

DIPLOMAS NOW

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

It is based on research by one of the nation's leading dropout experts who found that about half of all eventual dropouts can be identified by the end of sixth grade, and close to 75 percent by the start of high school. Studies found that middle-school students who fail their courses, have poor attendance and poor behavior seldom graduate. **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** in-school, "near peer" AmeriCorps members who support students.
- **Communities In Schools'** in-school trained case managers for the neediest students.

How It Works

Diplomas Now partners with the school community so every student 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 works to get each student back on track.

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 is in schools in Boston, Chicago, Columbus, Ohio, Denver, Detroit, East Baton Rouge, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, Philadelphia, San Antonio, Seattle, Tulsa and Washington, D.C. In 2010, **Diplomas Now** won a prestigious federal Investing in Innovation (i3) grant, enabling it to expand and to participate in a rigorous, independent evaluation. Our founding investor is the PepsiCo Foundation.

To learn more, visit www.diplomasnow.org or contact Deputy Director Kathy Nelson at knelson@jhu.edu

The Results

At schools across the country, Diplomas Now has cut absenteeism, behavior problems and course failure in half, thus putting more students on track to graduate.

