

Guiding Principles for Positive Youth Development

We want to become the most equitable community for youth in the nation. These principles are the standards we have established to guide our decisions and the way we work together in the pursuit of building a holistic, asset-based, collaborative system where youth can thrive in Bartholomew County.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE	WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOUTH	STAKEHOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES	PRINCIPLE IN PRACTICE
Youth-Centered	"Treat me with respect and allow my voice to be heard"	Create an atmosphere that allows youth to feel heard, respected, and affirmed with every contact. Youth are provided clear and appropriate messages about their rights and responsibilities.	The system enables the radical engagement of youth and family voice in the development of the community, participating in groups where decisions affecting them get made, and in creating new initiatives and evaluating their effectiveness
Asset-Based	"Help me build on my strengths and push me to keep getting better"	Realize that everyone is an asset-builder; there are untapped resources and capacities inherent in every youth, family and community	Frameworks including Developmental Assets, Relationships, and Trauma-Informed Care are used as a common language and approach across the system
Equity-Focused	"Support me with what I need to achieve my potential"	Proactively reinforce policies, practices, and attitudes that produce equitable power, access, opportunities, and outcomes for all youth	The development of customized pathways through the system and support strategies for targeted populations of youth
Culturally-Competant	"Show me that I belong and respect me for who I am"	Authentically bring the perspectives and contributions of all people to the table, and incorporate their needs, assets, and perspectives into the design and implementation of processes and policies	The ability to identify personal and institutional barriers within all systems and pursue inclusive strategies that ensure equal opportunities for all youth
Proactively-Supportive	"Help me achieve my goals"	Consistently evaluate and adapt the work to ensure a cohesive social system that better serves all youth	Structure a physically and emotionally safe environment that builds mutual trust between youth and adults and provides support and advocacy for youth to achieve their goals
Community-Engaged	"Connect me with people and places in the community"	Provide young people opportunities in the community to learn and develop new skills and interests with other youth and adults	Developmental Asset Survey scores for community engagement should increase, and more stakeholders will commit to serving the whole child in a systemic way
Measured-Achievement	"My life outcomes are improved"	Set goals collectively and accept mutual responsibility for achieving them. The goal is to move toward shared, real-time, youth-specific, predictive data	Common data dashboards and case management systems are used among the stakeholders