



Becoming A Triple Threat:

How One South Side Alternative High School Is
Preparing Their Graduates to Be College-Ready,
Work-Ready, and Entrepreneurship-Ready

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Community Youth Development Institute

Founded 1996

Youth Connection Charter School

Auburn Gresham, Chicago

Who we serve...




Alternative School?

When You Think About Alternative Schools,
What Comes To Mind?

“CYDI Transitioned From Alternative
To Preferred”



CYDI Students Are...



CPS Transfer Students



Home Schooled Students



Students New or Returning To Chicago



Children of CYDI Alumni

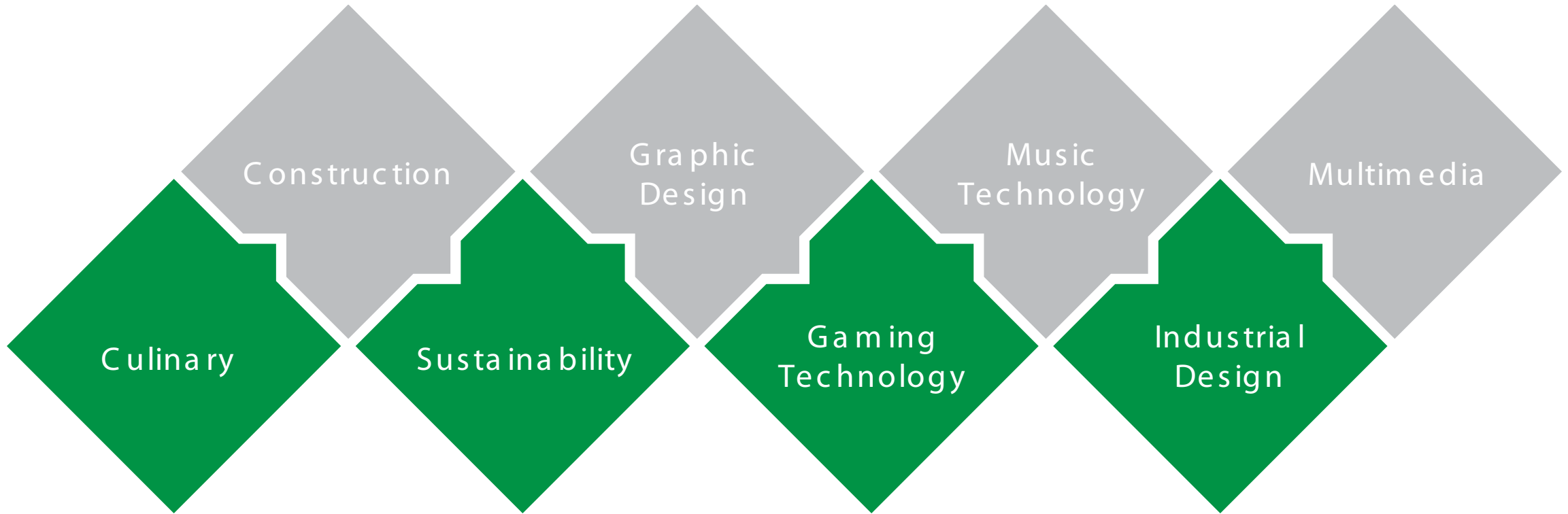


Students Interested in A Hands-On Learning Experience

What Makes CYDI Unique?

Re-Imagine School | Blended Learning Model

Career Labs



What Makes CYDI Unique?

