

Youth Interview Questions

Talents/interests

1. Are there particular things that you're interested in or feel that you're good at, such as, sports, music, computers, or a hobby? (*If so...*) How often are you able to do those things? How do you feel when you're doing them?

Use of enrichment resources

2. Are you involved in organized activities after school or on the weekends, such as a sports team, or club? How often do you do that activity? Do you enjoy it? Have you had a leadership role in any of them (*e.g., team captain, mentor, lead role*)?
3. Are there activities you'd like to do but don't know how to get involved?

Build peer relationships

4. Do you feel comfortable in building friendships with other teens/other kids your age? Are you someone who likes to have a lot of friends, or a few close friends? Do you think your friends influence you in mostly positive or mostly negative ways? Are you able to resolve conflicts when they come up? Do you think you are ever the leader in your group?

Build mentor/adult relationships

5. Is there a key person in your life who helps you with things related to school (*e.g., homework, goes to meetings with teachers, helps you figure out courses to take or what to do for college*)? Who is that person? What does s/he do to help?
6. Are there other adults in your life who you respect and you would like to have as part of a group helping you with school? Who are they?
7. Do you feel confident in building relationships with adults or asking adults for help when you need it?

Behavior at school

8. How would you describe your behavior at school? What helps you to have good behavior? Why do you think that your behavior at school isn't always appropriate?

Post Secondary Plans

9. Do you know yet what kind of job or career you'd like to have when you're older? Do you know what you'll need to do to get that job or career? Have you talked with any adult about your career interests?

Use for youth below grade 12: Have you thought about going to college, to a vocational school, or into the military? What do you think you'd like to do? What plans do you think you'll need to make to do that? Is there anything you're worried about? What do you think you might need help with? Have you talked with any adult about going to college?

Use for youth in grade 12: Have you thought about going to college, to a vocational school, or into the military? Have you talked with any adult about going to college? Do you know what steps to take to apply to college/military? Have you taken any of those steps yet? Which ones? What do you think you might need help with?

Special Education

10. *Only ask if Foster Focus or other records indicate the student is a special education student (e.g., they have an IEP or 504 plan):* I saw in your records that you have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)/504 plan. Has a teacher, parent, or caregiver ever talked to you about that? Do you feel you are getting the support you need in school? [If not,] what other support would you like to have?

English Language Learner (ELL) Services

11. *Only ask if Foster Focus or other records indicate the student is an English Language Learner student, or Education Liaison observes that student has difficulty with English:* What languages do you speak? Do you feel you are getting the support you need at school to read, write and speak English fluently?

Note to Education Liaisons: The next set of interview questions are about character. The youth questionnaire also contains questions on character. For now, we will ask about character both in interviews and the questions. After doing this for a while, we'll decide as a group the most effective way to understand youths' character strengths and needs.

Zest

12. Do you tend to participate in classroom discussions at school? How about when you have a school project? Do you ever get excited about it and want to work on it?
13. Do you think you get others interested in doing things? Can you give examples?

Grit

14. Would you say that you take responsibility and do what you need to do to achieve your goals in school and in life? In what way(s)?
15. Do you ask for help when you need it? Can you give examples?
16. Do you keep trying to do something even when you are having problems or failing with it? Can you give examples?

Optimism

17. Do you believe that if you make the effort that you will be able to accomplish something or have a better future?
18. When you experience difficulty or failure, are you able to get over it quickly and move on?

Self-control

19. Are you able to work out disagreements with other students by talking with them, or do you do something else (e.g., fight, mope, ignore it)?

Curiosity

20. Do you get interested in new things? Can you give me examples?