

MPS wants students back

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A Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) program that helps former and current students obtain their high school diploma is reaching out to those who attended MPS between 2000 and 2012 and need to pass one or more state tests to graduate high school.

We Want You Back (WWYB) is a partnership between MPS and the Minneapolis Youth Collaborating Board that provides test preparatory classes for math, reading and writing, as well as regularly scheduled GRAD testing dates. The next testing dates are March 5 – 13.

Piloted at MPS in 2009, WWYB is committed to the school district's vision of every child college and career ready. Students leave school before graduating for a variety of reasons. WWYB and its community partners are dedicated to reaching out to every student to help him or her complete high school and earn a diploma. Student needs vary and WWYB offers a range of learning options from returning students to their traditional school to online courses for students who are just a few credits short of graduating.

For students under the age of 21 who are disengaged from school, WWYB collects educational records and completes an analysis of credits before determining the appropriate school placement. Adult Basic Education programs such as the GED or Adult Diploma are available for students over the age of 21.

Students who have met the credit requirements for graduation and have passed any of the Minnesota Basic Standards Tests in reading, writing or math can still count those results toward graduation through 2013. Students only need to pass the GRAD exam in the content areas they did not pass on the BST to earn a diploma.

In addition, Minnesota has a three attempt rule for all students that have not passed the math exam (Basic Standard or GRAD). This means students need to attempt to pass the math GRAD exam with a score of 50 or better three times. After the third attempt, providing the student has taken a math preparatory class, the math exam is considered "passed" by the state. The three attempt rule for math is expected to expire after 2013; at that time, students will be required to reach a score of 50 or better in order to pass the exam.

For additional information: <http://alc.mpls.k12.mn.us/wwyb>