



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Reach Out to Dropouts Walk 2009



Location

Ross S. Sterling High School



Schedule

Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Volunteer Training

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Reach Out to Dropouts Walk

9:30 a.m. – noon

Return Materials to Site

noon – 12:30 p.m.

Volunteers needed for Goose Creek ‘Reach Out to Dropouts Walk’ on Sept. 12

Volunteers are needed for Goose Creek CISD's Reach Out to Dropouts Walk on Sept. 12. The event will last from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 12:30 p.m., beginning and ending at Ross S. Sterling High School.

The Reach Out to Dropouts Walk is an effort to get students to come back to school. When a student fails to show up for class at the beginning of the school year, volunteers go to the homes of these students and offer the encouragement and resources that they need in order to complete their high school education.

Last year, more than 175 volunteers met at Sterling High School before dispersing in more than 30 teams to knock on doors. Teachers, administrators, and community volunteers went to the homes of 189 former students and made them aware of after-school programs that could help them finish their education. And the efforts of the volunteers paid off! A total of 56 students returned to school that fall.

"We live in an age when the ability of an individual to be successful depends largely on their education. The success of a community, in turn, depends on having an educated workforce, prepared for jobs with a future," said Goose Creek Superintendent Dr. Toby York. "The doors of opportunity will not be opened to students who do not complete high school."

News reports show that on a daily basis in our country, more than 1,200 young men and women decide to drop out of school. Once students make the decision to drop out, they lack the tools to compete in today's society. In the Lone Star State, about 18 percent of the high schools have graduation rates of less than 60 percent. The social and economic realities are staggering.

There is no single reason why students drop out of high school. The decision to drop out is complex and relates to the individual student and his/her family, school, and community. The decision is personal, reflects the student's unique life circumstances, and is a part of a slow process of disengagement from school.

A high school graduate in 2000 earned about 25 percent more a year than a high school dropout, while a college graduate will make more than twice as much a year as a high school dropout. Statistics show that high school dropouts are four times more likely than college graduates to be unemployed and three times more likely than high school graduates to receive public assistance. Compared to proportions of the general population, a much larger percentage of prison inmates do not have high school diplomas.

That's why Goose Creek officials are asking for employees, parents, alumni, local leaders, and other community members to show students that they care about their future by contacting them at their homes on Saturday, Sept. 12, and encouraging them to complete their high-school education.

Goose Creek officials and teachers want each student not only to graduate from high school but also be prepared for post secondary opportunities. With community support, the district will provide a way for students to return and graduate from high school.

"We need the community's involvement in contacting our students and offering available resources to ensure that they graduate from high school. The community's help is vital to the success of the walk," York said.

Goose Creek CISD invites anyone who wants to participate to volunteer by Friday, Sept. 4.

Visit our website at www.gccisd.net for more information and [volunteer registration forms](#) or call Guidance and Counseling Department at 281-420-3082.

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