

The ACTION YOUTH Mission

- To develop urban student leaders who positively influence communities

Why Do Urban Kids Need Our Help?

- Denver currently has a 56% “On-Time” graduation rate
- 92% of Action Youth students in Denver Public Schools are on the free and reduced lunch program, making them six times as likely to drop out of school. **
- According to the Denver Police, Denver has 200 gangs with 14,000 members, which has doubled over a decade.
- In 2007, homicide was the 2nd leading cause of death for urban students ages 10 to 24 years old. ***
- 1 in 5 Children are born to teen mothers in Action Youth communities **
- 46% of people over the age of 25 in Action Youth communities have less than a 12th grade education **
- Only 55% of graduating students enroll in college after High School with only 21% of those enrolled graduate ****

* Colorado Children’s Campaign

** The Piton Foundation, www.piton.org and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), 2011

*** Center for Disease Control, 2007 (www.cdc.gov/injury)

**** National Student Clearinghouse College Enrollment Summary for DPS, 2011

Five Ways Action Youth Meets the Need

1. Providing close relationships with caring adults to students from 6th grade through college.
Note: Close relationships with at least one caring adult foster a sense of belonging, which is an essential ingredient of successful youth development (Bentro et al., 1990; Eccles Ph.D. & Gootman MA, 2002; Pollack Ph.D., 2004).
2. In-school class elective incorporated as the primary component for developing “Student Leaders”
3. Action Youth develops “Student Leaders” by focusing on:
 - Healthy Life Choices Growing emotional, mental, physical, & spiritual capacity
 - Academic Excellence Developing enthusiasm to learn with rigor and relevance
 - Leading to Serve: Serving peers, school, and community to be a positive change
4. High school students become leaders and role models to incoming freshman and middle school students.
5. Year-round impact on students through in-school and summer programming

Measurable Success

- 100% of Action Youth students participate in Service Learning Projects
- 90% of Action Youth seniors graduate from high school
- 87% of Action Youth graduates are currently enrolled in college
- Each graduate saves the economy \$2 million over his or her lifetime.*

**Based on economic and tax revenue savings through welfare and prison costs, according to the Journal of Criminology*

More ACTION YOUTH Facts

- ACTION YOUTH partners with two DPS feeder schools (Kepner Middle & Lincoln High School)
- Over 530 students served by ACTION YOUTH programs in 2013-2014 school year
- In-School Assembly Awareness Campaigns impacted over 950 students