



FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS YOUTH LIFE SKILLS



Welcome

The premise behind **Youth Life Skills (YLS)**, FWCS alternative program of choice, is “one size doesn’t fit all.” In other words, not all students will thrive or reach their full potential in the traditional comprehensive school environment.

Youth Life Skills offers a different structure and learning philosophy that accommodates the different needs, interest, and learning styles of its students. The use of flexible scheduling and the manipulation of courses increases attendance and improve performance while fostering student, parent and teacher engagement. To optimize the individual student, **Youth Life Skills** establishes an environment that encourages positive social behaviors and accountability. However, **Youth Life Skills** is not the answer to the needs of all students. **Youth Life Skills (YLS)** may not be the anecdote for every student. However, of the students entering **YLS**’ environment, well over 90% of them attain or make satisfactory progress toward accomplishing their goals each year.

The mission of Fort Wayne Community Schools (FWCS) is embodied in the philosophy of Youth Life Skills. We believe in educating all students to high standards, enabling them to become productive, responsible citizens. We are committed to working cooperatively with parents and the community to prepare our students for success in the endeavors of their choice. We believe the success for one is success for all.

Youth Life Skills (YLS) is the Fort Wayne Community Schools “alternative high school program of choice”. **YLS** supports, strengthens and reengages positive decision making by rendering individualized support systems that can assist in building a successful future. **YLS** serves young adults, who are enrolled in the Fort Wayne Community Schools grades 9-12, who lack a high school diploma. Students attend **YLS** for an array of reasons such as credit recovery, the student cannot handle the social or academic pressures of traditional school; they hate school and want to quit; they need to work. The list of reasons is long, but these students have something in common; they are failing in the system. Students are angry, troubled, frightened and some are pregnant or parenting and unable to attend traditional schools. They often feel alone, useless, unworthy, and unloved. Some have been told so often and by so many that, they are losers, they have come to believe it. At **YLS** students choose to be here and they stay because their self-esteem improves; confidence in their own abilities to succeed increase and they look forward to the rest of their lives with anticipation. The staff of **YLS** is committed to providing each student with an opportunity to succeed and to reach his or her fullest potential. Students, teachers, school systems, and communities are experiencing the success of knowing that each student who stays in school and graduates is an achievement to be valued and celebrated.

J. L^u Marc Outlaw,
YLS Principal/Director
(260) 467-6370 / (260) 467-6371
james.outlaw@fwcs.k12.in.us