

Diplomas Now

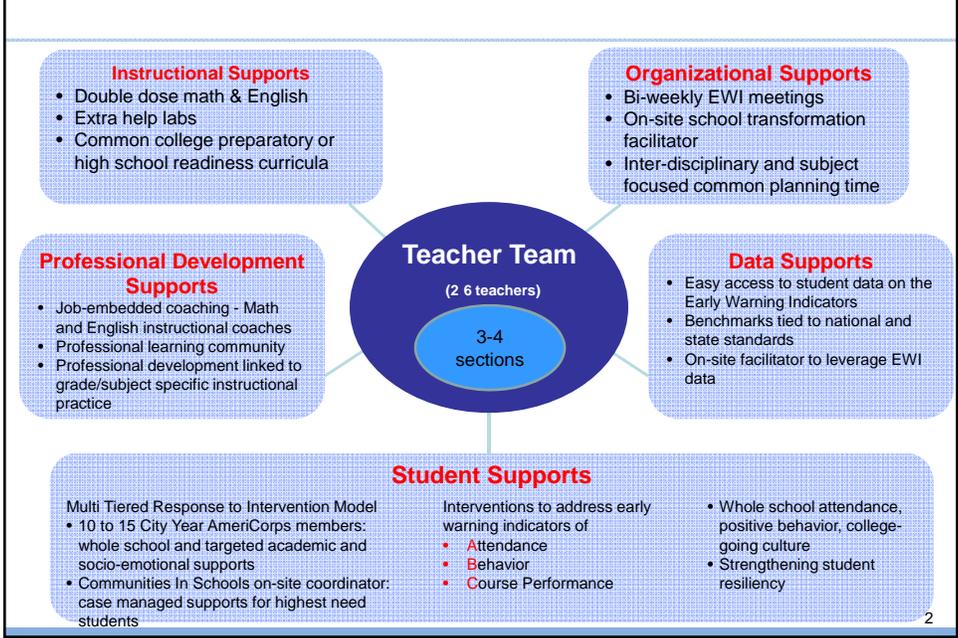
A collaborative partnership between schools and three highly effective organizations



Investing in Innovation (i3) winner

DIPLOMAS NOW

The Diplomas Now Model



Diplomas Now provides the range and intensity of supports required in the nation's most challenged schools

- Whole School Reform
- City Year Corp Members
- Case Management

- Early Warning System
- On-site coordination

Supporting all students to graduation and college readiness

	Core Function	Means and Methods
	Whole School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure, instruction teacher support and student support • Track the Early Warning Indicators (Attendance, Behavior and Course Performance) • Scheduling, staffing and budget supports
	Targeted Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corps members to "nag and nurture" students to success. • 8-15 full-time, full-day corps members serving as near-peer role models to mentor, tutor, provide behavior and attendance coaching and extended day learning
	Intensive Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School-based professional Site Coordinator • Targets the highest need students with intensive case management and referral to outside agencies where needed. • Brokered services through CIS partners

The Need at Browne Education Campus

- A K-8 school in a high-poverty neighborhood in DC
- Numerous challenges including:
 - Students with health, family and community
 - Low test scores
 - Many students behind grade-level (some severely)
 - Challenging behaviors (particularly in grades 6-8)

Discussion Question: Why was Diplomas Now a good fit?

Diplomas Now i3 Implementation

School Organization

- Diplomas Now input into leadership, staffing, budget and school schedule
- Teacher teaming, common planning time for teacher teams to discuss EWI data and interventions
- Strong **whole school** elements including:
 - School-wide climate and attendance initiatives
 - HS Readiness Curriculum
 - Extra-help courses
 - Instructional Coaches/Job-Embedded Professional Development
 - Extended Learning Time/School Day
- Commitment to working with and resourcing DN for at least a 3-year period. Support for the data collection process conducted by MDRC

Early Warning Indicator and Tiered Intervention

- Early Warning Indicator data at the classroom level
- On-Site Diplomas Now Facilitator for EWI data and intervention management and analysis, teacher team facilitation, and intervention integration and support
- City Year team of 8 -18 corps members to provide school wide and targeted interventions
- CIS On-site coordinator to provide case management and integrated student



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Coordination at Browne

- Regular communication between partners and principal (weekly to biweekly check-in)
- EWI meetings that discuss student data and orchestrate services around student needs
- Trust and rapport essential! Partners work together to resolve problems and address challenges at the school site

Discussion Question: How does this resemble or differ from practices at your school?

