



2016-2018 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Prepared by Girls in Action
Leadership Team
February 2018





In June 2016, New Minnesota Legislation to Help Women & Girls of Color was passed (2016 Minnesota Session Laws, Chap. 189) which provided \$1.5M in FY17 to Girls in Action (The Girls in Action House Bill HF3450), to continue to provide and to expand Twin Cities' school and community-based programs that encourage and support low-income girls, including low-income girls of color, to graduate from high school on time, complete a postsecondary preparation program, become community leaders, and participate in service-learning.

Core Components

Personal Power



Service-learning



Leadership

Career Coaching



WHAT WERE THE THREE MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE GIRLS IN ACTION BILL?

1. To sustain and strengthen our current programs
2. To expand our programs to new schools and communities
3. To create community-based chapters for the program

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS SO FAR?

Objective One: Sustain and strengthen our current programs



End of the Year Tea and Service-learning Conference

Result #1: We implemented our programs into our six returning sites

- North High School (MPS)
- Henry High School (MPS)
- Anwatin Middle School (MPS)
- Washington Technology & Magnet High School (SPPS)
- Humboldt Secondary Schools - Jr & Senior High (SPPS)
- Fridley High School

Result #2: We enhanced all six returning sites and our 11 new sites with additional programming for girls

Health & Wellness

- We provided Breathe Logic training for all Lead Mentors
- We integrated the use of breathe as a way to help girls practice wellness and calming techniques as a way to help girls calm down and think before taking drastic (often violent) actions or making poor decisions (often negative attitudes in school toward peers and teachers)



Financial Literacy

- We provided financial literacy seminars for our girls
- We provided career coaches who specialized in financial literacy for our graduating seniors

Literacy & STEM Career Development

- We took all the girls to a showing of the Hidden Figures Movie, then engaged them with a panel of Female Professionals working in STEM Careers
- We trained STEM career coaches to mentor girls on a monthly basis



Integrating Fine Art

- We engaged a local artist to mentor girls on how to express their sense of value, voice and confidence using fine art.
- Each girl created an I AM art piece called the I AM Mosaic which was added to a larger public art project to help other girls realize their personal power, leadership and find their voice.

Objective Two: Expand our programs to new schools and communities



GIA participated at Youthprise SparkSummit at SPNN

Result #1: We expanded to Four NEW schools in Hennepin County

- Cooper High School
- Harvest Academy
- Marcy Open
- Franklin Middle

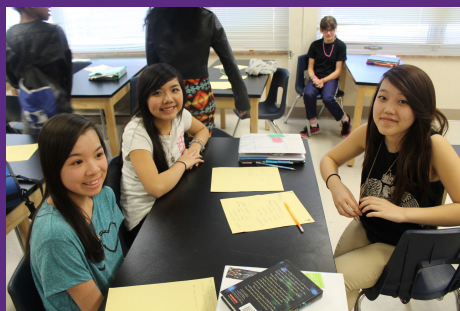


Result # 2: We expanded to Three NEW Schools in Ramsey County



- Washington Technology & Magnet Junior High
- Ramsey Middle School
- Laura Jeffries Academy

Objective Three: Create community-based Girls in Action chapters for the program



Results: We created Four NEW community-based chapters

1. Latina American Chapter
2. Asian American Chapter
3. Somali American Chapter
4. Minneapolis Public Housing Community Chapter



OUR RESULTS AT A GLANCE

- **Girls Reached:** 500
- **School Attendance Data:** 92% attendance
- **Women Leaders involved as Lead Mentors, Career Coaches and Leadership Mentors:** 130
- **Grades Data:** 75% increased their grades
- **Suspensions Impact Data:** 86% of girls DID NOT get suspended
- **Graduation Impact Data:** 95% Seniors Graduated ON-TIME and 80% are now enrolled in college
- **Employment Pipeline Data:** 75% of Graduating Seniors Enrolled in College
- **Community Impact Data:** 100% of Girls conducted a service-learning project
- **Social Capital Data:** 100% of Girls attended at least THREE college, workplace, cultural, community field trips
- **Mentor Data:** 100% of girls had at least FOUR Positive Female Mentors
- **Family Connection Data:** 95% of families in the program were called with a positive report about their student at least once a month

The Class of 2017





PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

OUR HISTORY

Girls in Action™ founded in 2005 by Dr. Verna Cornelia Price was a response to a request from North High School in Minneapolis that was experiencing a rise in violence among girls. This program was designed to provide structured mentoring combined with an interactive - research based curriculum within the context of real life experiences to provide girls with a positive outlook for their futures with the intention of decreasing violence while increasing academic engagement and high school graduation rates. In the last 12 years, the program has impacted over 4000 girls across the Twin Cities Metro area, Detroit, Chicago, Atlanta, Guatemala and Kenya, Africa. We work to see that 100% of our girls graduate from high school on time and attend college. Currently, we have a 95% graduation rate and 80% are enrolling in college after high school.

OUR MISSION

Motivate, Mentor, Empower, Engage and Educate Girls to Succeed in School and Life.

HOW DOES PROGRAM WORK?

A weekly mentoring and empowerment program for female students in grades 6 through 12 that extends throughout the school year and is integrated into the regular school day. In 2016, the program launched four after-school community-based chapters across the Twin Cities Metro area. Women mentors and leaders meet with girls weekly to work with them on learning how to positively use their personal power, leadership development, careers discovery, positive community engagement and college preparation. Girls are taught about decision-making, self-control and how to take responsibility for their actions in school and life. Girls also participate in fields trips designed to expose them to colleges, corporations, culture, and community organizations as a core strategy for increasing their social capital and creating a positive life trajectory.

OUR GOALS

1. Empower girls to find and positively use their personal power
2. Provide mentoring through meaningful connections to positive women leaders
3. Reengage girls in academic achievement
4. Create pathways for girls to pursue positive leadership
5. Expose girls to broad range of career pathways
6. Prepare girls to graduate on time from high school and pursue higher education
7. Engage girls in advocacy and social change through service-learning
8. Engage girls in positive cross-cultural interactions and communication