



Diploma On! Program

An Overview of Metrics from School Year 2017-18

Background

The purpose of Diploma On! is to re-engage students who have dropped out of school within our member districts and ultimately increase the graduation rate in Hennepin County. Staff from the program obtains contact information for students from identified referral staff within each district, normally after a 15-day drop. Next, they contact the student and/or caregiver to establish a relationship and attempt to reduce the barriers that are preventing them from going to school with the goal of reenrolling the student in a program/school that fits their needs.

Since its inception in spring 2012, Diploma On! has received nearly 1,000 referrals and at least 80 of those students have successfully completed their GED or received their high school diploma.

Over the course of the 2017-2018 school year, 139 students (and counting!) have been referred to Diploma On! from our participating member districts. An additional 200 students were referred from District 287's four area learning centers: North Education Center Academy, South Education Center Academy, West Alternative, and Gateway to College.

Additionally, staff has connected with 161 students and families this school year, and at least 68 students have been successfully reconnected to a school program or GED preparation class.

The following information summarizes some of the data collected by program staff about the students being referred to and served by the program.

Referrals

Diploma On! has received 961 total referrals over the past seven school years. Beginning this school year, program staff began tracking repeat referrals so they would be able to count how many of their current students had been served by the program in the past. As of April 30th, 87% of the students had never been referred to the program in the past (Figure 1).

1. Number of referrals by school year

	# of referrals	% of new referrals
School Year 2011-12	37	N/A
School Year 2012-13	109	N/A
School Year 2013-14	90	N/A
School Year 2014-15	70	N/A
School Year 2015-16	48	N/A
School Year 2016-17	272	N/A
School Year 2017-18	335	87%
Total	961	

Note: Data collection processes changed in school year 2016-17 allowing the reporting of internal referrals. Therefore, the number of students increased over the past couple of years because the program reported on both external and internal referrals, unlike previous years.

School Year 2017-18 student demographics and information through April 30, 2018

In the 2017-18 school year, 335 referrals were received. As noted above, some of the referrals represent students who have been served by the program in the past, so the counts represent the counts of all referrals received, not individual students (note, totals in the following tables may be over 100% because of rounding).

2. Current Individualized Education Program (IEP)

	#	%
No	221	66%
Yes	79	24%
Missing/Unknown	35	10%

3. Top reason for 15-day drop (may have multiple reasons)

	#	%
Truancy	185	55%
Chemical or mental health	54	16%
Not progressing in school	36	11%
Unstable housing	19	6%

Note: The above responses are reported by the referral source. Case coordinators often discover additional underlying barriers leading to truancy status. The top three barriers reported by students are transportation, chemical/mental health, and financial instability.

4. Student resident school district

	#	%
Bloomington	26	8%
Brooklyn Center	11	3%
Eden Prairie	24	7%
Hopkins	53	16%
Minneapolis	32	10%
Osseo	91	27%
Richfield	26	8%
Robbinsdale	28	9%
St. Louis Park	15	5%
Wayzata	7	2%
Other	48	14%

5. Current grade in school (graduation standard year)

	#	%
6-8	4	1%
9	21	6%
10	27	8%
11	47	14%
12	114	34%
12+	121	36%
GED or Transitional	1	<1%

6. Referral source

	#	%
Social worker	125	37%
Administrative support/ Program secretary	78	23%
School counselor	77	23%
Self-referral	21	6%
Education assistant	21	6%
Other (including truancy workers, principal/dean, program facilitator)	13	4%

7. Has student been expelled from school in the past?

	#	%
No	94	28%
Yes	2	<1%
Missing/Unknown	239	71%

8. Current status of student on caseload

	#	%
Continued outreach	170	51%
Case management	42	13%
Re-enrolled (without case management)	36	11%
Referred to alternative program	32	10%
Re-enrolled (with case management)	29	9%
Repeat	11	3%
Closed	7	2%
Graduated/GED attainment	4	1%
Missing/Unknown	4	1%

9. Current English Learner

	#	%
No	253	76%
Yes	43	23%
Missing/Unknown	39	1%

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For more information

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