



Connect. Improve. Inspire.

Lifelong success for young people demands cooperation and collaboration between all those who care for and about them¹. We must strengthen our policies, programs and services with *and for* all young people in Colorado, especially those who are experiencing tremendous challenges such as homelessness, involvement with the juvenile justice system, teen parenting, visible and invisible disabilities and identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning.

It's time to join forces and take action.

What is it?

Colorado 9to25 (CO9to25) is a collective, action-oriented network of youth and adults working in partnership to align efforts to achieve positive outcomes for *all* youth in Colorado. It takes collaborative action to ensure that all young people ages 9-25 are *safe, healthy, educated, connected* and *contributing*. It is Colorado's youth system-building effort that continues the work of *Early Childhood Colorado*, the early childhood system for Colorado children ages 0-8.

The CO9to25 Leadership Team invites you to participate by:

- Coordinating your actions and working collaboratively across sectors, with youth and nontraditional partners
- Aligning your efforts toward shared outcomes
- Building skills, opportunities and relationships with young people and those who serve them
- Helping to identify gaps, where to allocate resources, what policies to develop or change
- Advocating for policies and practices that improve the health and well-being of youth.

Who is involved?

Young people, public and private, state, local and community leaders including youth and young adults developed the strategic direction and framework for CO9to25. They invite the participation of anyone interested in partnering with youth to achieve positive education, health, development and economic outcomes.

CO9to25 is for YOU if you believe in:

- Working together to ensure all youth in Colorado are safe, healthy, educated, connected and contributing so they can reach their full potential
- Taking a “whole child approach” in working with young people, including addressing the individual youth, their families, communities and policies and systems that impact them
- Committing to focus on positive outcomes for youth – not just on risks
- Partnering with youth and young adults to achieve better results
- Promoting social justice and health equity
- Measuring our efforts with the same tools so we can monitor progress and success

None of us can do it alone. Ensuring that young people are safe, healthy, educated, connected and contributing requires cross-sector coordination. In a time of economic uncertainty when we are constantly asked to do more with less, we must align our work to achieve greater results. By aligning our collective interests and resources, we can inspire much-needed changes in public and private planning and decision making to improve the health and well-being of youth across our state.

To receive more information, please visit www.co9to25.org or contact Audra Bishop at audra.bishop@state.co.us

¹ *Success for Life: A Call for Collaborative Action on Behalf of Massachusetts Youth*



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Colorado 9to25 Indicators

Colorado 9to25 aims to ensure that:

1. All youth are safe.
2. All youth are physically and mentally healthy.
3. All youth receive a quality education.
4. All youth are connected to caring adults, school and their communities.
5. All youth are contributing to their community (e.g. volunteering, working).

Below are the final indicators chosen to measure the above goals. Stakeholders who prioritized these include adults representing both state and local agencies working in all CO9to25 goal areas; urban and rural community-based organizations; and parents and healthcare providers. In addition, **over 61 youth voted on their top 3 indicators** within each of the 5 goal areas. These young people represented a wide array of experiences, including but not limited to diversity in geographic location, race and ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexual orientation and involvement in numerous youth-serving systems. (*Please Note: Data sources for the indicators include Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, Department's of Labor & Employment, Education and Public Health and Environment.*)

Goal 1: All youth are safe

1. **School Safety:** Percent of 9th-12th grade students who did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school on one or more of the past 30 days
2. **Relationship Violence:** Percent of 9th-12th grade students who report that their boyfriend or girlfriend ever hit, slapped or physically hurt them on purpose during the past 12 months
3. **Teen Driving Safety:** Motor vehicle crash fatalities per 100,000 teens ages 15-19

Goal 2: All youth are mentally and physically healthy

1. **Mental Health:** Percent of 9th-12th grade students who report ever feeling so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities during the past 12 months
2. **Binge Drinking:** Percent of 9th-12th grade students who had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row, within a couple of hours, on one or more of the past 30 days
3. **Teen Births:** Births per 1,000 females ages 15-17

Goal 3: All youth receive a quality education

1. **School Completion:** Graduation rate
2. **School Achievement:** Percent of 9th-12th grade students who report that teachers really care about them and give them a lot of encouragement
3. **School Quality:** Percent of 9th-12th grade students who feel that the school work they are assigned is meaningful and important

Goal 4: All youth are connected

1. **School Connectedness:** Percent of 9th-12th grade students who report participating in any extracurricular activities in school
2. **Youth and Adult Connectedness:** Percent of 9th-12th grade students who report that if they had a serious problem, they know someone in or out of school whom they could talk to or go to for help
3. **Youth Homelessness:** Number of youth in grades 9-12 experiencing homelessness in Colorado communities

Goal 5: All youth are contributing

1. **Community Engagement:** Percent of 9th-12th grade students who report that they try to help when they see people in need.
2. **Community Involvement:** Percent of 9th-12th grade students who performed any organized community services as a non-paid volunteer during the past 30 days
3. **Youth Employment:** Percent of youth and young adults ages 14-21 searching for jobs through workforce development centers who gained employment