

# We Want You Back 2013



Minneapolis Public Schools  
Drop Out Re-engagement Program

# OUR MISSION

We Want You Back is Minneapolis Public Schools' drop out re-engagement program that serves youth of all ages who have disengaged from their education in an effort to assist in diploma completion.



# Youth Voices:

## Why do young people drop out of school?

- Pregnancy
- Need to parent and the shortage of affordable day care
- Feeling unsafe in school
- Chemical dependency issues
- Physical and mental health issues
- Wanting or needing to work
- Gang activity
- Lacking ambition and motivation
- The belief that there are better things for them to do with their time outside of school
- Absence of support from family
- Falling so far behind in coursework that it's impossible to imagine ever getting caught up
- The state statute that allows them to drop out at age 16
- Lack of respect by peers
- **Unable to pass the state high school exit tests**

## Drop Out Statistics:

- \$475,900 LESS in personal income over a lifetime,
- Society loses \$253,486 in taxes and 1.2 million dollars for every drop out.
- These costs result from a lack of a productive workforce and higher costs associated with **incarceration, health care** and other social services.
- The U.S. ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in high school graduations and 14<sup>th</sup> in college graduation rates amongst developed nations!
- 90% of the world's global economy will require some post-secondary education and as it stands the US cannot compete!

# OUR TEAM



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# Our History

- In 2009, **1700** students exited the educational system in Hennepin County 
- 2010 the Youth Coordinating Board (YCB) formally partners with MPS to work with WWYB.
- 2010 and 2011 and 2011 Mayor R.T Rybak YCB and other supporting partners rally 2 WWYB Door Knock Campaigns
- Superintendent Johnson completes the YCB Minneapolis Public Schools Compact Signing and 2012 Commitment to Minneapolis Children and Young People February 28, 2012 which states:

We will ensure that every child has a route to a high school diploma relying on Check and Connect and We Want You Back to assist those young people who have dropped out or are in danger of doing so.



# Wide Net Approach 2011-12

- **Under 21 students - high needs (parenting/HHM/credit deficient) assisted and enrolled in a CAP or ABE**
- **Labor intensive case management /low return on investment**
- **Marketing, outreach efforts and 15 day drop list utilized**
- **Retention of students until diploma – complicated**
- **2011-2012 WWYB contacted 1287 students**
- **Sept-to date WWYB has contacted over 2100 students and counting.....**

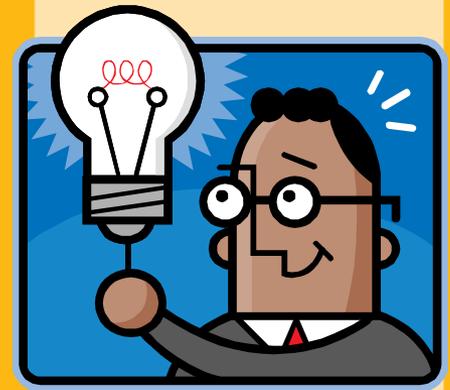
# GRADual Shift

- WWYB assumes GRAD retesting for super seniors students Dec-2011
- 2012 ABE Adult Diploma program phased out
- Minimum number of students pass GRAD
- Searching for GRAD Test Prep Options - futile



# Focus Refined/Targeted Audience

1. Planning and implementing the 1<sup>st</sup> GRAD retest session set for Oct 2-10, 2012
2. For the session contacted made with 88 students – 34 tested – 6 graduates!
3. Credit ready/Test deficient (CRTD) student list nets over 1000 students from SY2000-2013
4. CRTD students profiled



# Credit Ready/Test Deficient Profile

## **MBST Student**

- Attended MPS 2000-2009
- Earned all required credits - 60-64.5
- Multiple test retakes in Reading (10-18)
- Minority student/ELL
- Eligible for math-3 attempt process
- Highly Motivated

## **GRAD Student**

- Attended MPS 2010-Present
- Earned all required credits- 64.5
- Multiple test retakes in Reading (8-15)
- Minority student/ELL
- Highly Motivated

