OUR RESULTS

Evaluations show that Beacons is making a difference!

- Attend school more regularly.
- Demonstrate improved academic performance.
- Feel more connected with school and community.
- Develop 21st century skills to help prepare them for their future.

OUR STORY

In 1998, four of the largest youth development organizations in Minneapolis worked with school district, city and national leaders to replicate the highly successful New York City Beacons model in response to identified needs of youth in low-income neighborhoods. The Minneapolis Beacons Network began and continues with leadership from those same partners: the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities, the YWCA of Minneapolis, the Boys & Girls Club of the Twin Cities, and Minneapolis Community Education.

OUR VOICES

“Beacons staff let us make mistakes without being judged, love us when no one else does, give us opportunities to be leaders when no one else ever believes you can do it! I need Beacons, my friends need Beacons, the world needs Beacons.”
- Beacon Youth, age 12

“Minneapolis Public Schools has been a proud member agency of the Beacons Network since its inception fifteen years ago. Our school district leverages this partnership in order to provide additional opportunities for some of our neediest students at schools across the city. This partnership ensures that our students have meaningful, lasting relationships with caring adults who help them explore their potential as leaders in their schools and communities.”
- Bernadelia Johnson, Ed.D., Superintendent of Minneapolis Public Schools

“Keep Beacons in Minneapolis Public Schools. Our children need it to become leaders and learners of tomorrow’s generation.”
- Parent of a Beacon Youth

JOIN US!

Get involved, volunteer, donate, learn more at beaconsminneapolis.org.
The Beacons Network supports implementation of a multi-pronged funding strategy, coordinating local, state, and national funding streams to create a seamless model. At the Beacon Center level, School Partners align public resources such as transportation and Targeted Services, while Lead Partners mobilize volunteers, and corporate and community partnerships. The Network coordinates collaborative funding requests and generates resources to support services provided to the Centers.

**Collaborative Partnership**

**School Partner**
- Provides strong principal and teacher leadership
- Leads formal education strategies and instructional expertise
- Dedicates physical office and program space
- Contributes public resources towards staff and transportation costs
- Commits to ongoing joint planning, evaluation, and communication

**Lead Youth Development Partner**
- Provides high quality team of diverse community staff and alumni
- Leads youth development approach and complementary learning strategies
- Dedicates full time staff person for primary afterschool coordination
- Contributes private foundation, corporate and community resources including volunteers
- Commits to ongoing joint planning, evaluation, and communication

**Engaged Learning**
Beacon Centers inspire learning, build skills, and connect academics with real world experiences. Teachers and youth development staff partner to design hands-on learning opportunities, complementing the school day and providing targeted academic support.

**Program Choices**
Youth choose from a variety of structured, engaging and fun program opportunities unique to each Beacon Center. Programs are intentionally designed within common Beacons Network focus areas: youth leadership and service, academic enrichment, career-college readiness, health and wellness, arts and cultural enrichment, and family involvement.

**City-wide Youth Engagement**
Youth engage as decision-makers in their schools and community through opportunities supported by the Network. An annual Beacons Leadership Camp builds leadership skills, a sense of common identity, and sets the annual agenda for community action. Youth advisory boards at each Center feed into a city-wide Beacons Leadership Team and youth contribute to quality assessment and program design.

**Cross Agency Professional Development**
School Partners and Lead Partners connect around a common community youth development framework reinforced through joint professional development and capacity building. The Beacons Network develops strong urban youth workers through training, technical assistance, and regular convenings where staff share best practices and apply research to program design.