

Summary of the State of Youth in La Plata County

- La Plata County is well above average for having healthy family relationships
- A surprisingly low number of students experience supportive neighbors
- Only 43% in La Plata County said that school provides an encouraging environment.
- Less than half said that parents were not actively helping them succeed in high school.
- Only 27% of Animas students believe adults value youth, compared w/ 33% in La Plata County
- Other empowerment measures have gone up 25% in La Plata County from 2008 to 2014
- Only 28% said that adults in their life model positive, responsible behavior
- Animas students were above average in reporting they used their time constructively
- The percentage of students attending parties with alcohol jumps from 19% to 44% in 9th grade
- Animas students were more engaged in school than the La Plata County average
- La Plata youth jumped 10% in all positive value questions except “restraint” from 2008 to 2014
- “Restraint” (not having sex or using drugs and alcohol) stayed at 46%; for Animas it was 32%
- Less than half of students report social competencies such as having knowledge about and comfort with people of different races, having empathy (37% at Animas) and knowing how to plan ahead
- Animas scored lower than La Plata County on self-esteem, sense of purpose, and sense of control over one’s life

Issue Ideas:

Youth employment/wages
Homelessness
Pollution/mining
Substance abuse
Youth relations with police
Lack of voice for youth power

Climate change
Peer pressure
Education
Mental health of youth
Income inequality
School-to-prison pipeline