# MDE Changes

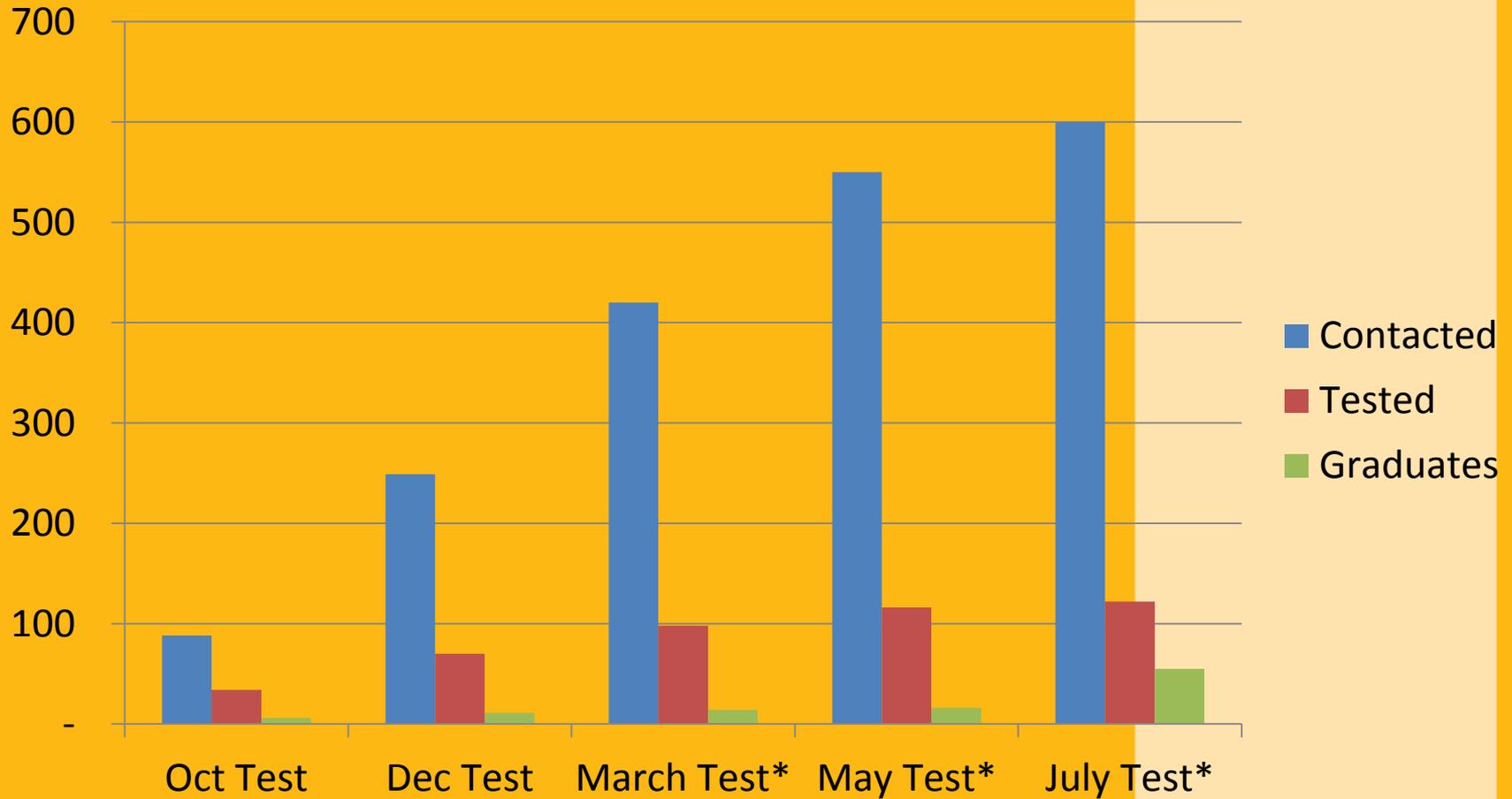
- Graduation rate calculations goes from 6yr to 4yr completion rate – Students w/o diplomas after June 30 are considered drop outs
- MN Basic Skills Test (MBST) passing scores no longer accepted after **2014**
- Students will need to retake all tests under Graduation Required Assessment/Diploma (GRAD)
- Marketing blitz employed to notify students of impending changes and the urgency to retest

