RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOLS

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WHY DOES OUR COUNTRY NEED RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOLS?

98% of adolescents returning from residential treatment to their old school reported being offered drugs on their first day back (Spear & Skala, 1995).

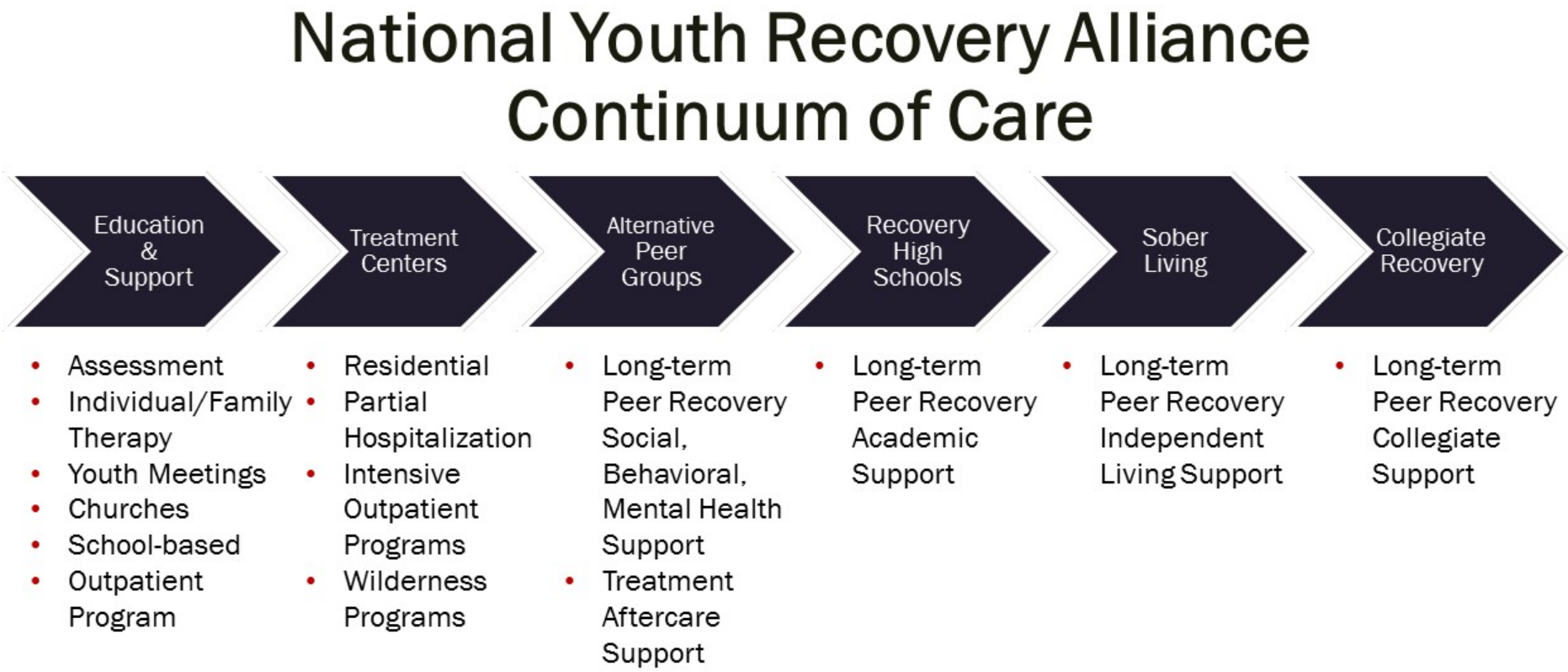
87% of students in their first 60 days of sobriety report school as being one of the most influential factors in the success OR failure of their recovery (Moberg &Finch, 2007)

Students with a history of substance abuse have:

- Greater resistance to school/authority
- Lower grades
- More absences
- Higher drop out rates
- Poor reputations with teachers/administrators
- More mental health symptoms presenting at school

(SAMHSA 2014)

EVERY PART OF THE CONTINUUM IS NECESSARY AND VALUABLE



OVERVIEW AND HISTORY

- Founding RHSs: The PDAP School in Texas (1976); The Phoenix School in Maryland (Est. 1979)
- Longest running school is P.E.A.S.E Academy (Minnesota) operating for 29 years
- Association of Recovery Schools founded in 2002
- Approximately 1,200 students enrolled in RHS each year
- 42 Recovery High Schools operating in 16 states
- 13 new school efforts

