



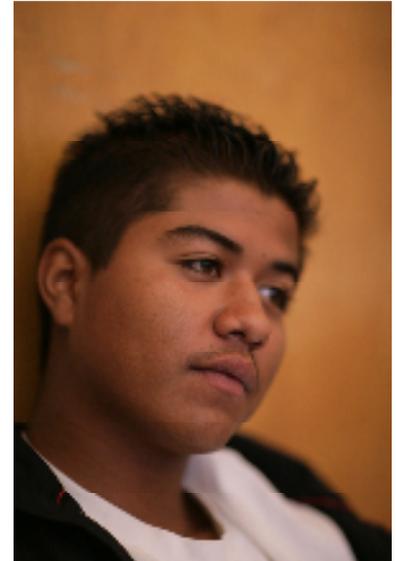
Portland Schools Foundation

ninth grade counts

Making a difference – *this summer*

We know that fewer than 60% of Portland students are graduating from high school on time. *Ninth Grade Counts* aims to change that by connecting youth with the support they need to enter high school on the right track.

Local research led by the Portland Schools Foundation's *Connected by 25* initiative has shown us that the 9th grade transition is a critical time for students at risk of disconnecting – especially the summer months.



How can we make sure that Ninth Grade Counts?

This summer, *Ninth Grade Counts* will join forces with non-profit organizations, schools and other partners to connect over **1000 students** with the support they need to start high school ready to succeed. That's why the Education Cabinet led by the County Chair and the Mayor recently endorsed Ninth Grade Counts as a key strategy to battle the drop-out rate.

Through our combined efforts, we can make sure that *Ninth Grade Counts*. We'll do it by:

- **Coordinating a network** of summer transition programs
- **Leveraging resources** to strengthen programs focused on the students most at risk
- **Mobilizing** students, parents, teachers, school officials and the community to help youth get connected with learning opportunities this summer



The partners listed here have pledged to reach out to incoming 9th graders at the highest risk of disconnecting to deliver academic support and high school readiness skills this summer. In partnership with the Mayor and County Chair's *Portland Multnomah Youth Corps, Oregon Campus Compact, and Marylhurst University*, this summer **Ninth Grade Counts will deliver resources valued at more than \$500,000** to help these programs succeed.

Ninth Grade Counts Program Partners

- Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest
- Campfire USA Portland Metro Council
- Catholic Charities/El Programa Hispano
- Centennial School District
- David Douglas School District
- Elemental Youth
- Friends of the Children
- Gresham-Barlow School District
- I Have a Dream Foundation – Oregon
- Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization
- Impact Northwest
- Metropolitan Family Service
- NAYA Native American Youth & Family Center
- Neighborhood House
- Open Meadow Alternative Schools – Step Up
- Oregon Building Congress
- Oregon Outreach Inc./Urban Opportunities
- Parkrose School District
- Portland Public School District
- REAP, Inc.
- Resolutions Northwest
- Reynolds School District
- Self Enhancement, Inc.
- Straightway Services
- Urban League of Portland

Project Outcomes for 2009-2010

Outcome	Description
Students on-track toward graduation	Participating students will finish ninth grade on-track for graduation by passing required core courses and earning sufficient credits
Shared data and tracking practices	Districts will develop common language and tracking practices to identify the students most at risk of disconnecting and monitor their progress toward graduation
Increased resources for local programs	Resources valued at more than \$500,000 will be leveraged for Ninth Grade Counts partners supporting positive transitions into high school
Increased access to summer support	A <i>Resource Guide</i> describing summer transition programs will be distributed to schools, partner organizations, students and families
Research for action	<i>Connected by 25</i> will continue to lead by delivering crucial research to the community, including one or more major report(s) this year



www.ConnectedBy25.org

Success for every young Portlander.