

DIPLOMAS NOW

Diplomas Now is a proven approach that helps the toughest middle and high schools in America's largest cities ensure that every student graduates ready for college or career. It is the first fully integrated approach that improves a school's curriculum and instruction as it provides the right students with the right support at the right time.

It is based on research by the nation's leading dropout expert who found that three-quarters of all dropouts can be identified as early as sixth grade due to poor attendance, poor behavior or failure in English or math. **Diplomas Now** identifies those students early and works to eliminate their problems.

The Approach

Diplomas Now combines 65 years of experience from three national nonprofits:

- **Johns Hopkins University's Talent Development Secondary**, a school reform model that improves instruction and performance.
- **City Year's** team of in-school, "near peer" AmeriCorps student support coaches.
- **Communities In Schools'** in-school trained case managers for the neediest students.

How It Works

Diplomas Now partners with the school community so each student at risk has the support of caring adults and those adults have the tools to improve student success. Working with administrators and teachers, a **Diplomas Now** team organizes and supports schools to strengthen achievement and engagement. **Diplomas Now** provides curriculum, teacher coaching and student support. An early warning system identifies struggling students, and the team creates a plan for each student.

Young adults, working full-time in the school, welcome students, call them if they don't show up, provide tutoring and celebrate positive behavior. After school, they help with homework and involve students in service and enrichment programs.

For the neediest students, **Diplomas Now** provides case management and connects them with community resources, such as counseling, health care, housing, food and clothing.

Where It Operates

Diplomas Now operates in 20 schools in Chicago, Columbia, S.C., Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, Philadelphia, San Antonio, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. In 2010, **Diplomas Now** won a prestigious federal Investing in Innovation (i3) grant, enabling it to expand to 60 more schools in 12 districts over five years. Our founding investor is the PepsiCo Foundation.

The Results

Diplomas Now cut attendance and behavior problems in half, and decreased course failure by up to 75 percent on average across its schools, thus putting more students on track to graduate.

To learn more, visit www.diplomasnow.org or contact Director Doug Elmer at delmer@csos.jhu.edu

