

Reconnecting Youth (RY)

A Peer Group Approach to Building Life Skills

Reconnecting Youth (RY) is a proven, award-winning program that helps high-risk youth achieve in school and decrease drug use and emotional stress. Designed for students aged 14-18, RY is a high school-based curriculum that uses small group skills training to enhance personal competencies and social support resources.

Reconnecting Youth is an approved Texas Education Agency (TEA) *Innovative Course*. Students who elect to take the course receive .5 state elective credit. In addition, Fort Worth ISD includes the RY program in the districts' *Bulletin 100*.

For over eight years, Santa Fe Youth Services has provided the RY curriculum to high school students attending the Tarrant County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP).

Over the past five years, additional sites have included a number of Tarrant County school districts including Fort Worth, Crowley, Everman, Arlington, and Keller.



What risk factors are addressed?

- ◆ poor school performance and / or truancy
- ◆ depression, aggression and emotional distress
- ◆ drug and/or alcohol involvement
- ◆ negative peer bonding

What are RY Goals?

- ◆ Increase school achievement
- ◆ Decrease drug involvement
- ◆ Increase mood management

When and where are classes held?

- ◆ The program integrates small-group work, social support and life skills training within a school setting.
- ◆ Classes are conducted in daily hour-long class sessions during regular school hours for a full semester.
- ◆ As the curriculum is an approved TEA course, students receive .5 state elective credit for successful completion.

For more information, contact **Cora Mosley, Program Coordinator**