



Mission
WEST VIRGINIA

THE BRIDGE: OUTCOME REPORT

2022 - 2023 School Year

The Bridge

A Program of Mission West Virginia, Inc.



ABOUT THE BRIDGE PROGRAM:

Since 2017 Mission West Virginia's Bridge program has placed Mentors in public high school settings where they support students in foster care, kinship care, or youth experiencing homelessness towards academic success. Each student and their Mentor set personalized goals while focusing on attendance, behavior, and grades. Mentors motivate students to achieve greatness through consistent one on one meetings, educational advocacy, dropout prevention, family engagement, and post-secondary planning. The following report displays our outcomes from the 2022-2023 school year.

THE NEED:

There are currently over 6,400 youth in foster care in West Virginia. WV has the highest number of deaths due to opioid overdoses per capita. Only 58% of youth in care will graduate high school by age 19 with less than 3% of those youth obtaining a college degree by age 25. WV has one of the highest rates of youth being raised by grandparents or other guardians different from their biological parents.

OUR POPULATION:

This year a total of **217*** students were served in the Bridge Program. **189** out of **217** completed the school year with their Mentors. Out of those students:

- **15%** Foster Care
- **64%** Kinship Care
- **21%** McKinney Vento (Legally Homeless)
- **20%** of students this year held an IEP/504 plan

**28 students exited the program due to changes in placement, homebound, virtual learning, or program refusal*

BRIDGE LOCATIONS & STUDENTS SERVED:

- Boone Co: Sherman High School, Scott High School (**69**)
- Clay Co: Clay County High School (**50**)
- Kanawha Co: Herbert Hoover High School, Sissonville High School (**73**)
- Putnam Co: Hurricane High School, Putnam Career & Technical Center (**25**)


"I've said it again and again, in terms of helping students actually do what they need to do to get on track, pass classes, graduate, and pursue a job or education after high school -- the Bridge is the best!"

Clay Co. School Psychologist



EVIDENCE BASED RESULTS

What is C&C: The Bridge is implemented and modeled after Check and Connect, a Nationally recognized intervention-based program created by the University of Minnesota for students who show warning signs of disengagement in school and who are at risk of dropping out. Data is tracked annually, measuring student attendance, behavior, and grades.



70% decrease
in absences



67% of students had an increase
in their overall GPA



89% decrease
in suspensions



100%

of 9th, 10th, and 11th
grade students advanced
to the next grade level



100%

of Seniors graduated with
their diploma for the 8th
year in a row

"Their success and dedication to students has helped them to grow. We are honored that Bridge Mentors use the Check & Connect model!" -Ann Thompson Check and Connect Representative

GRADUATION

At the end of each school year, we beam with pride as we say our bittersweet goodbyes to the Seniors in the Bridge Program. Some of our 12th graders have been with their Mentors since their Freshman year and the progress they made throughout the years comes to the highlight of graduation.



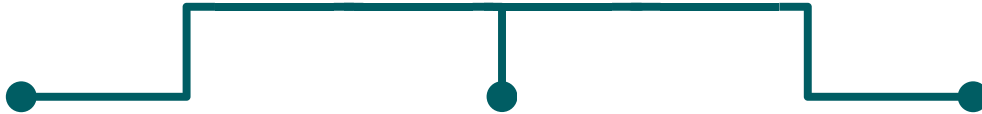
54 High School Seniors



100% Graduation Rate



99% Post Secondary Plan Rate



75% College



23% Work Force



1% Military

"My Bridge mentor has always treated me like one of her own and I truly believe I wouldn't be as successful as I have been without being in the Bridge program. My Mentor has provided me with the life skills and support I need to succeed after high school. The Bridge program has absolutely impacted me and my future for the better."

Bridge Graduate. Class of 2023



CONSISTENCY

We understand that change cannot take place and goals cannot be accomplished without consistent Mentoring. Caseload sizes are kept at a range of 30-35 students per Mentor to allow time for each student's unique needs to be assessed. When students realize their mentor will keep showing up for them, we see long term change.

DURING THE 22/23 SCHOOL YEAR MENTORS HELD:

5,159 One-On-One meetings with their students



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Family engagement starts from day one – not just when a child is struggling in school. Mentors check in with guardians when a student achieves goals or is making progress at school.

When guardians hear from us it is not just to receive bad news, it is also to celebrate their child and helps them to understand that we value their role and want to include them in the narrative of their child's education.



**511 FAMILY
ENGAGEMENTS**

“ Thank you for saving her. You have helped so much with your positive view. She knows she can count on you for support. -Kinship Caregiver ”

FILLING THE GAPS

To us, filling gaps in a student's life extends beyond the classroom. A top priority of the Bridge Program is to help students not just survive but thrive. Much of this includes ensuring that kids have an equitable high school experience to that of their peers. During the 2022-2023 school year we provided these items to students in the following categories:



PRACTICAL NEEDS

- Emergency Wardrobes
- Hygiene Products
- School Supplies

HOLIDAY

- Christmas gifts / stockings
- Birthday gifts
- Holidays through the year

MILESTONE EVENTS

- Prom tickets and attire

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Team / Club uniforms
- Membership fees

GRADUATION COSTS

- Cap and Gown sets
- Senior photoshoots
- Senior class shirts
- Yearbooks

TRANSPORTATION

- KRT Bus passes
- Gas gift cards
- DMV testing costs / ID's
- Bicycles

POST SECONDARY READINESS

- Standardized testing fees
- College tours

DMV TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

You don't hear this often, but we couldn't wait to take a trip to the DMV. For our students in the Bridge, the opportunity means a lot more than what we often think of as a chore. Birth certificates were purchased from vital statistics and 23 juniors and seniors were transported to the DMV. Once there, students had the opportunity to take their learners permit test and get official ID's which they will use to achieve their future plans.



