



Alignment of HUNE Youth Programs to Pennsylvania Core Standards: Overcoming Graduation Barriers



Hispanos Unidos para Niños Excepcionales (HUNE) Mission

HUNE empowers and supports parents of children and youth with exceptionalities in obtaining a quality public education, so that the students will lead rich, active lives and attain future success.

HUNE's Youth Programs

HUNE has developed their youth programs with the Pennsylvania State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) goal of improved graduation rate for students with disabilities. These educational opportunities include an After-School Program that operates during the school year and a Summer Program. The Youth Programs use several interventions to assist students in overcoming challenges associated with their disabilities in order to increase graduation outcomes. The primary HUNE Youth Programs interventions used to assist students consist of individual/family counseling, trainings for families, community/school outreach, and secondary transition.

The Youth Programs foster collaborative relationships with students' principals, teachers, and special education professionals within charter schools and the School District of Philadelphia. HUNE works with school staff to provide extra supports such as homework assistance and counseling with the student or students' family to focus on core challenges affecting students who are in need of interventions. HUNE finds that working together as a team, comprised of the student, the student's family, and school

personnel, allows for a more integrated system of communication to develop over time. This practice has proven to be one of the major strengths in helping students with disabilities overcome the challenges they face in maintaining satisfactory academic performance, resulting in higher graduation rates.

Summer and After-school Youth Programs

The mission of HUNE's After-School and Summer Youth Programs is to empower youth 14 to 21 years of age to stay in school, graduate, and become contributing members of society.

The goals of the programs are aligned to the Pennsylvania State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) by including the following outcomes:

- Increase on-track factors that impact high school graduation (i.e., attendance, behavior, and course performance)
- Create a safe, culturally responsive place for students with and without disabilities
- Improve students' social skills
- Increase participation within the community
- Increase school retention
- Increase the level of graduation rates

Program Activities Align to Pennsylvania Core Standards

HUNE mentors have received professional development on aligning their program activities to the Pennsylvania Core Standards and the Pennsylvania English Language Proficiency Standards to ensure that the students being served

are receiving an appropriate education. Youth Program mentors are in constant communication with charter schools and the School District of Philadelphia and use the students' IEP goals to plan their HUNE program activities.

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HUNE Summer and After-School Youth Programs are aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards and State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) to increase on-track factors that impact school graduation (i.e., attendance, behavior, and course performance).



Completion for All Pennsylvania Students

Do you know a student who is considering dropping out of school?

We can help!

(215) 425-6203

Success Stories

Mother: Cheri Honkala

My son is Guillermo Santos and he was recently diagnosed with Autism/Asperger's Level One. For the last two years, we have struggled to find someone to help Guillermo with his school, not just academically but with the other issues the children like my son suffer with: sensory issues, social skills, emotional issues and bullies. I am grateful to HUNE! They immediately embraced my son and are working with him. It has also been a huge support for me as well. My son and I are no longer alone in this fight to secure help for him with his disability.



HUNE is an amazing program that more children I know could benefit from their services!

Student: Guillermo Santos

How has HUNE helped me? Well the short answer is "in every way," the long answer takes more than three words to explain. I've become more social and a better student all because of this program. Now, I'll admit, it does sound odd that a place dedicated to individual learning would make me more social, but it has! Giving me a safe environment to communicate and interact with people has carried over

greatly to my everyday life. At school I've become more social, making new friends and becoming closer to the ones I already had. And on the learning front, I've become a better student, having people to bounce my writings on has given me a lot of ideas and let me find problems I wouldn't have been able to find. It's even allowed me to take more experimental ideas, right now I'm writing an essay about the presidents that deserve an action movie! So I'd have to definitely say HUNE has helped me more than anything.

Resources for Families

- HUNE, www.huneinc.org
- PaTTAN, Increasing Graduation Rates and Decreasing Dropout Rates Initiative, www.pattan.net
- PaTTAN, Parental Engagement Initiative, www.pattan.net
- PaTTAN, Parent Information, www.pattan.net
- PYLN, Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network, www.pyln.org
- The PEAL Center, www.pealcenter.org