

GREAT FUTURES START **HERE.**



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF GREATER GREEN BAY

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Boys & Girls Club of Greater Green Bay announces local & statewide expansion of the BE GREAT: Graduate program

The BE GREAT: Graduate program announces the local & statewide expansion to make sure all youth graduate high school on time, with a plan for success

GREEN BAY, Wis. (Nov. 8, 2019) – The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Green Bay announces the local & statewide expansion of the BE GREAT: Graduate (BGG) mentoring intervention to provide intensive academic support for local students at risk of dropping out of school.

Today, BGG has substantial State support to scale to a total of 17 communities across Wisconsin. In Green Bay, our BGG program now has capacity to serve over 200 students in the following school districts: Green Bay Area Public Schools, Howard-Suamico School District, Denmark School District, and Ashwaubenon School District.

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Green Bay's Interim Executive Director Eric VandenHeuvel believes the Club is the driving force for positive change for countless future young leaders in our community, starting with extending the Club's outcome-driven programs, like BGG, to those who need it most.

"Over the last nine years, the BGG program has averaged a 92% graduation rate among participating students," VandenHeuvel says. "Based on this strong performance record, the Club has an aggressive vision to expand the BGG program to all Brown County middle and high schools within the next five years."

By creating a data sharing agreement with school districts, using a proven 'Check & Connect' model, and employing full-time coordinators and part-time coaches and mentors, the Boys & Girls Clubs turn dropouts into graduates.

In the early stages, funding from AT&T was leveraged to secure a grant from the State of Wisconsin, championed by Representative John Klenke. State representative John Macco championed support for BGG, resulting in an increase in State funding to expand BGG in three cities in Wisconsin: Fox Valley, Oshkosh, and Milwaukee.

"Representative Macco has been a champion for children in his early efforts to push the BE GREAT: Graduate program starting years ago," said Andy Gussert, Alliance Director for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Wisconsin. "Much like when a teen graduates and leaves home, this program has grown and now goes on to help thousands of youth graduate across Wisconsin."

The program has three components: a graduation specialist relationship, intentional tracking and club-school-home partnership and communication. The program targets the kids most at risk of leaving high school and uses early warning signals exhibited by students in grades 6-12, such as poor attendance, behavioral problems and course failure, to identify the youth most at risk of dropping out. Graduation coaches work with each student to be great, and graduate.

¹ Source: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/by-the-numbers-dropping-out-of-high-school/>

Media note: Photos available upon request.

About Boys & Girls Club of Greater Green Bay

[The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Green Bay](#), 1451 University Avenue, believes every child deserves to be in an environment that brings out the very best in them. For more than 50 years, the Club has provided youth aged 7-18 with a safe place to learn and grow during out-of-school hours, while also opening the door to positive relationships with caring adult professionals and life-changing opportunities through educational programs. The Club has five locations throughout greater Green Bay where memberships are available for only \$10 per year. For more information, please visit www.bgcgb.org. You can also find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)!

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