

What is Destination Graduation?

- A comprehensive mentoring and academic intervention program
- Prepares the student holistically for post-secondary education and/or to enter the workforce successfully
- It is designed for high school students seriously at risk of dropping out
- It is a Workforce, Education, Employer partnership
- Targets personal, academic and employment success
- The program provides:
 - work-readiness training
 - one-on-one mentoring
 - individualized academic assistance
 - incentives to attend school regularly, improve grades, and graduate

“Destination Graduation is like a GPS because it points you in the right direction” . . . Gina



“If it hadn’t been for Mr. Comer, I probably would have given up. He kept me motivated and did whatever he needed to do to make sure I graduated from high school.” . . . Joshua

“Proven educational strategies to increase high school completion provide returns to the taxpayer that are as much as three and a half times their cost.” (Levin & Rouse, 2012)

How does it Work?

Students for the program and the control group are identified by the school team as being at greatest risk of dropping out

Generally in the bottom 25% academic progress

Program group receives DG services, control group does not (comparison for effectiveness)

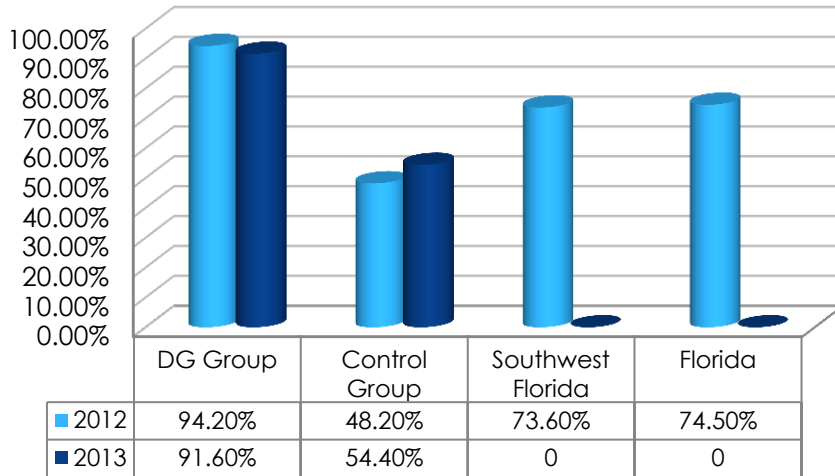
Student (in the program) and parent sign “contract” containing behavioral and progress goals in the areas of academic and workplace readiness skills

Monetary incentives are provided as goals are achieved including summer job placement

History

- 2009/2010, established first at Dunbar and Cape Coral High Schools in Lee County
- Fall 2011, three more mentors were placed in high schools in Collier and Glades counties
- Fall 2012, two more were added in Charlotte and Hendry counties
- Fall 2013, five more; the program now serves over 300 youth in 12 high schools in all five Southwest Florida counties.

Graduation Rates:



“The average high school dropout will cost taxpayers over \$292,000 in lower tax revenues, higher cash and in-kind transfer costs, and imposed incarceration costs relative to an average high school graduate.”
(Northeastern University, 2009)

Is an average investment of a little over \$16,000 in these students worth it?
You bet!

Destination Graduation Needs YOU!

Funding is needed for expansion of the existing Destination Graduation pilot program in Region 24 (from 12 to all 28 high schools).

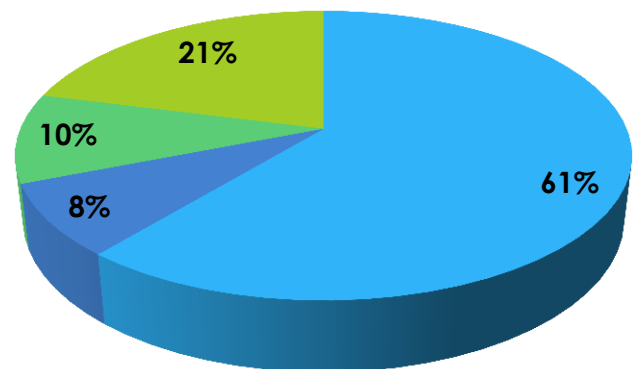
Our Vision:

*To demonstrate success and cost effectiveness . . .
And to provide a model for replication statewide.*

“Jamica is a graduate of Dunbar High School all because of the great support of this wonderful program. Everywhere I go I [am] always telling people the great impact this program did for the character and life of my daughter.”
... Tina H.

NEXT STEPS

■ College ■ Tech Train ■ Military ■ Ft Work



Number of High Schools	Students Per High School	Total Students Served	Cost Per Student	Total Program Cost	Total Funds Requested	SFWDB Local Match	State % of Total	SFWDB% of Total
28	25	700	\$5,474	\$3,832,486	\$2,874,364	\$958,122	75%	25%