SUCCESSFUL EXIT STRATEGIES – LEAVE WITH THE DOOR OPEN TO RETURN

Use these strategies, adapted from the All In For Youth Successful Exit Strategies A Best Practice Outline to ensure an intentional, consistent and proactive process for helping students exit school with a plan in place for a successful return:

1. Whenever possible, departing students should complete an exit interview with a school staff member focused on collecting information that would assist when trying to reengage that student at a later date:
   a. Leaving date
   b. Reason(s) for leaving
   c. Strengths or interests that might help any future discussion and planning for a reconnection with the student (see Exit Interview Template - click here)

2. Key pieces of data required to facilitate reconnecting with a student and that will assist when discussing a student’s return include:
   a. Full Name and name used/nickname
   b. Current address and phone numbers including mobile and home
   c. Email or text address if this is a preferred method of contact
   d. Parent or guardian contact information whenever possible

3. If students take a leave, create a success package they can take with them, including:
   a. Student ‘keep the door open’ card.
   b. List of local community resources – if your school does not have one, see the Developing a List of Community Resources and Services: Tip Sheet or use the ‘when you need to reach out’ cards.
   c. Your Education, Your Way: A guide to finishing high school and planning for success.
   d. This Way Forward: A guide to resources available in the community.