clear metrics to measure success,
* Supportive policy and funding environments.

**Consider these questions to help you understand the agreements you will need to deepen your K-12 Partnerships**

Do the college and school district share a vision for which student population most needs and can benefit from an intervention to support their postsecondary trajectory?

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Does your shared vision include any specific criteria, such as: academic skills, attendance, college placement scores, behavior referrals, ELL status, foster-care status, parenting?

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How well do your Early College and/or Dual Enrollment student demographics match the student populations that are in greatest need of an intervention?

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To what extent is there a commitment from your local school district(s) to make off-track students and out-of-school youth a priority?

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Has the college included off-track students and out-of-school youth in its strategic plans or goals?

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What are other alternative programs in the community that serve a similar population? How would a college-based program complement or compete with them?

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How does the school district assess the efficacy of its alternative programs? What metrics are used?

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What percentage of GED earners in your community successfully make the transition to postsecondary education? What percent graduate from college?

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What process have you used to determine the number of students you can realistically serve with a college-based program? Based on your initial assessment, what is the number (or range)?

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Does the school district have an “early warning system” in place to identify off-track students early in their high school career? If so, how is the warning system used to inform high schools and/or other partners?

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Are there eligibility guidelines for dual enrollment or other college-based programs that may reduce access to particular student populations?

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Do current college/K-12 partnerships operate sustainably with sufficient resources to achieve their stated objectives?

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