Individual Learning Plans

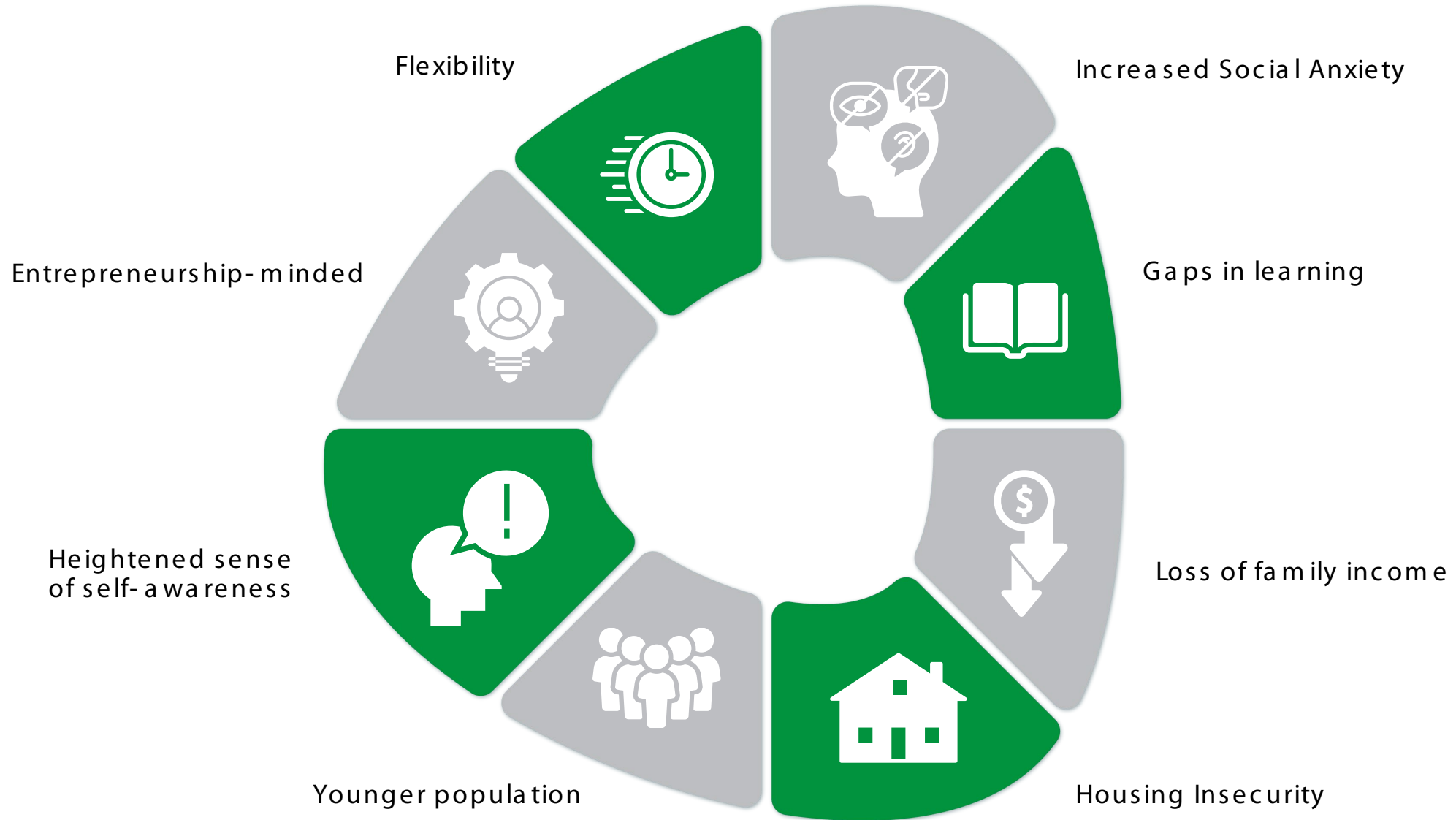
Small class sizes

1 Staff/3 Student Ratio

Intervention Team



CYDI Post-Covid



Triple Threat Model



College-Ready

- College Placement Test
 - Graduation requirement
- Dual Credit
 - Kennedy King College
 - Saint Xavier University
- Lunch and Learn
- College Exploration
 - Voorhees University/HBCU Tour
 - College visits/tours



Work-Ready

- Lunch and Learn
- YouthBuild
- Illinois Youth Investment Program (IYIP)
- Industry- Recognized Certifications
- Workplace Experience



Entrepreneurship-Ready

- Integrated Business Curriculum
- Dual Credit- Intro to Business and Entrepreneurship
- Business Plans
- Shark Tank presentations
- Lunch and Learn



SEL Intervention Team

- Assistant Principal
- Dean of Students
- 5 Support Staff Members
 - 2- Workforce Development
 - 1- Restorative Practices/Athletics
 - 1- Youth-In-Care
 - 1- Student Orientation Leader/Advisory curriculum lead
- Daily advisory class
- Daily attendance calls
 - Identify individual barriers
 - Communicate parents regarding absences
 - Note challenges and bring to the team
- Weekly intervention meeting
 - Review each student attendance record
 - Identify barriers
 - Data drives interventions
- Individual Learning Plans reviewed and updated quarterly



What Does “Ready” Look Like For Your Students?

Q & A



Stay In Touch

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