



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Volunteers for 8th Annual Reach Out Walk

For the past few years, groups across the nation have partnered to support National Attendance Month or Attendance Awareness Month in September to stress the importance of good attendance at school for students. In Goose Creek CISD, community members and district volunteers worked together again this year during the 8th Annual Reach Out Walk Saturday, September 19, starting at Ross S. Sterling High School. The event is an effort to get some students to come back to school and to encourage others to become successful graduates.

More than 260 volunteers donated their time to set up, work with registration or t-shirts, or visit the homes of students who had not yet shown up at school this year or those who needed some guidance about school to encourage them and provide resources to help them complete their high school education. If no one was at home, the teams left information packets at the door. Volunteers included Randal O'Brien, GCCISD's superintendent; Steven DonCarlos, mayor of the City of Baytown, Bob Hoskins, Baytown City Council member; representatives from Lee College and the University of Houston; and faculty and staff members from nearly all 28 district campuses. Robert E. Lee High School Peer Assistance and Leadership (PAL) students cheered on the teams as they left with their assignments, and food and door prizes were donated by Keep Baytown Beautiful, Starbucks, Sonic and Shipley's Donuts.

The days before the Reach Out Walk had been a flurry of activity for junior school and high school counselors, social workers, administrators and attendance clerks as they worked to provide information as to the location of the students, reasons for excessive absences and anything else that would help the volunteers assist the students. Tricia Nesselrode and Sherry Bell from the PEIMS Department verified enrollment through the state database.

During the brief training at the Reach Out Walk, volunteers were given their packets with names and addresses of former students who had excessive absences or had not shown up at school. From the junior schools and high schools, 190 students had excessive absences that totaled 30 or more days. More than 140 students were considered no-shows or dropouts.



Robert E. Lee High School PALs cheer on the teams of Reach Out Walk volunteers as they leave to visit with students who have not returned to school this school year. Pictured are Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent; Steven DonCarlos, mayor of the City of Baytown and Mike Riojas, assistant principal at Stuart Career Center. View more photos [here](#).

There are often reasons for the lack of attendance. Some students are in the process of moving and the records have not been requested by the new school. Others might not have passed one or more TAKS or STAAR End-of-Course tests, which kept them from graduating. Many have family responsibilities and obligations.

In the next few weeks, some of the students who were contacted by the volunteers will re-enroll on their campuses or talk to a counselor about earning credits through Odyssey, a computer credit recovery program, or Night School, offered at the Peter E. Hyland Center.

"We are grateful for all the volunteers and community support, and we look forward to continuing improvement with attendance as it is monitored weekly on the campuses," said Dr. Precious Reimonenq, director of guidance and counseling. "We anticipate that the numbers will decrease each year based on the work of each campus's student support team, consisting of administrators, counselors and a social worker."

Share This!



© Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District

Physical Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
4544 Interstate 10 East
Baytown, Texas 77521
281.420.4800

Mailing Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
P.O. Box 30
Baytown, Texas 77522
281.420.4800

[Statement of Non-Discrimination](#)

[Contact the Webmaster](#)

[Required Internet Postings](#)

[Site Map](#)

[Google Translate](#)