RHS: SECONDARY SCHOOLS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR STUDENTS IN RECOVERY FROM SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

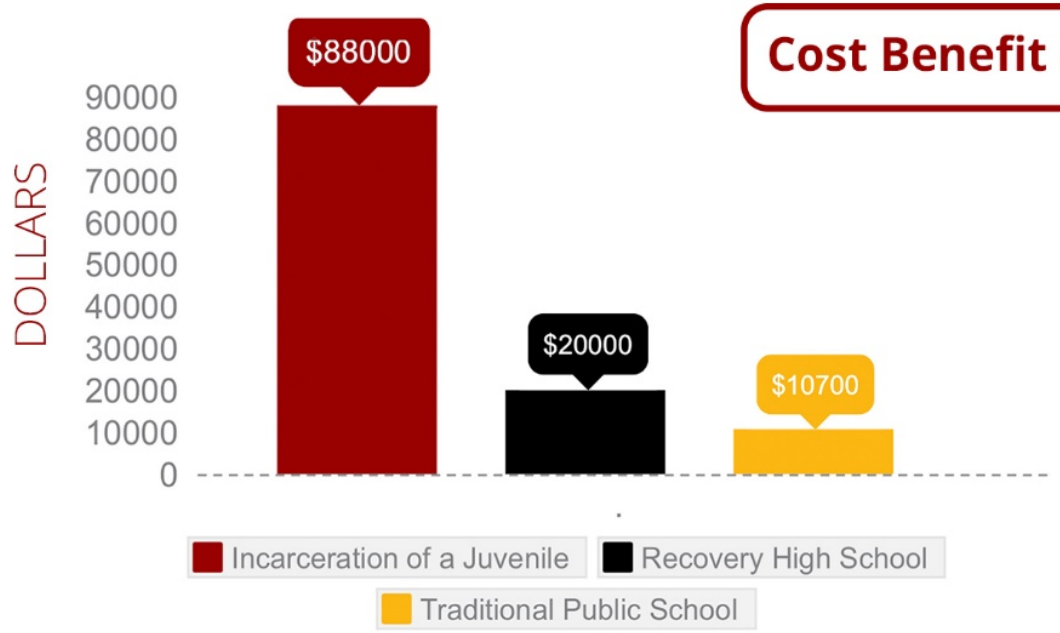
- Educate students in recovery from substance use disorders and co- occurring disorders
- Meet state requirements for awarding a secondary school diploma
- All students enrolled must be in recovery and working a program of recovery as determined by the student and the school
- Available to any student in recovery who meets state and district eligibility requirements for attendance

RECOVERY SCHOOLS: UNIQUE NEEDS AND CREATIVE PROGRAMMING

- Peer Support
- Community/Fellowship
- Service Work
- Accountability and Consistency
- Therapeutic support/contracts
- Small classes
- Individualized educational plans (credit recovery)
- Academic flexibility
- Sensitivity to “knowledge gaps”
- Transitions/Post Secondary Education

archway ACADEMY

Cost Benefit of RHS's to Taxpayers



ASSOCIATION OF ARs RECOVERY SCHOOLS

Whereas the cost of educating a student in a recovery high school is nearly twice as much as educating a student in a traditional public school, it is less than a quarter of the cost of incarcerating a juvenile. First-year post-treatment relapse rates for adolescents range from 60-70%.

Source: The Association of Recovery Schools; The Costs of Confinement: Why Good Juvenile Justice Policies Make Good Fiscal Sense, http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/09_05_rep_costsofconfinement_jj_ps.pdf; Per Pupil Spending Varies Heavily Across the United States, http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2015/cb15-98.html, June 02, 2015

NATIONAL MOVEMENT ASSOCIATION OF RECOVERY SCHOOLS

Mission

The Association of Recovery Schools advocates for the promotion, strengthening, and expansion of secondary and post-secondary programs designed for students and families committed to achieving success in both education and recovery.

ARS exists to support such schools which, as components of the recovery continuum of care, enroll students committed to being abstinent from alcohol and other drugs and working a program of recovery.

Key Elements

Strengths of peer influence

Value on community

Holistic school programming

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