



**Back In The Classroom:
Addressing the Chronic Absenteeism Challenge
Education, Health and Community Solutions**

**Break Out Session:
Multnomah Youth Commission: Youth Voice**

The Multnomah Youth Commission is the official policy body for both Multnomah County and the City of Portland, composed of individuals ages 13-21 that strive to provide a voice for youth in the County and City's work. The commission is broken into three committees: Youth Against Violence, Sustainability, and Education/Youth Voice. Youth representatives of the Education/Youth Voice Committee will be presenting on their work with chronic absenteeism and disengagement from school. Cradle to Career's Community Supporting Youth Collaborative has been a long-standing partner of Education/Youth Voice, and first brought chronic absenteeism to the committee's attention. Since then, the committee has conducted focus groups, analyzed the data, and started working towards the policy change needed to reduce chronic absenteeism.

Presenters:

Andrea Márquez
Youth Development Coordinator
City of Portland

Amy Qiu
Education/Youth Voice Committee, Multnomah Youth Commission
Senior at Lincoln High School

Grace Ramstad
Education/Youth Voice Committee, Multnomah Youth Commission
Junior at Centennial High School