Notes from 11/19/15 on Youth Engagement and Retention:

WHAT IS STUDENT ENGAGEMENT?

\*eyes are on you

\*leadership

\*adults are facilitators/mentors

\*students are actively engaged, as evidenced by being on task or participating

\*students generate ideas and feedback

\*students are involved and invested

\*there is a continuum and spectrum of involvement and investment

\*students are actively questioning, querying

\*attendance

\*students teaching students

***GROUP DEFINED SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES:***

***SUCCESSES***

\*Build relationships with older youth

\*Relate to older youth

\*Youth leadership opportunities

\*Mentor programs (MGM, Link Crew)

\*Meal program promotes attendance

\*Alternative kids involved at the high school level

\*A menu of different activities offered daily

\*Less stressful environment than school day, comfortable, students are happy

\*Peer-to-peer programming or encouragement equals higher attendance

\*Students are safe

\*Tutoring

\*Family resources can help engage students

\*Appropriate transportation

\*Higher attendance and relevant programming can lead to better SBAC scores and higher grad rates

\*Offers student volunteer opportunities

\*Good orientation programs can be an ice breaker that leads to better engagement

\*Inclusive programming

\*Culturally responsive services, programs, clubs

\*Physical activity and nutrition

***CHALLENGES:***

\*Too many activities can compete against one another – dilute overall programming

\*Home life necessities, such as working, babysitting, etc., can be a challenge

\*They don’t wish to participate

\*Parents/youth can view programs as a means of after-school care, not academic or enrichment

\*Cooperation and communication with school administration; system communication

\*Behavior management

\*Pleasing all of the students

\*Instructor availability and/or engagement

\*Students advocating for themselves

\*Recruitment and retainment

\*Competing with partner agencies, such as Boys and Girls – which may be internal and/or next door

\*High quality instruction

\*Multi-interest and ability levels – providing an inclusive environment

\*Academic supports that mirror school day instruction

\*Consistency with rules and administration