



MYA 2014

METRO YOUTH ADVOCATES

www.metroyouthadvocates.org

The Y, the Mayor’s Healthy Hometown Movement, Metro United Way, Metro Council, JCPS, and community leaders around Louisville are partnering together for the second year of the youth advocacy program Metro Youth Advocates (MYA).

The goal of Metro Youth Advocates is to create a diverse cohort of young leaders with the knowledge, skills, experience, network, and confidence to spark positive change in their communities. Secondly, MYA serves as an instrument for elevating the youth voice across the city and engaging young people more substantively in the issues that impact them.

Over 8 sessions, students will strengthen their advocacy, public speaking, problem solving, and critical thinking skills through intensive trainings, while engaging meaningfully with public officials, community leaders and youth from across the Louisville Metro Region. Research shows that youth engagement both reduces the likelihood of interpersonal violence and delinquency as well as promotes the development of positive youth competencies and emotional well-being.



This year’s program brings together 105 students from 35 different zip codes, 28 different high schools, and 10 different self-identified ethnicities. These leaders will form the backbone of the next generation of community leaders in Louisville.

To have meaningful impact on an issue, community leaders need to have within their personal toolkit:

- **Inspiration** to effect change on an issue important to them
- **Information** about the issue from credible sources
- **Understanding** of the wide range of interested stakeholders in the community
- **Skills** to engage these interested stakeholders in meaningful ways (including critical thinking, listening, writing, empathy, and public speaking)
- **Experience** navigating official meetings, government bureaucracy, and media
- **Network** of other advocates and citywide connections
- **Confidence** in their ability to affect change



During each session, students will be exposed to one or more of these tools and then asked to apply them to the specific issue they have chosen. Experts from the government, social, and business sectors will meet with the students in the first portion of every session. Students will spend the remainder of every session working in small groups to develop a policy proposal about their community issue of choice.

Each session will introduce students to a new angle of advocacy, as described below:

Introduction to Advocacy	January 29
Advocacy Opportunities in Louisville	February 12
The Scope of Government	February 26
Stakeholders and Community Involvement	March 12
The Business Case	March 26
Communicating with Legislators	April 9
Media and Philanthropy	April 23

The students’ work will culminate in presentations to the community and city leaders on May 7.



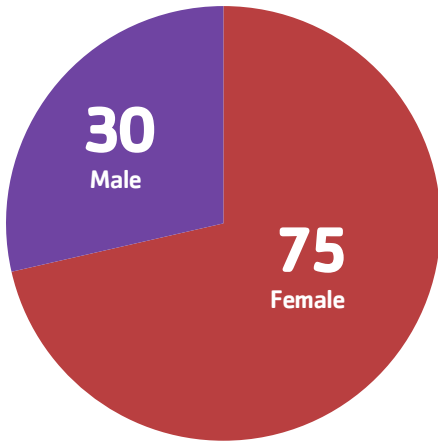
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STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

Nominated
for MYA by

22

Teachers
Counselors
Mentors



REPRESENTING

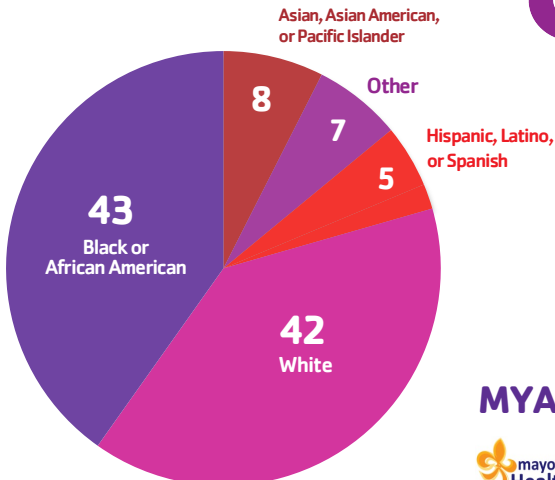
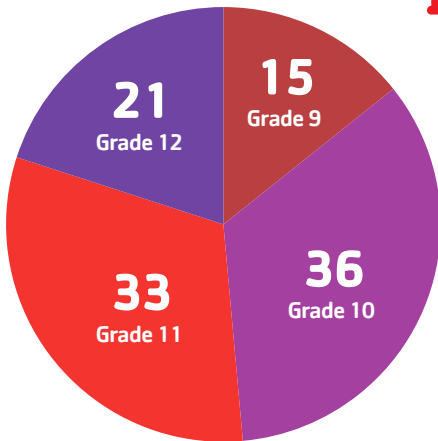
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 LOUISVILLE
HIGH SCHOOLS

- Assumption High School
- Atherton High School
- Ballard High School
- Butler Traditional High School
- Central High School
- Doss High School
- duPont Manual High School
- Eastern High School
- ESL Newcomer Academy
- Fairdale High School
- Iroquois High School
- Jeffersontown High School
- Kentucky Country Day School
- Louisville Collegiate School
- Louisville Male High School
- Maryhurst Academy
- Oldham County High School
- Portland Christian School
- Presentation Academy
- Sacred Heart Academy
- Saint Xavier High School
- Seneca High School
- Southern High School
- St. Francis High School
- Trinity High School
- Valley High School
- Waggener High School
- Youth Build Louisville



RESIDENTS OF ALL
Metro Council
26 Districts



www.metroyouthadvocates.org

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