

Solutions at hand

Vanishing Graduates & Minnesota's Future



To sustain our state in these times, we must build our brain power. That means doing a better job of educating more students — ensuring they succeed in school and then in college.

Solutions are at hand. Better educating more students requires ongoing efforts by everyone. Here are steps we can take — as parents, neighbors and communities:

- Commit time
- Help students prepare
- Invest money
- Speak up

Here are some ideas to get you started; then consider other steps you can imagine taking.

COMMIT TIME

Volunteer, mentor, get informed or get others involved.

*Examples — A company offers workplace tutoring ...
an individual speaks to a class about her career path ...
a student uses an online tool to explore career and education possibilities ...
a teacher plans how to involve parents ...
a community starts an after-school program*

HELP STUDENTS PREPARE

Offer information or support for all the ways students can help themselves succeed academically — including academic enrichment, access and college prep programs.

Examples — A business allocates 40 hours a year for

What do you want to do?

Visit www.learnmoremn.org for resources, including samples of what is working and suggestions for how to get involved.

“The reason why children fail is because we let them, in a lot of ways. It is up to me to change the lives of the students who I think I can help.”

Tinbete Ermyas
recent college graduate

continued on back

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What's creating our challenge

Six factors are coming together to create the “vanishing graduates” challenge:

1. Decline in numbers of high school students
2. Lost opportunities when education ends early
3. Education gaps for an increasingly diverse population
4. Overall student performance falling short
5. Demand for college-educated workers to exceed supply
6. More education required for future innovation

Looking for more information and resources? Visit www.learnmoremn.org.

employees to volunteer with students ... a parent reinforces classroom learning with fun real-world activities ... a teacher expresses high expectations for all her students ... a community starts a tutoring program

INVEST MONEY

Give money to organizations serving children's education needs, contribute to a scholarship fund or support public investments — ranging from improved funding for preschool to increasing need-based aid for college students.

Examples — A parent sets up 529 savings accounts for his children ... a business gives money to a nonprofit that works on college access ... a local organization establishes a scholarship ... a voter decides a district's bond referendum is a needed investment

SPEAK UP

Tell others about our challenges, share ideas for what we can do, encourage young people to plan for college or urge policymakers to address this challenge.

Examples — A parent gives a LearnmoreMN presentation at a PTA meeting ... a clergy member brings in recent college grads to speak to a youth group ... an educator champions college prep for all students ... an employee urges her employer to develop a school partnership

“We need to be the state that uses its brain power when we don't have the brawn power anymore. But you can't do that if you don't have kids graduating from high school, enrolling in college and completing college successfully.”

Peter Hutchinson
Bush Foundation

Many quotes are from sources interviewed for the television program “Vanishing Graduates & Minnesota's Future.” For more on the program and data used here, visit www.learnmoremn.org.

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