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Diplomas Now- Investing in Innovation Fund Winner

1,700 Applicants  49 Grantees

- **\$30M federal grant + \$6M** match through generous support of the PepsiCo foundation
- **60 schools in 10+ districts** reaching **57,000 students**
- Conduct randomized experimental **study validating the impact** of the model, and focusing on the conditions necessary to:
 - Achieve **80% grad rates** in high schools
 - **Reduce by 66%** the number of students entering high school below grade level

District Partners

Detroit Public Schools, Chicago Public Schools, Los Angeles Unified School District, Miami-Dade Public Schools, Louisiana Recovery School District, School District of Philadelphia, New York City Department of Education, District of Columbia Public Schools, Seattle Public Schools, Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, Northeast Independent School District (TX), Richland County School District One (SC), Southwest Independent School District (TX), San Antonio Independent School District (TX), Whitehall City School District (OH)

Other Partners

State Departments of Education of Louisiana, South Carolina and New York, Union Park High Schools, Deloitte Consulting, School Loop, Pearson PreVent, the City of Philadelphia.

Investing in Innovation (i3)



“Cutting-edge ideas that will produce the next generation for reform.”

- Secretary of Education Arne Duncan

Diplomas Now i3 Independent Evaluation

School-level partnership

- i3 requires an independent evaluation to prove the effectiveness of the Diplomas Now model and document program implementation and scale-up
- Approximately 80 partner schools nationwide (40 schools implementing Diplomas Now)
- Lottery within each district to determine DN schools and non-DN schools

Data collection

- **Student records data:** collected directly from district; transcripts, standardized assessment results, attendance, disciplinary data
- **Surveys:** students and staff in DN and non-DN schools; student engagement, school climate, availability of support services, etc. (annual administration)
- **Case studies:** 25% of DN schools across the nation; site visits (2-3 days) consisting of interviews and observations

Evaluation at Browne

- Collaborative is constantly monitoring student ABC (attendance, behavior, course performance) data and identifying progress or challenges
- Quarterly reports based on data are produced
- Quarterly review meetings, where effectiveness is evaluated and challenges to progress problem-solved

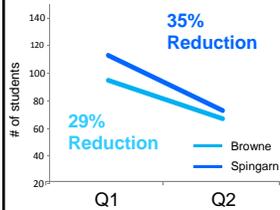
Discussion Question: How does your school/slc evaluate the effectiveness of a community

Diplomas Now Results Browne & Spingarn

Diplomas Now is in its first year of implementation at the Browne Education Campus and Spingarn High School in Washington D.C.
Below are statistics in these two schools from the first half of the 2010-11 school year.

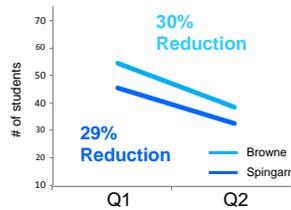
Attendance

of Students with less than 80% Attendance



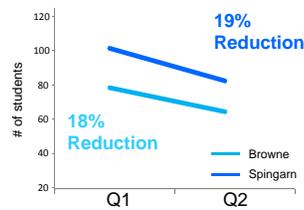
Behavior

of Students off-track in behavior*



Course Performance

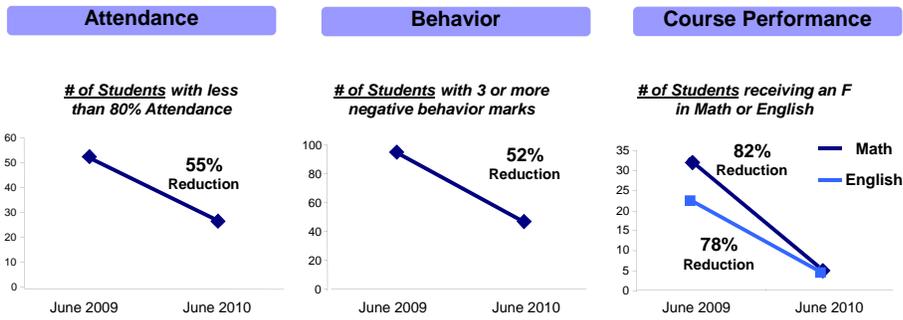
of Students failing Math or English



* off-track in behavior defined as 2 or more office referrals within a month or one in school or out of school suspension.

