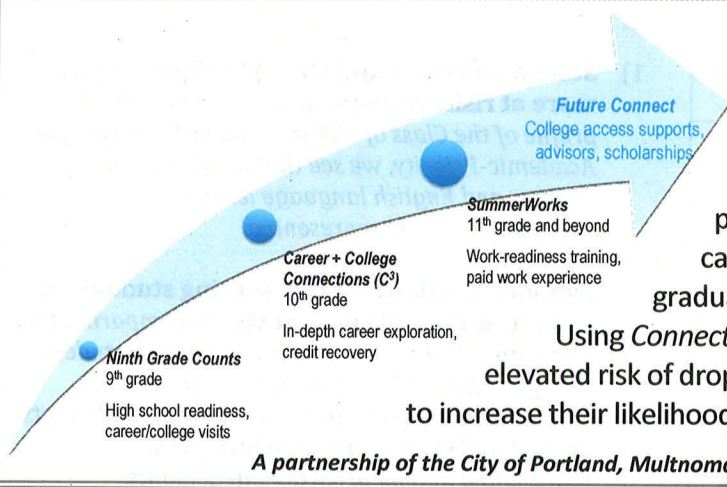




Summer Youth Connect

CONNECT. EXPLORE. ACHIEVE.



Summer Youth Connect:
Bridging school, work, and future opportunities.

A four-year series of interventions for targeted high school students during the summer months. Each year, students receive progressively more intensive academic support and career and college experiences as they move toward graduation and into higher education, training, and jobs.

Using *Connected by 25* research, we can identify students with an elevated risk of dropping out and support them through key transitions to increase their likelihood of graduating. Over 3,000 students served to date.

A partnership of the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Portland Schools Foundation, and Worksystems, Inc.

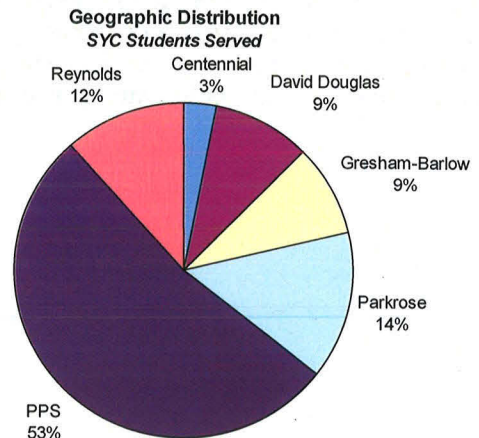
Education has always been a key priority for Mayor Sam Adams. Early on, the Mayor set ambitious goals to increase the number of students that complete high school by 50% and to double the number of graduating students who go on to further education and training. Over the past two years, the City of Portland has invested over \$750,000 to create Summer Youth Connect (SYC) – a series of academic supports and career-readiness experiences from the 8th to 9th grade transition through graduation.

SYC PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- **Ninth Grade Counts**, an initiative of the Portland Schools Foundation, represents a network of summer transition programs working together to target at-risk incoming 9th graders with the support they need to start high school on the right track, which includes a series of industry and college tours coordinated by the Mayor’s Office;
- **Career + College Connections (C³)**, sponsored by the Mayor’s Office, acts as a bridge between the “career sampler” of Ninth Grade Counts and the internship of SummerWorks by providing career exploration and work readiness activities to help inform education and career planning; and
- **SummerWorks**, a program of Worksystems, Inc. (WSI), provides summer work experiences for youth, aged 16-21 years, to prepare young people for successful transition to post-secondary education and employment with career potential.

