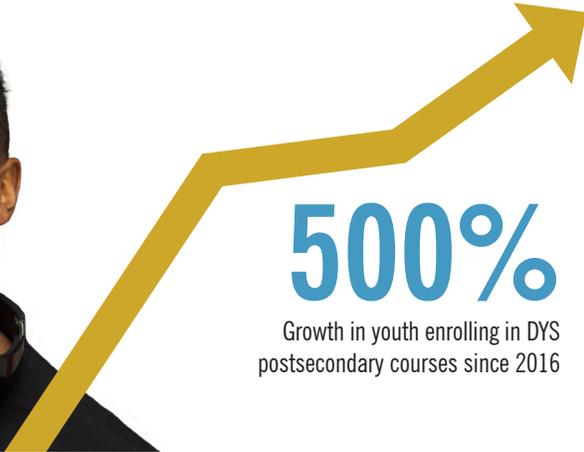




# COLLABORATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DYS EDUCATION PRACTICE BRIEFS: **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**



**THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS** taking advantage of postsecondary education opportunities while committed to Department of Youth Services (DYS) is growing significantly year on year. From FY2016 to FY2018, the number of **students taking postsecondary courses increased from 16 to 98**, and many students can now consider matriculating into college programs before they transition back to the community.

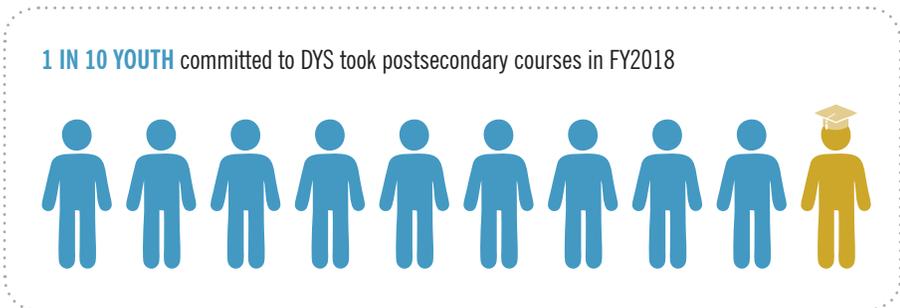
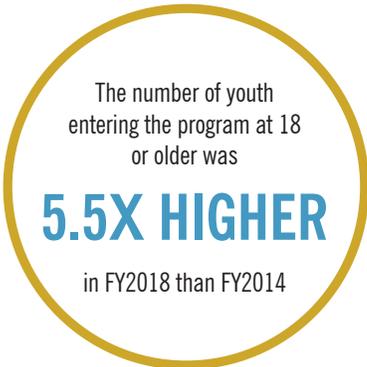
Wendy Taylor, Coordinator of Student Services and Postsecondary Programming for CES, says, “Student

interest is contagious, and as students see other students succeed in the program, they get interested themselves.” She notes that postsecondary programming for youth committed to DYS is changing rapidly in response to students’ needs.

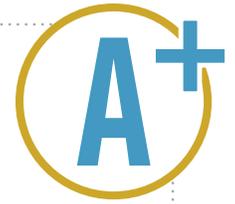
Over the past five years, the average age of youth committed to DYS has been increasing. Planning for their futures and their smooth transitions back to their respective communities has also evolved.

Youth in DYS begin developing their future goals and aspirations as soon as they enter the system. To encourage intentional thought about their futures, CES provides them with the information and support they need to set goals and make a plan. This work to plan systematically for academic and career goals is part of the curriculum.

For many students, explicit planning for the future is new. The process, facilitated by experienced Education and Career Counselors and their teachers, can be surprising and emotional, especially if neither the youth nor the parents have thought that college is possible.



“  
We have more kids coming in with high school diplomas and it’s amazing to see them transition to believing postsecondary education is an option for them. They believe in themselves as college-going students, and that’s been a huge success over the past few years.”  
— Jennifer Graves,  
Lead Education and Career Counselor



**IN A PILOT PROGRAM IN SPRING 2018**, intended to offer more diverse options to students, an adjunct faculty member from Urban College of Boston was invited to teach a course in one of the DYS facilities. The response to the experience from students, program staff and the faculty member was overwhelmingly positive. All students earned an A in the course.

## COLLEGE PROGRAM - A STATEWIDE SOLUTION

Beginning in the fall of 2018, the new College Program allows students to dual enroll or enroll in college and earn up to 12 college credits. Students can matriculate in programs that align with their college and career goals and labor market trends.

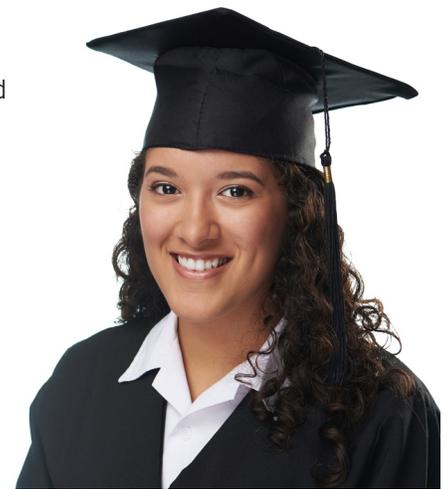
Extensive planning and groundwork were necessary to establish this program, including academic supports such as math and English instruction for college readiness, navigating college bureaucracy, time management and study skills, and financial planning for college.

Education and Career Counselors help students to interface with their college, understand what is needed, fill out forms and complete applications, and get supplies for their courses.

They provide the connection between the community, the colleges, the school districts, and the families working with the caring adults that it takes to make this happen.

**FOUR COLLEGES** now have formalized relationships in place with DYS:

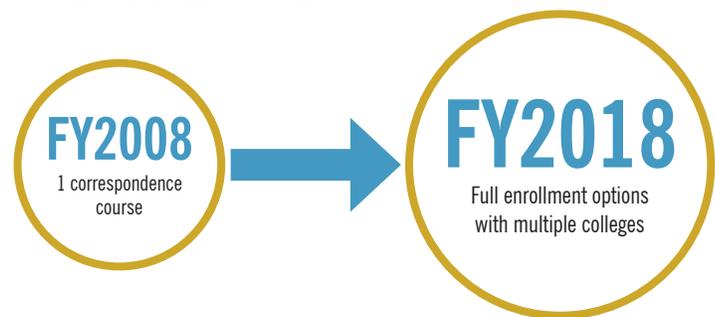
- Bunker Hill Community College
- Holyoke Community College
- Quincy College
- Urban College of Boston



One of the most valuable things we can do in this work is to believe in our students' abilities to aspire and reach their goals, and to keep believing in that all the way through. We believe they can be college bound if they desire it."

— Wendy Taylor, M.Ed.,  
Coordinator of Student Services and  
Postsecondary Programming

### POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION EXPANSION:



**collaborative.org** /dys  
Collaborative for Educational Services



The **Comprehensive Education Partnership (CEP)**, made up of DYS, Commonwealth Corporation (CommCorp), and the Collaborative for Educational Services (CES), works together to realize a shared vision for education and career development programming for the youth involved in the juvenile justice system, and detained and committed to the care of DYS. CES works to create access to multiple paths to education and development for these young people.