



TAG in Action: MY TURN

As part of its national call to action, **Adolescent Health: Think, Act, Grow**® (TAG), the Office of Adolescent Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has identified a number of successful strategies for improving adolescent health throughout the country.

The Goal

MY TURN provides youth with comprehensive workforce recruitment, education, exploration, preparation, placement, and follow-up to ensure they are successful in achieving their career and education goals.

The Game Plan

MY TURN operates academic and employment training programs for young people aged 14 to 24 in high schools and communities across New Hampshire and North Central Massachusetts. Although each program is unique and designed to meet the needs of the community it serves, every MY TURN program is built upon a comprehensive and effective workforce development model, takes a holistic approach to providing services, and ensures that a focus on outcomes drives all activities from recruitment to follow-up.

MY TURN utilizes three unique models to deliver services: Diploma Plus Programs work with students actively enrolled in high school to prepare them for success in career or college; Employment Plus Programs work with students who have graduated from or dropped out of high school to prepare them for careers utilizing a combination of post-secondary training and internships; and Manufacturing Training Programs that prepare highly motivated young people for exciting careers in manufacturing through collaboration with local industry partners.

MY TURN staff are chosen and rewarded for their exhibition of MY TURN's five core values of empowerment, enthusiasm, integrity, relentlessness, and excellence. Staff must be deeply committed to working with young people; however, they must also be able to collect and utilize data regularly. For example, staff may look at trends in retention rates with different employers or sectors, or they may review students' school attendance and training participation rates to identify any young people that may need additional support.

The Winning Plays

Allison Joseph, Executive Director of MY TURN, shared that, "It is really our staff and their dedication that makes a difference. We have a hierarchy of how we approach things: our students come first, then our staff, our employers, and our funders - in that order. We use a very student-centered approach, but we have to keep track of it all. We also work off a hierarchy of needs with the students. Youth need to be housed, clothed, fed, and safe before we can address academics or employment. Everybody's needs are addressed on a case by case basis. We work to remove every barrier humanly possible. We are relentless."

Learn More

MY TURN, Inc.
<https://www.my-turn.org>

