

Hello YAB members, Supporters and Allies!

In an effort to continue providing a learning environment for all youth who attend Pennsylvania Youth Advisory Board meetings, we have come up with a few meeting expectations. Please review with youth members before participation. We would appreciate if all participants, youth and staff, would model these expectations. The YAB Statewide meetings also have group guidelines that YAB leaders developed in July 2017 for 2018-2019.

1. 2016-2017 Youth-developed YAB Statewide Group Guidelines

1. Confidentiality and privacy – What is shared during a meeting, remains in the room.
2. Respect Others – opinions and differences
3. Raise Hand to speak
4. Respect the Facility
5. Please be respectful with cell phone use.
6. Avoid Side conversations
7. Stay open to participate and to learn
8. Keep conversations PG-13
9. Communicate information with your regions
10. Dress code for Statewide YAB meetings is Business Casual

2. Dress code for YAB Statewide Meetings is Business Casual:

- Definition of Business Casual: a style of clothing that is less formal than traditional business wear, but is still intended to give a professional and businesslike impression.
- Business casual Suggestions: Sweater, collar without a necktie, polo, blouse, black/brown/navy/gray pants, pressed khakis. Knee Length Skirt or dress.
- Quote: “Dress for the Job you want, not the job you have.”
- Quote: “Always dress like you are at a job interview.”

3. This is an opportunity for **leadership, learning and advocacy** – The purpose of YAB meetings and activities is so that youth have the opportunity to advocate for changes in the system and to learn how to be leaders. Youth should volunteer to participate and see this as more than an opportunity to miss school for the day. While we do all that we can to make activities fun and engaging, sometimes projects require work and patience. This will require youth to be willing to be trained on current trends in the foster care system and to share this information with their regional or local Youth Advisory Boards.
4. It is important that youth have a history of participating and playing a leadership role in their Local or Regional Youth Advisory Boards before participating at the Statewide Youth Advisory Board, so that they can get the most out of this experience.

5. This is an excellent **learning opportunity**, however when meetings take place during school hours, it is important that attendees are in good educational standing. Meaning that they have permission from their teachers and advisors to miss school for a day, and that they have made arrangements to catch up on any work that is missed.
6. **Respect for others** – It is really important that all of our meetings and YAB events are safe for all youth to attend and learn how to be leaders. Bullying, disrespect and making fun of another youth member will not be tolerated.
7. **Cell Phone** – Cell phones need to be on silent or turned off and put away during the meeting to ensure that every youth is able to participate and presenters have their full attention. Music should be turned off so that youth can tune into what's happening during the meeting.
8. **Respect of their environment** – It is important that all participants clean up after themselves. That means they should throw away their lunch when they are finished and take all of their meeting materials with them.
9. **Hotel Needs** – Youth Advisory Board members and their staff who are travelling over 2 hours or 200 miles to Statewide YAB meetings at the Child Welfare Resource Center are able to request hotel reservations. The cost of hotel reservations comes out of Regional YAB budgets. Please discuss with your regional YABs on how you would like to handle hotel reservations for statewide meetings.
10. **Hotel Roommates** – Due to changes in CPSL, The Child Welfare Resource Center will no longer room youth who are over the age of 18 with youth who are under the age of 18. Keep this in mind when requesting hotel reservations for statewide meetings, as it will impact the number of rooms needed.