

Males of Color Initiatives in America's Great City Schools: Transforming Low Performing Schools

Follow Through on the Pledge: As of January 15, 2016

COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS

Males of Color Initiatives in America's Great City Schools
By the
Council of the Great City Schools

City School System	Transform Low-performing high schools and spur graduation rates (10a)
Anchorage	Provide college and career guides at three high schools; expand freshman houses, academies, and small learning communities to personalize attention on students at risk; continue SEL programs; and focus professional development on student engagement.
Atlanta	<p>Create at-risk indicators for dropping out that would be used to determine student case-loads for graduation coaches.</p> <p>BEST Academy is used for a supportive single-gender environment serving mostly African American males.</p> <p>Currently developing an African American male support initiative for high schools</p> <p>Continue partnerships with Brothers Building Up Brothers, Dukes Foundation, and 100 Black Men.</p>
Austin	<p>Worked to reduce the number of male drop outs.</p> <p>Altered approach to discretionary removals at each campus.</p> <p>Plan Students with a Graduation Goal (SWAGG) Conference—with male component.</p>
Baltimore	Engage students in activities that will define their future selves while receiving supports. (Mentor match, college visits, college planning, SAT prep.)
Broward County	<p>Started the “Mentoring Tomorrow’s Leaders” peer-to-peer program for minority males in two high schools in partnership with Broward College.</p> <p>Provide peer mentoring, leadership support, and dropout prevention efforts to help students transition to college or workforce.</p>
Cincinnati	M.O.R.E. programs in high schools focus on academic success, career readiness, building a resume, FAFSA, college requirements, college visits, preparing for SAT and ACT, public book studies, speaking, and health and wellness.

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Clark County (Las Vegas)	<p>Lowest performing high schools placed in Turnaround Zone to receive “triage” to increase graduation rates by allowing schools flexibility in scheduling, resources, hiring, and curriculum.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Star On Programs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Community Resource Advocates</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New Heights Intervention Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JAG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Community Role Models Guest Speaking.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">On-site mentoring</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Peer Mediation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In-house Academic Center Placements.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Graduation Advocates provided by the School Partnership Office</p>
Cleveland	Transform high schools with low graduation rates. (100 mentors matched with 100 mentees)
Columbus	<p>District has rich portfolio of activities to engage middle and high school students in athletics, performing arts, career and technical education, and academics to spur attendance and engagement despite budget cuts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">District is expanding career and technical offerings at Career Centers and neighborhood schools, apprenticeships, and internships</p> <p style="text-align: center;">District is implementing a number of initiatives focused on character development, e.g., “Boys Won’t Be Boys,” REAL Young Men, ELITE, Young Leaders of Today and Tomorrow, and I-Men.</p>

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Dayton	<p>Monitor grade distribution in grades 7-12.</p> <p>Monitor course enrollment in AP, IB, 8th grade algebra, special education, CTE courses each semester and annually.</p> <p>Monitor graduation rates.</p>
Denver	<p>Increase multiple pathways to graduation.</p> <p>Promote innovations in competency-based credit and credit-recovery programs.</p> <p>Increase CTE offerings.</p> <p>Monitor students not on track at every grade level from 4th through high school</p> <p>Increase student voice in policy program implementation.</p>
District of Columbia	<p>Establishing an all-male high school in DC to spur academic success of Males of Color.</p> <p>Establishing “Championing Academic Success” modeled after college football signing day to celebrate each graduate’s next steps toward college or career training.</p>
Duval County	<p>Have launched the “5000 Role Models of Excellence Project” to improve academic achievement among males of color. District is recruiting 500 local businesses and community leaders to serve as role models to 500 African American boys in 10 middle and high schools.</p> <p>Have placed graduation coaches in all Title I schools and now require all counselors in schools without graduation coaches to attend regular meetings on how to ensure that all students graduate.</p>
Fort Worth	<p>Developed District Focus Goals at all campuses to address matriculation rates but specifically at high schools for 1st year Freshmen.</p> <p>District Level Targets identified and monitored to increase student achievement on state assessments and increase graduation rates.</p>