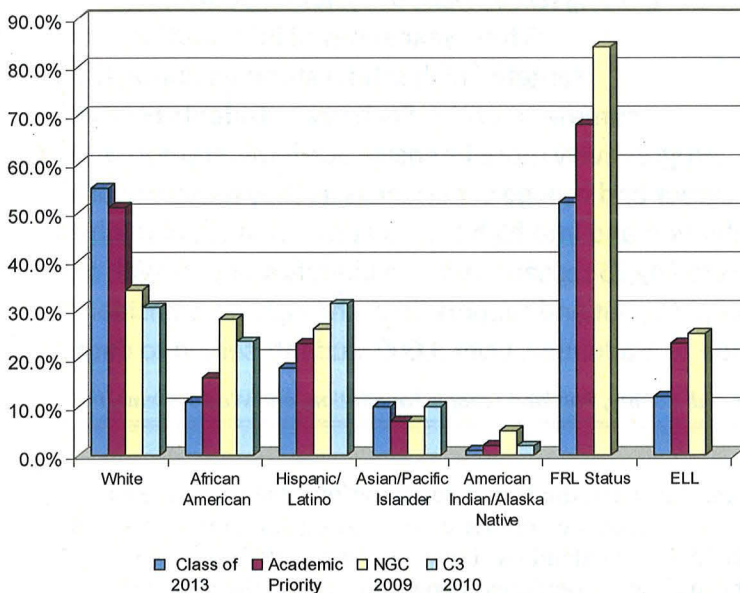
SYC SERVICE NUMBERS

SYC Program	Summer 2009	Summer 2010
<i>Ninth Grade Counts</i>	776	1062
<i>C³</i>	35	270
<i>SummerWorks</i>	831	213
Total	1642	1545



Our efforts are strategically focused on supporting students with an elevated risk of not completing high school based on key indicators gleaned from the *Connected by 25* research. Reflecting the compelling nature of this research and the collaboration necessary to improve our graduation rates, the six largest districts in Multnomah County have agreed to flag these “Academic-Priority” students in the countywide student information system. A quick look at the demographic data for the Class of 2013, reveals two key points:

**Summer Youth Connect
Demographic Comparison**



- 1) **Students of color and students of poverty are more at risk.** *By comparing the demographic profile of the Class of 2013 to students identified as Academic-Priority, we see that minority, low-income, and English language learners are disproportionately represented.*
- 2) **Summer Youth Connect is serving students of color and students in poverty.** *By comparing the demographic profile of Academic-Priority students to those who participated in Summer Youth Connect the last two summers, we see that students of color and students in poverty are well represented among program participants.*

Given the troubling disparities in academic achievement for students of color and students living in poverty, it is crucial that our strategies include proven interventions for these student populations.

By partnering with school districts, community-based organizations, and post-secondary institutions, the City's investments help to:

- Supplement existing programming through school districts and community-based organizations
- Align existing resources to focus on key transition points and target academic-priority students
- Pilot programming where there are gaps in the continuum of services

EARLY RESULTS

Rigorous surveys of Summer Youth Connect participants indicate remarkable early results. Students report feeling more prepared for high school (70-95%), more motivated to graduate (78-95%), and more likely to pursue further education (93-95%). The first step in impacting graduation rates is changing attitudes, and these surveys indicate that Summer Youth Connect is doing just that.

A comprehensive evaluation plan has recently been developed by PSU's Center for Student Success, and we intend to track participants' progress in each subsequent year of high school. We only have data back from the first year, but the results are promising. Based on an analysis by the Northwest Evaluation Association, students who participated in Ninth Grade Counts in Summer 2009 had earned significantly more credits at the end of ninth grade than non-participants and they have better attendance overall.



Future Connect Scholarship

Currently, only 1/3 of students that actually graduate high school in Multnomah County continue on to post-secondary education. Of these students, less than half eventually earn a degree or certificate. 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 program gives Multnomah County Youth access to opportunity for skills and college training by providing financial incentive and academic support for students to attend and complete community college.

Purpose

Eliminate financial barriers to pursuing post-secondary education and training while providing on-going supports at community colleges, so youth can:

- * Earn a certificate or degree; or
- * Transfer to a four year university; and
- * Access living wage jobs.

Program Model

Every scholarship recipient will receive:

- * Financial grants covering tuition, fees, and books for up to two years
- * Access to College Support Coach
 - + academic advising
 - + career planning
 - + work readiness and life skills
 - + referrals to community resources
 - + emergency fund for unforeseen expenses
- * Paid internship opportunities during college

Program Eligibility

The Future Connect Scholarship is designed for academically at-risk and economically disadvantaged students.

Tier 1: Summer Youth Connect 2011 & 2012

- * SummerWorks participant (1 year or more)
- * High School Diploma or GED from Multnomah County school district
- * Enroll in college in the fall following high school graduation or GED attainment

2013 & Beyond

- * Academic-priority status (at any point during high school)
- * 2+ years of Summer Youth Connect participation High School Diploma from Multnomah County school district
- * Enroll in college in the fall following high school graduation

Tier 2: Traditionally Disadvantaged

- * Low income and/or first-generation college student
- * Connected with Summer Youth Connect partner program
- * High School Diploma or GED from a school/program within Multnomah County
- * Minimum scores on Compass or similar

Funding for the Future Connect Scholarship is made possible by the City of Portland Office of Mayor Sam Adams in partnership with Portland Community College.



