



Inviting un-enrolled young people to “Come Home to Minneapolis” and choose a path to graduation

Newsletter Article

Second Annual Day of Action scheduled for Saturday, September 10th, 2011, Hopes to Attract 100 Young People Back to School this Fall

Minneapolis Public Schools and Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board have joined forces for a second annual day of city-wide action to reach young people and raise public awareness about the dropout crisis and graduation gap in Minneapolis – and to enlist the entire community’s help to resolve it. “We Want You Back” invites un-enrolled young people to come back to school, complete their credits and get their diploma. “We succeeded in reaching 100 people last September on the first Day of Action”, said Mayor Rybak, one of three co-chairs for the We Want You Back campaign, “100 people know firsthand that the City of Minneapolis cares about them.” Partnerships with key community resources including organizations and individuals is a key component to the success of We Want You Back.

There are a host of reasons why students leave school before graduating. While some eventually may re-enroll in another district, school or program there are those who do not. Locating them and resituating them in a program which will allow them to be successful can be challenging. Additionally, many students do not realize that they are very close to earning their diploma, lacking only a few credits or a passing grade on a state test.

The Youth Coordinating Board is mobilizing and training hundreds of volunteers to connect with the young people who want to return to school. The campaign’s strategy includes a summer-long push of community outreach at parks, libraries, and community events to generate awareness, culminating in a citywide door-knocking event on Saturday, September 10, 2011. Minneapolis Public Schools staff will be available that day to help students with the re-enrollment process.

While the door-knocking event is likely to generate tremendous awareness at the critical “back to school” time of the year, We Want You Back is not a one-time event. The schools, City, County and others are committed to an ongoing partnership that will deliver the support young people need to be successful.

We Want You Back is based on a successful model that is working in cities like Houston and Philadelphia.

How You Can Help

The We Want You Back campaign is looking for volunteers to help reach young people who did not finish high school -- join us on:

Saturday, September 10th We Want You Back Day of Action!

11:30am – 4pm

Minneapolis Parks & Recreation

2117 West River Road North 55411

- **Join hundreds of people across Minneapolis, walking together, dropping information fliers, & talking with neighbors.**
- Bilingual volunteers who can speak Spanish, Hmong or Somali are needed.

To volunteer, please visit

www.wewantyoubackmpls.org

To find out more about volunteer opportunities, or if you know a young person who would like to re-enroll, contact Jo Haberman, Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board, 612-673-2720 or wwyb@ycb.org.

For school information, contact Mary Barrie, Minneapolis Public Schools 612-668-0721 or mary.barrie@mpls.k12.mn.us.

Superintendent Bernadeia Johnson, Mayor R.T. Rybak and Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman jointly chair the We Want You Back Campaign.