

Plus Program in Hennepin County

Snapshot of Plus in the 2016-17 school year

The Plus program provides a mix of supports to youth and young adults who are involved in county services such as juvenile probation, truancy intervention, and foster care, or who are pregnant or parenting. The program aims to boost attendance, increase high school graduation, and help secure job placements. Plus is available in 11 schools in Hennepin County.



Plus students at the time of enrollment:

RACE/ETHNICITY

83%

were students of color
(18% Hispanic/Latinx)

GRADE

63%

were students in
11th or 12th grade

AGE

24%

were students
18 years or older

ATTENDANCE

33%

were not attending or enrolled
in school (prior to Plus)

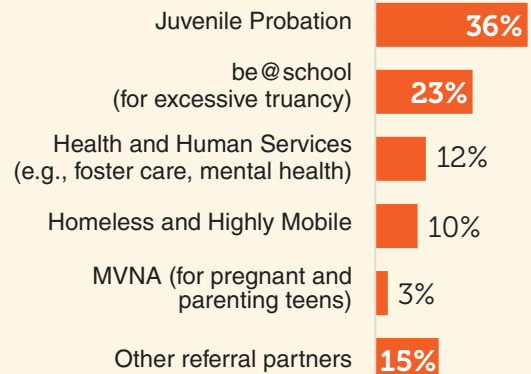
HOUSING

19%

were homeless or highly mobile

237 Plus students served during 2016-17

Plus students were referred from:



93% of referring partners said Plus was **"One of the best school programs available to my clients."**

The story of a Plus student

Carmen was 16 years old when she was referred to Plus by her county caseworkers. Her past school experiences had not been successful due to many challenges she faced outside of school, such as being a teen mom, on probation, affected by past trauma, and homelessness. She came to Plus as an 11th-grader, but had not yet received any credits during high school. Through support from her case coordinator and Plus therapist, her confidence increased, she attended school more regularly, and she participated more in class. Eventually, Carmen earned her first high school credit. Carmen continues to move towards earning her diploma.



Plus program in Hennepin County

Key component: Case Coordinator services

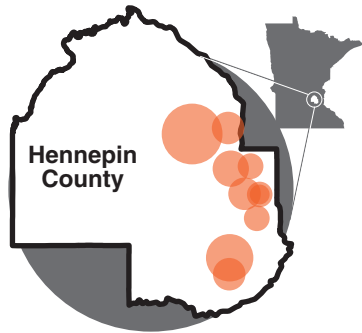
All Plus students receive a Case Coordinator when enrolled in the program. The Case Coordinator works closely with each student by monitoring their attendance, academic achievements, and employment and training needs. The Case Coordinator also serves as a liaison between school staff, county workers, community-based service providers, and families in an effort to resolve any barriers that prevent the student's success completing school and investing in their future.

School sites offering Plus program



Plus sites where students are placed

Placement is determined by what is best for the student's safety, educational and cultural needs, and location. Program options and capacity vary at each Plus site.



Bloomington Career and College Academy	8%
Brooklyn Center Early College Academy	8%
Center School	<1%
El Colegio	5%
Loring-Nicollet/MERC	8%
Menlo Park	5%
North Education Center	28%
PYC Arts and Technology High School	10%
South Education Center	17%
Takoda Prep of AIOIC	3%
Volunteers of America High School	5%

Plus supports boost student success

All Plus sites have school-based mental health services available to students. Case Coordinators help with housing stability, employment, access to child care, and other support services.

Transportation services

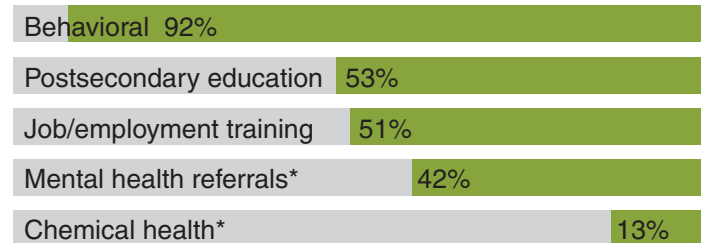
Plus students are often eligible for transportation assistance, including bus passes or rides from the school district or Plus staff.



89% reported transportation supports **make it more likely that they will attend school.**

58% of Plus students **received transportation at least once** during the 2016-17 school year from their Case Coordinator.

Plus students receive additional supports



* Not all sites had these services available in the 2016-17 school year.



ENTER
HIGH
SCHOOL

ENTER PLUS



Receive Supports

Provide case coordination

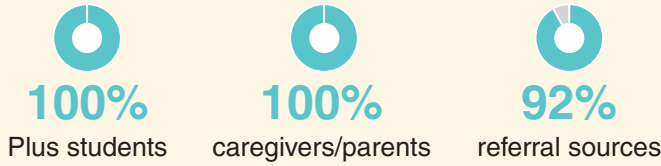
Offer student supports

Work closely with others involved with student

Offer transportation

Monitor academic progress

Survey respondents who said case coordinator services are supportive and helpful:



97% of Plus students felt their Case Coordinator was helping them do better in school

97% of parents and caregivers felt the Case Coordinator was helping their student stay interested in school



Successes of Plus

Attendance

68% of Plus students agreed that being in Plus helped their attendance.

