



FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS YOUTH LIFE SKILLS - EMBODIMENT

Welcome

It is an honor to be entrusted with your education. Thank you for joining our community. We look forward to a positive growth and a commitment to learning. **Welcome!**

Youth Life Skills (YLS) is the Fort Wayne Community Schools “alternative high school program of choice”. **YLS** supports, strengthens and reengages positive decision making by rendering individualized support systems that can assist in building a successful future.

Youth Life Skills (YLS), Fort Wayne Community Schools’ alternative program of choice exists to serve those students who, for a variety of reasons, find it difficult to succeed in the traditional school system.

We provide many varied opportunities for students to learn and develop their potential. Programs of choice and alternative educational pathways develop learners’ skills, attitudes and abilities. Our core values – respect, integrity and compassion – are reflected in our schools’ activities.

Youth Life Skills (YLS) serves young adults, who are enrolled in the Fort Wayne Community Schools grades 9-12 who lack a high school diploma. Many students attend **YLS** for a variety of reasons – credit recovery, the student cannot handle the social or academic pressures of traditional school; they hate school and want to quit; they need to work. The list of reasons is long, but these students have something in common; they are failing in the system. Students are angry, troubled, frightened and some are pregnant or parenting and unable to attend traditional schools. They often feel alone, useless, unworthy, and unloved. Some have been told so often and by so many that, they are losers, they have come to believe it. At **YLS** students choose to be here and they stay because their self-esteem improves; confidence in their own abilities to succeed increase and they look forward to the rest of their lives with anticipation. The staff of **YLS** is committed to providing each student with an opportunity to succeed and to reach his or her fullest potential. Students, teachers, school systems, and communities are experiencing the success of knowing that each student who stays in school and graduates is an achievement to be valued and celebrated.

Youth Life Skills (YLS) may not be the anecdote for every student. However, of the students entering **YLS**’ environment well over 90% of the students attain or make satisfactory progress toward accomplishing their goals each year.

Youth Life Skills (YLS) is grounded in the development and implementation of relationship building to assist students in finding success. To that end, the program and staff are dedicated to providing learning opportunities that are personal and prepare students for the world of work or college. Each staff member is dedicated to connecting to the individual student as a listener, helper, role model, or coach.

Students at **Youth Life Skills (YLS)** have the opportunity to make positive changes in preparation for life. A commitment to take advantage of this opportunity is critical to ongoing success in school and life. Student responsibility will be to share their vision of success and allow us to be a partner in achieving success by following the program expectations. The mission of FWCS is embodied in the philosophy of Youth Life Skills. We believe in educating all students to high standards, enabling them to become productive, responsible



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citizens. We are committed to working cooperatively with parents and the community to prepare our students for success in the endeavors of their choice. We believe that ALL students can succeed.

The comprehensive success of **Youth Life Skills (YLS)** is the students' responsibility. It is their responsibility for embodying Fort Wayne Community Schools' mission, vision, and core values along with the expectations of **YLS** by making sure that others work and behave as expected. We believe the success for one is success for all. **YLS** depends on this commitment.

What is special about the **Youth Life Skills (YLS)**?

Personalization! Some students need more than they can get in the comprehensive high school system. Students who have attended **Youth Life Skills (YLS)** have told us that they need to make a connection to their teachers, receive additional support, be cared about, listened to, not be judged and at the same time be challenged to achieve their potential. Most students appreciate the opportunities afforded them by becoming a **YLS** student.

Emma, a former student of **Youth Life Skills (YLS)**, said: "The sense of community that was created and supported by the staff was my reason for enrolling in **YLS**. Staff and peer relationships were not forced upon us. Often in my home school, I struggled with power trips with other teachers, while **YLS** staff worked hard at connecting with us. The teachers truly cared, and you could really feel that. Today, I am a graduate and enrolled in college".

Youth Life Skills (YLS) can offer individualized learning schedules to meet the needs of students who have work or family commitments. Students on a regular schedule attend four class periods in the morning and four class periods in the afternoon. This enables students to focus on the work and complete courses more quickly. Daily, Monday – Friday, before school and after school time is allotted for special tutoring or individualized instruction.

Students succeed at **Youth Life Skills (YLS)** because they learn in small classes, benefit from a safe structured environment, work to achieve high academic standards and receive one-on-one instruction when they need it.

Students at **Youth Life Skills (YLS)** have made incredible changes through making positive choices about their lives.

The staff at **Youth Life Skills (YLS)** believes, when our children fail in school, the social and economic consequences for both the individual and society are alarming. **YLS** intent is to assist residents within the FWCS area on a continuous basis, in providing each student with appropriate training from which informed decisions can be made.

The first step to entering **Youth Life Skills (YLS)** is to speak with your school administrator or guidance counselor. Students are required to work with their parents, teachers, and school administrators to complete essential documentation. Obligatory documentation includes: **YLS** referral form, a current transcript, and a copy of your GQE scores. Schedule a basic academic skills assessment (TABE). The TABE is given on Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. (**see website for dates**) and should be completed by 11:30 a.m. Students check-in at 7:45 a.m. in



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room 14 lower level of Anthis Career Center. The TABE takes approximately 3.0 hrs. The purpose of the TABE is to provide a foundation for designing a custom pathway based on the student's ability level, academic and personal needs. When a student has been accepted into **YLS**, s/he can attend one of three class sessions: half-day a.m., half-day p.m. or full day depending on availability and age. The three sessions are designated in the chart below:

Academic Scheduling:

AM Session: 8:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. (Early Bird starts at 7:30 a.m. pending schedule).

PM Session: 11:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Full Day Session: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

1. **Reminder:** Special scheduling is available when conducive to the fulfillment of academic requirements leading towards high school diploma.

For additional information, please contact us or visit our website:

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It's never too late to be a Winner ...

