

Philadelphia ^{CADEMIES} INC.

STUDENT DATA COLLECTION

The collection of data from and about our Academy students continues to be a critical part of our cache of information on the impact of the Academies. Many of constituents and partners, especially current and potential funders, want information about how our interventions with students influence their behavior in and opinions about their education while in an Academy.

STUDENTS SURVEYS

The 10th grade intake and 12th grade exit surveys provide a baseline of information gathered from our students that is used to keep in contact with them throughout their high school career and beyond. These surveys will become even more important their year as we fully launch the Philadelphia Academies Longitudinal Study (PALS) this fall- see additional details below. For those of you who are new to this process, we will distribute hard copies of these surveys during the school year according to the following timeline:

10th grade Intake Surveys
12th grade Exit Surveys

between October 15 and January 10
between February 1 and April 15

Academies, Inc. staff will need your cooperation in making sure that all students in 10th and 12th grade are available to fill out these surveys, which only take a few minutes to complete in class.

NOTE: For 11th grade students, we will gather contact information updates only, on a single sheet for each student.

CLASS LISTS AND ENROLLMENT FIGURES

Although we have created a student database from the information submitted by students on their complete surveys forms, we need to compare this student listing with class lists that you have a schools to make sure that we account for every student that is actually enrolled in an Academy. To that end, we will again be requesting class lists from each of your Academies. If you have any difficulty obtaining this information, please notify PAI staff so that we can facilitate this process. We will also request an enrollment count of students, by grade, for each of your Academies to compare to the enrollment information we obtain quarterly from the School District.

COHORT ANALYSIS

For the past two school years, we have gathered information from the School District regarding the graduation rate of Academy students who been in the same school and the same Academy for 3-4 years. (In several prior years, we gathered information was only a "snapshot" of those students for that year.) The charts on the following two pages represent the cohort analyses for the 0506 and 0607 school years. This information is of great interest to our business partners and, hopefully, can be expanded to show trends by Academy in future years.

Philadelphia ACADEMIES INC.

PHILADELPHIA ACADEMIES LONGITUDINAL STUDY (PALS)

The New York-based research group, MDRC, recently presented a five-year update to their initial 10-year study of the academy model we created here in Philadelphia. Although we were not part of the group of academies that were studied, the results speak to the long term influence of our model. Specifically, young people who graduated from career academies earned higher wages and experienced greater employment stability than their non-Academy counterparts. As an organization we do not have resources to do as deep and extensive a study as MDRC conducted. However, as of this fall, Philadelphia Academies will begin looking at the Class of 2011 (this year's 10th graders) and obtaining important information about them during their time in an Academy and six (6) years beyond their high school graduation. Some of you may be aware of our work during the past year to begin for the Longitudinal Study. The focus for the PALS has changed and will now be center on our students' experiences, looking closing at:

- Motivation
- Resiliency
- Use of career and educational networks

Here is where completion of the 10th grade intake and 12th grade exit surveys become critically important, as stated above. We want to compare students' answers to various questions that we will ask as they progress through their post-secondary experiences- see additional information under Graduate Follow-up below. We will also conduct focus groups to obtain information, opinions and observations from students. We will be assisted in all these efforts by a research team from the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education.

GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP

As many of you are aware, for a number of years we have conducted 6 to 18 month follow-up with Academies' graduates. obtaining information about their post-secondary status- i.e. whether they are working, in college or trade school, the military or any combinations of these. Once again, this makes the contact information from the 12th grade surveys critically important. Your help in obtaining completed surveys forms from every senior is vital to this effort. Additionally now, for the purposes of the Longitudinal Study, we will be following a representative number of students from Class of 2011 for six (6) years beyond graduation and, therefore , will continue to need your assistance with any graduates with whom you stay in contact. Your assistance with filling in the information gaps will be very important to our efforts.