

# RY

## Offers...

Support in the form of caring and acceptance, and life-skills training. The proven keys to success for students, parents and teachers:

-  **For students**—effective knowledge, skills and support for handling school and life challenges.
-  **For parents**—keys to greater understanding and taking action to support teens.
-  **For schools**—enduring help and valuable resources for students.
-  **For communities**—knowledge of a school-based prevention program that helps students enhance school and personal success.

RY offers choices, practical information, proven approaches, and the company of fellow students who may have similar experiences to your own. Working together makes positive change possible!



Let's help teens succeed!



## Together we CAN make a difference!



### Reconnecting Youth is a collaborative project between...

[NAMES OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS ADDED HERE AS APPROPRIATE]



You are invited to **JOIN!**



### Prevention Program

A Peer Group Approach to Building Life Skills

A community Partnership

# What is RY?

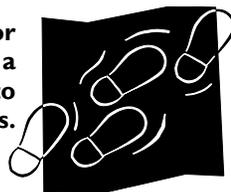
Improving grades and attendance, managing the emotional “ups & downs,” and staying and/or becoming drug-free are challenges often faced by teens in high school. With the support of caring adults in their lives—especially parents and school personnel—teens can learn skills to help them set and achieve goals that lead to:

- ↑ School Performance
- ↑ Mood Management &
- ↑ Drug-Use Control

Reconnecting Youth is an innovative school-based prevention program designed especially for teens. Teens participating in RY research activities told us that the program helped them to achieve:

- 20% ↑ in GPAs
- 60% ↓ in hard drug use
- ↑ Personal control and anger management
- ↑ Self confidence
- Enhanced ability to handle stress
- More positive connections with teachers, friends & family members

Using S.T.E.P.S. for decision-making provides a sense of personal control to help you meet your goals.



“The class seemed to help our son get a sense of purpose again and start moving toward graduation.”

-RY Parent

**What are the goals?** Reconnecting Youth (RY) is a school-based program that emphasizes three primary goals: to increase school performance (grades and attendance), mood management, and ‘drug use control.’

**How does it work?** RY is a semester-long class offered for credit as part of your regular school day. You will spend time in small group activities with 10 or 11 other students and a specially trained RY Leader learning about enhancing self-esteem, decision making, personal control and interpersonal communication. You will also attend special activities and recreational events. This is an excellent opportunity to think about goals and find ways to achieve them!



**Who makes a key difference?** Specially trained RY Leaders are important contributors to positive outcomes for the students. Together, the RY Leader, the RY Coordinator and the RY School-based Support Team provide additional support and advocacy to enhance students’ school experience.

**Who can participate?** RY is designed to serve 9-12th grade high school students who:

- are having a poor school experience,
- are behind in credits,
- have slipping grades,
- are skipping school and/or
- are at risk of dropping out.

Of these students, a group is randomly selected and invited to enroll in the semester-long RY class. It is critical that you make an informed choice to participate, rather than be assigned or forced to take part.

Your written and verbal consent is necessary to be a part of RY. An RY contact will call you to discuss further details within a few days, and again at the start of fall semester. In the meantime please feel free to call one of the numbers listed on the back of this brochure if you have

## What’s in it for you?

This is your invitation to join us! It’s an opportunity for you to develop new and supportive relationships and experience exciting personal successes. You can do this by saying “yes” to this invitation, participating in the RY Class and completing some questionnaires so that we can better understand what you have learned and how the program helped you to better manage the “ups & downs” of the high school experience!

We hope you will say “yes.”

