

THE OPPORTUNITY FACING US

Our region has already made the national stage. We have been touted as the “Greenest City” in America and branded as the world’s top 25 “livable” cities by a UK magazine. Forbes has called us the #6 best place to live and launch small business.

Our SUN Community Schools and SUN Service System are nationally renowned. National League of Cities calls our alternative education system as the “model” for others, and yet an approximate fifty-seven percent of students actually graduate from high school on time. An even smaller subset of them go on to any post-secondary education or training yielding a life time of chronically low earnings and increased social affliction and costs.

Schools are the engines of growth in today’s knowledge-based economy. Schools not only fuel future growth, but also contribute significant economic and cultural resources to the community. An investment in education and youth makes sense both socially and economically. *Now* is the time to act.

JOIN US!!

**COMMUNITY TOWN HALL
ON EDUCATION
APRIL 10TH**

**2010 EDUCATION SUMMIT!
APRIL 12TH**

Find out more!

<http://www.portlandonline.com/mayor/>

<http://www.multco.us/chair>



@mayorsamadams @tedwheeler

Or follow tags: #EdCab #EdSummit



Search ‘[Connect-Explore-Achieve](#)’

EDUCATION CABINET

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS COMING
TOGETHER FOR THE SUCCESS
OF YOUTH IN PORTLAND AND
MULTNOMAH COUNTY**



**Co-Chaired by:
Portland Mayor Sam Adams
County Chair Ted Wheeler**

EDUCATION STRATEGIES

Summer Youth Connect – Students are most at risk of falling behind academically during the summer months. Engagement during the summer time is particularly important during transition from middle into high school and the transition years that follow. Summer Youth Connect is a continuum of programs that include career and college visits, summer employment, academic support and service learning targeted at the youth who, according to academic indicators, are most at-risk of not graduating high school on time. Summer Youth Connect is a partnership of the City, County, Portland Schools Foundation, and Worksystems, Inc.

Future Connect Scholars Program-

Currently, only 1/3 of students that actually graduate high school in Portland and Multnomah County continue on to post-secondary education. Even less graduate from higher education. With 70% of new jobs requiring training and education beyond high school, our region must balance importing our high wage-earning workforce by developing local, talented and skilled workers and citizens. The economic vitality and prosperity of our community depends on this. As a result, the Future Connect Scholars program gives Multnomah County youth participating in Summer Youth Connect programs an opportunity to receive full tuition for two years attendance at PCC or Mt. Hood Community college.

Out of School Time Strategy

If our goal is to increase graduation rates for high school youth, providing them with research driven supports is critical. Research from the Center for Law and Policy states that six key things are critical to the success of high school-aged youth: support for cognitive development, social-emotional health, physical activity, ethnic identity, civic engagement and career preparedness (CLASP, 2009). The proposed out-of-school strategy is focused on leveraging the existing SUN Service System and its community school model, in particular, as a vehicle to providing this comprehensive list of supports at all high need schools. This would allow partners to leverage current investments and success while better connecting and aligning strategic partners towards the success for all high school youth.

Caring Adults

A caring adult is the most consistent characteristic for students who are successful and “beat the odds” despite obstacles and disadvantages. As a result, the “Caring Adult” strategy was developed as a multi-faceted approach to: a) increase the level of family engagement in the lives of students most at-risk of not graduating on time; b) increase the amount of support high school students have from caring adults throughout the community; c) Increasing the visibility and capacity of caring adults in schools through alignment and training

Goals:

Increase high school graduation rates by 50%

Double the number of students graduating high school and going to post-secondary education and training

Outcomes:

- 100% identification of off-track youth by 2011
- Approximately 2200 more students graduating high school on time.
- Approximately 4400 more students going into post-secondary education and training
- 2500 youth employed, or participating in career exposure and post-secondary exposure over the summer months each summer
- The graduation gap is narrowed between Caucasian students and African-American, Hispanic, SE Asian and Native students.