FEEDBACK FROM OUR STUDENTS:

"This will make it easier to apply to jobs."

"I can apply to colleges which will help me decide what's best for my future."

"I will be able to use this to get my driver's license in the future."

"I had no other way to get my ID, I will use this to apply to college."

WHERE WE ARE HEADED NEXT

3 NEW schools

with 3 new mentors in
August for the
23/24 SY



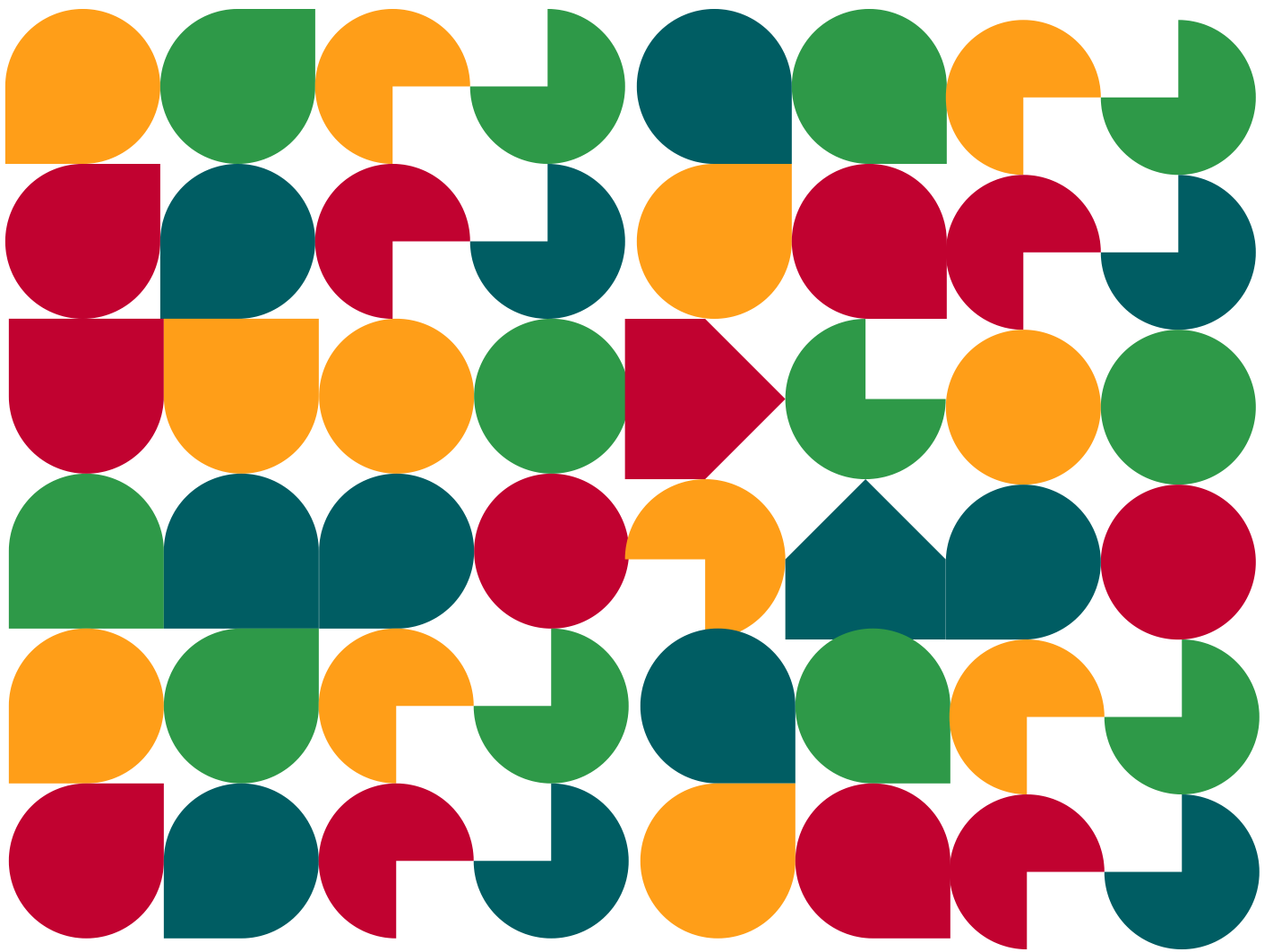
300+ Students

Anticipate to serve 300+
students by the end of
the 23/34 SY

THANK YOU TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

- WVDOE Department of Diversion and Transition
- WVDOE Office of Student Support & Well-Being
- Milan Puskar Foundation
- Our local county schools and board office for the tremendous support of the Bridge Program
- CC Dickinson Family Grant
- Dingess Rum Award
- Martha Gaines and Russell Wehrle Memorial Foundation
- Papa John's
- Bernard McDonough Foundation
- Moms on a Mission of Hurricane and the Good Samaritan Group of Florida
- Individual Donors





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