Kaleidoscope Connect
Full-spectrum Youth Development

Youth and family engagement for cultivating caring and connected schools and communities.

Schools work to engage the parents and community in the education and preparation of their children. While each student's academic Report Card is important, it only provides half of the story about that student's success. There are measurable metrics that provide data on what we call, "the other side of the report card."

Kaleidoscope Connect's Student Support Card™ correlates each student's academic performance with the developmental ecology that surrounds them. It breaks down barriers, shows the strengths of individual students and families, and where they can make a difference.

Kaleidoscope Connect™ is based on an integrative, full-spectrum approach of youth development, which measures and assesses seven key metrics, what we refer to as "phactors", of a youth's developmental ecology — that is, the nature of the youth themselves and the world around them that affects them.

RED — The Rule of Five (Anchors for the "Web of Support"): The foundation for each youth's own personal village is having five caring adults (or more) in their lives, who have high expectations and provide opportunities, teach skills, and celebrate relative best in appropriate ways.

ORANGE — Tangible Strings (Adding strings to the "Web of Support"): Measurable supports provided through the youth's Anchors that shape their home, school, and community environment.

YELLOW — Intangible Strings (Adding strings of virtues to the "Web of Support"): Important, yet difficult to measure, beliefs, values, and behaviors that are being taught to and caught by the youth.

GREEN — Growing the Balloon: A person's innate characterisitcs, natural abilities, and talents that increase the likelihood they will remain connected to their Web of Support.

BLUE — Scissor Cuts: Reducing or eliminating the conditions, actions, and attitudes that erode the strings being created by the Anchors.

INDIGO — Caring for the Carers (The web beneath your Anchors): Giving back to and showing appreciation for those who anchor your web to keep support them and keep them in your web even when circumstances in their own lives change.

VIOLET — Social Norms (The storm that affects the entire web): The climate and culture of the social environment (home, school, or community) that have been accepted or agreed upon by a critical number of adults.

A Kaleidoscope Snapshot is a measure of the particular mixture and strength of these colors at any given time in a youth's life.

We measure and record these snapshots using our activities, strategies, and tools.

They help give a youth and the people that care about them clarity and insight in order to improve the strength of their positive phactors, reduce the negative phactors, and continuously move and grow themselves into life-long satisfaction and success.

Common Kaleidoscope Connect Components

Phlight Club Academies
This is a multi-day lock-in style student-centered event that actively involves both youth and adults. Connecting Activities and the Student Support Card surveys in the Assessment System help students understand their developmental ecologies and how they can "get from where they are to where they want to be". Mobile computer tablet labs are used to facilitate survey and activity completion.

Student Support Card Assessment System
A Web-based software application with which students, local counselors, school administrators, and program facilitators interact. This application measures and generates a youth's Kaleidoscope Snapshot, taking the Kaleidoscope Connect framwork's measurable metrics to the next level of implementation and usefulness for analyzing and facilitating effective student support. Using the online interface and tools, students complete surveys that measure their developmental ecology and activities. The quantitative data collected from students can be shared to counselors, administrators, and caring and connected adults for identifying and targeting needs for in-time intervention, redirection, and cultivation.

Youth Coaching Training
For key staff who work directly with those students; together with each student, staff uses data (Kaleidoscope Snapshots and other data that the school or other organization deems relevant), along with Appreciative Inquiry and similar methods to help youth thicken their webs of support and their developmental ecologies. This may be done virtually with one of our trainers.

Phlight Connection
Phlight Connection is used for more intensive one-on-one youth coaching and advanced anchoring practice for adults using academic, behavioral, and survey data that will enhance student skills in relationship-building inside and outside of school, improve self-advocacy, strengthen the connection between the student's school success and future goals,and improve the web of social connectedness.

Kaleidoscope Lessons
These 50-minute lessons help teach, reinforce, and remind studens of the principles and practices of the Kaleidoscope Connect framework.

Staff Trainings
Usually within schools and also including other key community partners, as possible; a minimum of one day. Ideally, done annually.

Community Events
These commonly include local organizations, parents, family, tribal members, and "Anchors." Anchors are considered any adult who is in a student's web of support or who would like to be in a student's web of support.

These facilitate the school community (parents, community members, social service providers, youth-serving organizations, teachers, school staff, etc.) to think about what they are currently doing to enrich the developmental/educational ecology of their students.

School (and other) Board Workshops
Annual 2-3 hour workshops help keep policymakers informed and youth-centered.

Seeing In Full Color Handbook
A handbook is commonly produced integrating the inputs from youth and adults within a community about what they are already doing and can think of doing that will help enrich their local youth's developmental ecologies. "String Reporting Forms" are gathered during various events and by participating youth. This is often a huge milestone in the implementation process and for sustainability.

For more information about how Kaleidoscope Connect can be adapted for and implemented in your own school or community:

Contact Cindy Barnes —
cbarnes@brightwayslearning.org
916.209.3516

www.BrightwaysLearning.org