Creating Community Safety by Keeping Kids in School RNW's School Restorative Justice Pilot Project

History:

- 2008-09 Year One of collaborative project among RNW, Department of Community Justice (DCJ), Parkrose School District to implement restorative discipline practices with goal of reducing referrals to juvenile justice, reducing in-school and out-of-school suspension and expulsions (particularly among students of color). Funded by Department of Community Justice (\$60,000)
- 2009-2010 Year Two of pilot project (see results below). Funded by Department of Community Justice (\$30,000) and City of Portland (\$32,500)
- 2010-2011 Year Three of pilot project: funded collaboratively by DCJ and City of Portland at prior year's level.

What does the RJ Pilot Project do?

- Provides opportunity for students to participate in a facilitated conversation to discuss the harms that have occurred and to whom, the impact of those harms, brainstorm ways to repair (and be accountable for) the harms and how to prevent the harms from happening again.

Year One Results (2008-09):

- Facilitated 162 cases with 89% resulting in agreements
- 91% of cases closed with no further incidents 90 days after the agreement
- 89% of students felt confident in their ability to complete their agreement
- 85% of students felt satisfied with the restorative intervention process
- 75% of students felt the harm had been repaired

Year Two Results (2009-2010):

- 175 cases referred to project
- 86 restorative meetings facilitated
- 105 agreements reached; 101 agreements completed
- 71 days of suspension avoided

Current Year Three Results (Sept. – Feb.):

- 132 students referred to project
 - 64% male, 36% female
 - 40% White, 27% Black, 16% Hispanic, 12% Multiracial, 4% Asian, 1% Pacific Islander
- Facilitated 98 cases with 95% resulting in agreements
- 108 days of suspension avoided

How does this project promote community safety?

- Keeps kids in school and engaged
- Repairs the harms and thus avoids escalation
- Involves students in identifying the harms caused and allows them to negotiate how to repair those harms resulting in high level of ownership & follow through
- Provides accountability in a meaningful way
- Administrators have an alternative disciplinary practice that keeps students in school in lieu of in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension and expulsion.
- Provides students, teachers and the community with a process that provides meaningful accountability that brings student back into the community rather than pushing them out.

Marshall Transition- City of Portland Support

Data show attendance at Marshall campus, especially severe chronic absence has become a problem. Severe chronic absence is defined as students attending school less than 80% of the time. While the school district is making efforts to reach the students, SUN and its partners have an established relationship with many of the students who are not attending. District personnel are stressed as a result of the school closing and overwhelmed by the number of students having attendance problems.

Thanks to the City's commitment to supporting current Marshall students through this transition, we have developed a plan to directly impact the attendance problem. The consensus between the Mayor's Education Policy Director, County SUN Service System, Marshall and Madison SUN providers and district personnel is to use the funding to capitalize on the established relationships the district's partners have to hire a half time position who will provide outreach and follow up with the students not attending, support district attendance efforts and provide a much needed bridge over the summer to connect students with both credit recover in the summer and connection at their new school.

Timeline of Activities

Now-June:

- Work with the district to identify individuals not attending, not on track to meet grade level credits, and not engaged in another service
- Make contact with 60 individuals/families having attendance problems
- Case manage 10 students to improve attendance
- In coordination with all three schools, develop, plan and facilitate 2 parent events to address attendance issues with students and parents
- Coordinate and track campus-wide attendance efforts
- Identify and support 30 students to enroll in district summer school

June-August:

- Case manage and monitor student attendance during summer school
- Build and maintain relationships with students over the summer
- Connect with students prior to school to encourage attendance at their new school (Franklin or Madison)
- Connect Madison Student Attendance Effort (SAE) case manager with students transitioning from Marshall who were having attendance issues

September:

- Make contact with students to ensure smooth transition.
- Work with students to minimize or reduce identified barriers



SUN Community Schools are a collaboration of Multnomah County Department of County Human Services, the City of Portland Parks and Recreation, and Centennial, David Douglas, Gresham-Barlow, Portland Public, Parkrose, and Reynolds school districts.