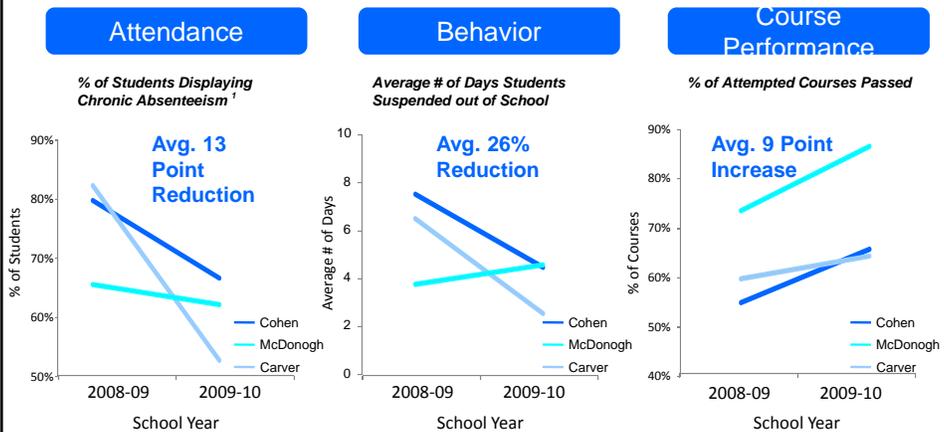
Diplomas Now Results: Philadelphia Middle Schools

Diplomas Now partnered with three Philadelphia high poverty middle schools in 2009-2010. These schools average 615 students, 84% of whom are eligible to receive free or reduced price lunch. Below are the aggregate results for all three schools from the 2009-10 School year.



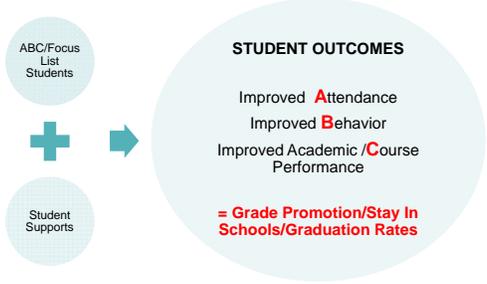
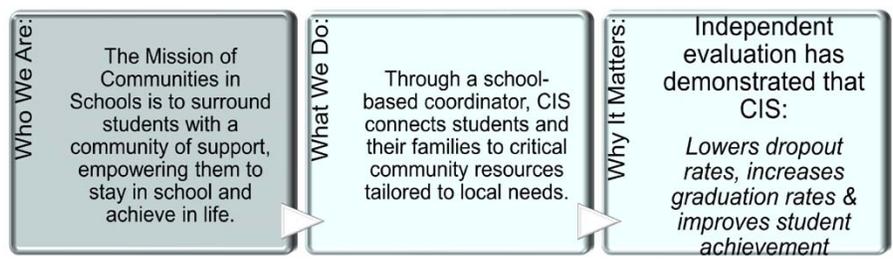
Diplomas Now New Orleans Results

- In 2009-2010 Diplomas Now was in three 9th grade academies in the Recovery School District, New Orleans: Cohen HS, Carver HS and John McDonogh HS
- Each of these high schools average ~450 students, 99% minority, 90% on free/reduced lunch
- Below is comparative data from these three high schools:



¹Chronic Absenteeism defined as 20 or more absences throughout the year.

Communities In Schools



The Communities In Schools Model & Diplomas Now:

- Provide annual school- and student-level plans for delivery of prevention and intervention services.
- Utilize school-based case manager concept to ensure appropriate delivery of prevention and intervention services.
- Broker services through CIS partners