92% of parents and caregivers agreed that they have seen improvement in attendance since their child enrolled in Plus.

78% of referring partners agreed their clients' attendance increased while enrolled in Plus.

Academics

72% of Plus students agreed that Plus is helping their grades improve.

77% of parents and caregivers agreed that since enrolling in Plus their child's grades had improved.

78% of referring partners agreed their clients tend to do better in school after enrolling in Plus.

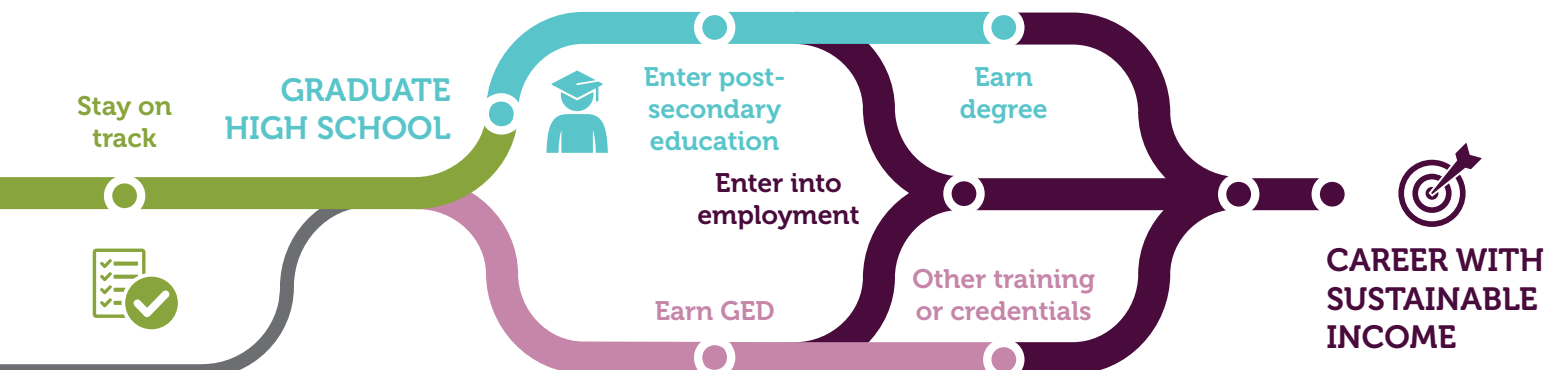
Graduation

89% of Plus students felt they were more likely to graduate because of the Plus program.

100% of parents and caregivers felt that being in Plus made their student more likely to graduate from high school.

"The Plus program helps me with school, gives me more experience, and helps me plan out the future and make it through my present."

– Plus student survey respondent





Plus is evolving

This summary represents a snapshot of the students served in the 2016-17 school year, but future summaries will reflect changes in the Plus model, data collection, and outcome measures.

The Plus program is designed to encourage and enhance coordination across many systems, including schools, corrections, and human services, with the goal of making it more likely for the students who are involved in the program to graduate from high school and become college or career ready.

In the 2017-18 school year, Plus emphasized additional supports to enhance postsecondary enrollment and job training, including Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG), internships, and summer employment. The Plus program has expanded to students who are enrolled in the Out of School (OSS) model.

Future summaries will include new outcome measures and data sources, including:

- Academic improvement measured by MARSS data, which will allow for consistent data across sites.
- Recidivism using a new definition.
- Employment information provided by Plus staff and potentially other sources, including SLEDS.

Data sources

- The demographic, placement, and supports data are based on program-level data collected by Plus staff about the students who received services (n=237) during the 2016-17 school year.
- The survey results are based on three surveys collected in spring 2017 from Plus students (n=99), Plus parents and caregivers (n=17), and referring partners (probation officers, social workers, and school staff) (n=33; 37% response rate) during the 2016-17 school year.

Limitations

- Response rates could not be calculated for the student and parent/caregiver surveys because data were unavailable about who received the survey.
- The student and parent/caregiver surveys focused on collecting data from those active in the program at the time of the survey, therefore it may not be representative of all students and parents/caregivers served by Plus.

Learn and Earn to Achieve Potential (LEAP) – An example

Beginning in 2016, Plus sites in the Minneapolis Public Schools supplemented their supports with the JAG curriculum, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. LEAP schools aim to increase educational and employment opportunities for youth and young adults age 14-25 who are in foster care, involved in the juvenile justice system, or homeless.

Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) is an integral partner in the LEAP initiative. Their Destination: Diploma to Degree (D3) program, in which high school students earn college credit while completing their high school diploma, is an important bridge to future employment.