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Hillsborough County	Launch the Gear-up Grant to increase the performance of secondary and post-secondary students, increase graduation rates, and improve family knowledge of post-secondary opportunities.
Houston	<p>Will develop policies and practices around an early warning and response system that include whole-child indicators and interventions, focused on reducing chronic absenteeism and exclusionary discipline.</p> <p>Will develop an evidence-based list of interventions to improve school environments that will better prepare students for college and career.</p> <p>Will partner with community-based organizations and businesses to increase experiential learning for student academic success.</p> <p>Increase the number of high school students of color who have access to college preparation services, counselors, and financial aid.</p> <p>Will expand and align career and technical education training received by young men of color with local growth industries.</p> <p>Will increase the numbers of mentorships, coaching opportunities, and other support services for young men of color.</p>
Long Beach	<p>Continue high school reforms and improvements that have led to overall graduation rates of 80.6 districtwide, including 79.1% for African American students and 76.6% for Hispanic students.</p> <p>Working to replicate the California Academy of Math and Science, a nationally ranked “beating the odds” school.</p> <p>Expand the district’s high school summer school initiative that included 7,000 students last year. Focuses on math prep, bridge classes, credit recovery, and other efforts.</p>
Louisville	<p>Ensure that Equity Scorecards itemize college and career readiness rates for all groups in every school.</p> <p>ACT boot camps for Males of Color.</p>
Miami-Dade County	Place graduation coaches in high schools with persistently low rates of graduation among Males of Color.

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Milwaukee	<p>Initiated the “Gaining Early Awareness Readiness for Undergraduate Program” (GEAR UP) in eight high schools to work with 10th and 11th grade students on academic advising, tutoring, high school transition support, and college tours.</p> <p>GEAR UP program also working with AP to ensure eligible students enroll in AP courses.</p> <p>Continue support for two citywide College Access Centers that serve all high school students.</p> <p>Making available to all 11th grade students testing on the PSAT to provide more access to National Merit Scholarships.</p> <p>Expanding dual enrollment classes in conjunction with Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC).</p> <p>Expanding career and technical education programs (M3 program).</p> <p>Created the MATC Promise program that provides no-cost education to Milwaukee high school graduates.</p> <p>Implemented the Passport to Adulthood program to prepare young people to enter the workforce, earn money, and gain experience.</p> <p>Working with the community to provide job internships and employment opportunities for students: Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, Career Cruising, ccSpark, Inspire Southeast Wisconsin, and GPS Education Partners.</p>

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Orange County	<p>Review district data on graduation rates among Males of Color.</p> <p>Devise a plan for addressing findings from data review with area superintendents and guidance staff.</p> <p>Meet with staff of schools where Males of Color are not graduating and plan parent meetings.</p> <p>Monitor course passage rates among Males of Color in schools with low graduation rates.</p> <p>Monitor school efforts and actions when informed of data.</p> <p>Established an acceleration initiative in Algebra I in 19 high schools.</p> <p>Setting up the Minority Leadership Scholars program and the Ethnic Minority Enrichment in Research and Graduate Education.</p>
Philadelphia	<p>Work with City Year in high-needs high schools on individualized English and math tutoring, attendance, and behavior.</p> <p>Focusing on students with attendance below 90%, more than one out-of-school suspension, and an F grade in math or English.</p>
Portland	<p>(See items under advanced placement.)</p> <p>Expanding career and technical offerings at career centers.</p> <p>Expanding academic engagement through athletics.</p>
Providence	<p>Continue expanding CTE opportunities to district middle and high schools.</p>

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Rochester	<p>Continue expanding sports programs to better engage Males of Color.</p> <p>Increase the number of offerings in art, music, band, physical education, and other extra-curricular activities.</p> <p>Continue the district’s Latin America Literature elective along with the current African American program.</p> <p>Considering a “Males in Mind” science fiction course in English to engage Males of Color.</p> <p>Expand credit recovery.</p> <p>Expand paying CTE costs for students in cooperative educational service course.</p> <p>Expand the P-TECH Rochester program preparing students for computer technology jobs along with providing mentors, work experience, and college credit.</p> <p>Continue the Leadership Academy for Young Men, a single-gender high school with grades 7-12 that focuses on discipline, respect, and academics.</p> <p>Continue All City High, which provides alternative paths to graduation in a non-traditional setting.</p>
San Francisco	<p>Have launched the African American Postsecondary Pathway (AAPP) program that connects all graduating African American 12th graders to a postsecondary support system. Partnering with Beyond 12 to connect all African American seniors, provide coaching and mentors, and provide B12 MyCoach mobile apps to keep students informed about specific postsecondary education deadlines and resources.</p> <p>LinkedIn has provided profiles and workshops on career goals.</p> <p>Partnered with local Chamber of Commerce on summer jobs and career opportunities, and partnered with Salesforce to provide 45 internships that will be expanded to 150.</p>
Toledo	Turnarounds, RttT, and SIG