# GRAD Data Driven Decisions

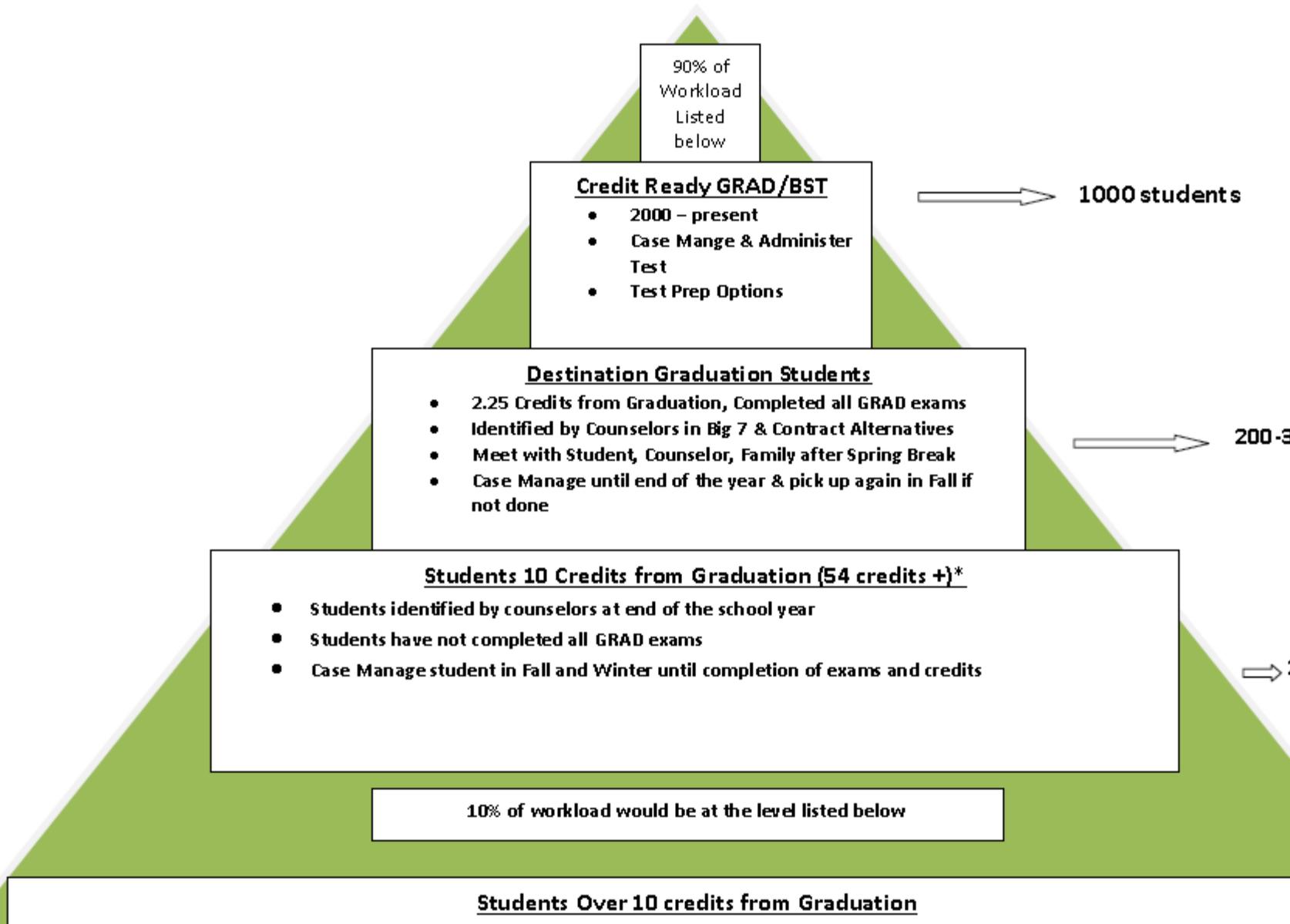
- GRAD test categories: Vocabulary, Comprehension and Literature Skills
- Research reveals students score lowest in Figurative Language Skills: Similes, Idioms, etc.
- Web based test prep acquired - Students pre-tested and enrolled
- Case management of MBST/GRAD students
- F2F GRAD Test Prep course implemented



# GRAD TRENDING PATTERNS



# We Want You Back Program Proposal(DRAFT)



# Future Multiple Pathways to Consider for Credit Deficient Students

- Educational Options Program
- Dual Enrollment
- Accelerated High Schools
- Charter High Schools
- Programs run by Community-Based Organizations
- Literacy Centers & Resources



# Every Student Counts in Minnesota

Moving even one student from dropout status to graduate status will contribute to a state's economic growth. If just 1,000 dropouts in the state had graduated from high school, these 1,000 new graduates, combined, would likely

- **earn \$12 million in additional earnings in an average year;**
- **spend an additional \$1.2 million each year purchasing vehicles**
- **by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, buy homes worth \$35 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and**
- **support 100 new jobs in the state, increase the gross state product by \$15 million, and pour an additional \$1.4 million annually into state coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.**

# High Cost of Dropping Out

## Health Care

- Teen girls who drop out are **5 times** more likely to become mothers over a two-year high school period
- The U.S. death rate for drop outs is **2.5 times** higher than the rate of those who graduate
- Dropouts are more likely to die prematurely from cardiovascular disease, cancer , infection, injury, lung disease, and diabetes skyrocketing the cost in public healthcare to **\$28.7 billion**

## Unemployment

- A high school drop out is **60%** more likely to be unemployed than a high school graduates – **\$475,900 LESS** in personal income over a lifetime,
- Dropouts make up **48%** of the households on welfare.
- Just under **1/3** of high school dropouts receive food stamps, compared with 17.3 percent of high school graduates
- The national unemployment rate stood at 8.1 joblessness among those without a high school degree measured at **12%**.

# High Cost of Dropping Out

- A high school dropout is **4-6** times more likely to be incarcerated than a high school graduates
- **75%** of inmates are dropouts
- **\$41,364** is the average annual cost per inmate in MN.
- WWYB per graduate cost is **\$4,867**

**67 Graduates to date –**

**Close to 32 Million dollars more in earned income**

# CHALLENGES

## For We Want You Back

1. Sustainable funding sources
2. Resources – Staff, Teachers, Data Analyst, etc.
3. Educational Options
4. Drop out re-engagement needs to be viewed as an integral part of academic programming.
5. **FINDING STUDENTS WHO ARE ONE TEST AWAY FROM THEIR DIPLOMA!**

# Resources

- [www.projectturn.net](http://www.projectturn.net)
- **Listening to New Voices: Youth Voices on Staying in School & Dropout Prevention in Minnesota:** A report by The Konopka Institute for Best Practices in Adolescent Health at the University of Minnesota, with support from the Minnesota Department of Education's Dropout Prevention, Retention, and Graduation Initiative Winter, 2009
- Check and Connect Cost Benefit Analysis/2011
- Alliance for Education, 2008

QUESTIONS?