

# Teen Connect

Teen Connect is Albuquerque’s hub for youth engagement, a place where teens can find activities, safe spaces, mentorship, and opportunities to grow. Data from the 2023 New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey shows many teens face serious challenges, from rising rates of anxiety and depression to concerns about physical health, substance use, and school safety. Teen Connect provides year-round programming that addresses root causes, supports mental well-being, reduces violence, and builds clear pathways to college and careers.

### Challenges Facing Teens

- 38.4% of students reported feeling persistently sad or hopeless
- 30% of students are overweight or obese
- 19.5% were involved in a physical fight

Data Source: 2023 New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (NM-YRRS) for Bernalillo County teens in grades 9–12.



## TEEN CONNECT BY THE NUMBERS

# 150 Students

CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN SBVIP

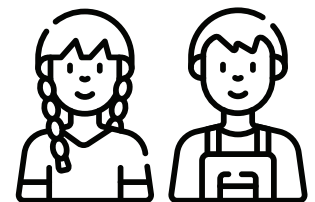
The City's School-Based Violence Intervention Program (SBVIP) is currently active in four high schools: keeping students in school, reducing conflict, and boosting graduation.



# 1,000+

TEENAGERS

Engaged 1000+ teenagers in Summer of Non Violence Program



# 1,000+

Over 1000 youth employee opportunities and 50 internships

# GPA

SBVIP programs have contributed to GPA gains across the board.

# 84%

Participants have demonstrated an 84% reduction in major and minor offenses.



## Teen Connect

When it comes to ABQ teens, data shows that many key indicators are improving. The City's sustained investment in teen wellness, safe out-of-school programs and violence intervention, and community support is helping more Albuquerque youth stay connected, healthy, and on track.

Teen Connect is where Albuquerque teens can find places to go, things to do, ways to learn, and opportunities to grow. Its work is grounded in five pillars:

- **Prevention First:** Addressing root causes of violence and disengagement in schools and neighborhoods before harm occurs.
- **Safe Out-of-School Programs:** Offering safe spaces, positive role models, and enrichment opportunities that keep teens engaged.
- **Pathways to Success:** Creating clear routes from classrooms

to careers through internships, academies, and mentorship.

- **Year-Round Engagement:** Ensuring teens have access to structured activities during out-of-school hours, weekends, and summers.
- **Community Partnership Work:** Schools, city programs, nonprofits, and businesses are working together to achieve positive outcomes for ABQ teenagers.

### INITIATIVES AND IMPACT

- **School-Based Violence Intervention (SBVIP):** At 4 high schools: keeps students in school, reduces conflict, and boosts graduation.
  - 150 intakes, 90 active cases
  - GPA gains at all campuses
  - 40% fewer suspensions at West Mesa
  - 83% grad rate for seniors enrolled in program
- **Seasons of Non-Violence:**

Year-round peacebuilding through youth leadership, events, and family workshops.

- Youth Ambassadors lead projects & campaigns
- Events: Trunk or Treat, Holiday Giveaway, Teen Movies
- Workshops: conflict resolution, healthy relationships, digital skills, financial literacy
- **Teen Out-of-School Programs (Ages 13–19):** Safe out-of-school & break-time activities at City/APS sites.
  - Homework help, STEM, arts, sports, and mentorship
  - Free meals at 31 sites (6,300/week)
- **Career Readiness & Academies:** Blending academics with career pathways: healthcare, IT, trades, business, and creative industries.
  - Coursework, internships, industry credentials, mentorship
- Pilots at Cibola, Manzano & Highland in 2025; citywide in 2026
- **City Internships & Apprenticeships:** Paid student placements in City departments with wraparound supports.
  - Linked to Career Academies
  - ACE elective credit for all APS participants
- **Bank on Burque:** Financial empowerment for youth 14–19.
  - Safe banking access
  - Money management & direct deposit for jobs
  - Ongoing financial literacy for long term success
- **Semilla Project & NextGen** (with Parks & Rec): youth development, mentorship, and paths to leadership.
  - Alumni move into conservation, education, policy
  - NextGen Academy: climate & energy job training, networking, industry exposure

### Contact Information

#### KEEP IN TOUCH

For more updates on this or other topics, visit [cabq.gov](http://cabq.gov) or contact the Mayor's Office at 505-768-3000.