



## MINNESOTA ALLIANCE WITH YOUTH POLICY AGENDA

Founded in 1997, Minnesota Alliance With Youth (the Alliance) is a leading convener, collaborator and capacity-builder for youth development, working with and for youth to ensure that all young people have access to the five fundamental resources proven to ensure that youth succeed; the Five Promises of Caring Adults, Safe Places, A Healthy Start, Effective Education and Opportunities to Help Others. As a leading affiliate of the America's Promise Alliance, we are uniquely and powerfully positioned to work alongside communities, schools, government agencies, families and youth to mobilize individuals and systems to invest in young people so they can develop strong voices, be engaged, and acquire the skills needed for success in school, work and life. The Alliance believes that every young person should have the opportunity and resources available to them to reach their full potential, yet too many youth face barriers to achieving that vision, and communities lack the resources to support them.

### **OUR GOALS**

THE ALLIANCE WORKS WITH LEGISLATORS, COMMUNITIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT POLICY EFFORTS THAT REFLECT BEST PRACTICES IN THE FOLLOWING THREE FOCUS AREAS:

#### ***Make Minnesota a Leader for Youth Voice in Decision Making***

- Host the statewide Minnesota Youth Council (MYC) to provide a forum for young people to share their perspectives on youth issues. The MYC informs local and state representatives, the Minnesota Department of Education, and Youthprise, to make recommendations for policy in support of a common, comprehensive youth policy vision
- Support the efforts of the Minnesota Youth Council Committee within the Minnesota Legislature by highlighting issues of importance to youth in Minnesota
- Support the legislative efforts of partner organizations that foster and prioritize youth voice
- Identify and nurture opportunities for youth engagement in the policy-making process; provide training for both youth and adults to ensure their engagement is meaningful and successful at the state and local levels
- Support national efforts to increase opportunities for youth voice, including the Campaign for the Presidential Youth Council

#### ***Mobilize our Statewide Network to Increase the High School Graduation Rate to 90% by 2020***

- Support broad policy discussions and comprehensive policy initiatives to close the achievement and opportunity gaps
- Support efforts to build opportunities for youth engagement including quality out of school time programs, mentoring programs, service-learning, civic engagement, etc.
- Advance efforts to invest in long term support by connecting youth with caring adults, securing funding for out-of-school time programs, providing opportunities for youth to serve, and ensuring an effective educational experience
- Support our partner organizations and their constituents, bringing together diverse sectors to articulate a common vision for youth policy in Minnesota that reflects community support for all young people from birth through adolescence

#### ***Support AmeriCorps at a Local, Statewide, and National Level***

- Invest in opportunities to support national service, recognizing service as one of the most powerful tools for combating pressing challenges in our communities. Since 1998, the Alliance has hosted nearly 1,000 AmeriCorps Promise Fellows, impacting the lives of over 185,000 high-risk youth across Minnesota
- Ensure national service is an accessible resource to all communities throughout Minnesota. In rural, suburban, and urban settings, AmeriCorps Promise Fellows partner with schools and community organizations to organize and manage high quality evidenced based strategies for youth facing the academic and opportunity gaps
- Support national efforts to increase the visibility, effectiveness, and sustainability of AmeriCorps by partnering with and promoting the Corporation for National & Community Service, America's Promise Alliance, Service Nation, and Voices for National Service

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

VISIT [www.mnyouth.net](http://www.mnyouth.net)

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