

Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board Policy Priorities

The Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board supports efforts in the following areas - Early Childhood Education, Closing the Achievement Gap, Out of School Time, and Youth Leadership.

This includes:

- Building the capacity of young people led by the Minneapolis Youth Congress to advocate on their own behalf;
- Familiarizing legislators, particularly the Minneapolis delegation, with the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board;
- Engaging the board members of the Youth Coordinating Board in our state and federal public policy work and in working with young people as they build their abilities to advocate on their own behalf;
- Developing an organizational infrastructure to support ongoing public policy work of the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board; and
- Supporting the state and federal public policy work of our jurisdictional partners.

Early Childhood Education

All Minneapolis children enter kindergarten ready to learn

- Quality standards for early childhood programs;
- Increased access to quality early learning opportunities; and
- Providing parents with resources and information.

Every Child College Ready - Close the Achievement Gap

All Minneapolis children and youth succeed in school

- The “New Minnesota Miracle” Education Finance reform proposal brought forward by PS Minnesota.
- Early literacy programs such as Four-Year-Old Kindergarten or Kindergarten Plus that seek to close the “school readiness gap” and help low income students begin school on a more firm foundation.
- Increased investments in Extended Day programs so students can participate in both after school and summer school learning opportunities.
- Expansion of initiatives such as the Minneapolis Promise, that include career and college centers in high schools, summer jobs programs and college access for low income students.
- Policies that reduce barriers and increase access to educational opportunities for all Minneapolis youth.

Out of School Time

All Minneapolis children and youth have access to quality out of school time opportunities.

- The Youth Community Connections (YCC) After School Alliance initiative to extend the “Afterschool Community Learning Opportunities Act”.
- Diverse employment opportunities for youth and young adults;
- Support the policy recommendations of the Minneapolis *Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence* by advancing initiatives that: Connect every youth with a trusted adult, intervene at the first sign that youth are at risk for violence, restore youth who have gone down the wrong path, and unlearn the culture of violence in our community; and
- Maintaining state and federal workforce funding and policies to employ at-risk youth and youth reentering the community from the criminal justice system.

Youth Leadership

All Minneapolis children and youth have opportunities to prepare themselves for the responsibilities of an active civic life.

- Strengthening formal mechanisms for authentic youth development in the public sector;
- Coordination, with young people, of youth engagement programs which address policy initiatives, programs, and planning; and
- Participation by young people in the development of public policies which affect them.