

Stakeholder Group Summit Outcomes and Plans

Education Stakeholder Group

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Pre-Summit Stakeholder Group Assumption Targets and Proposed Activities

Will address assumptions 1–6

- Create a parent-child education program model targeting children ages 0–3 and providing:
 - o Community resources awareness
 - o Early childhood education
 - o Adult literacy education
 - o Parenting education classes toward partnerships with teachers
- Provide high-quality education public service announcements and commercials
- Create a parent and student literacy outreach program

Summit Report in Brief

Who attended?

Attendees included home school parents, public school parents, area businesspersons, educators, and representatives of Baylor University, McLennan Community College, and Texas State Technical College.

What the stakeholder group considered

We analyzed data in order to determine specific needs of the Greater Waco community, re-searched best practices, and collaborated to develop potential community initiatives.

We considered proactive parent education, support, and mentoring to invest in children's education between birth and age 5; school readiness to prepare students to enter school on a level playing field; and mentoring designed to assist students in their pursuit of higher education.

What will be our success?

We will be successful when a newspaper headline in year 2013 reads, "Universal Pre-School for Four-Year-Olds Successfully Implemented in Greater Waco Community" and "Waco Passport Program Recognized for Unifying Area Resources."

Discussion

The turnout for the education stakeholder meeting was tremendous, with well over 100 participants. With such a large group, small group discussion activities were facilitated to bring together ideas and initiatives for possible post-summit work. Along with very specific proposals, a large list of overarching ideas was generated and documented.

Specific proposals carried the following titles: Educate Waco; Universal Pre-K; Education Booster Stations; Nurture Your Brain/Nurture Your Mind; Educating Parents in Programs; Processes, Procedures, and Resources; Middle School Profiles for our Future; Parent Mentor Network; Edu-College Program; Connecting Knowledge with College; and Passport. A few of these proposals follow.

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Universal Pre-K

The Education Stakeholder Group felt it important that all four-year-olds attend pre-kindergarten. Requiring the commitment of local school boards, the group recognized it would be necessary to seek funding in order to offer this opportunity for all students.

Education Booster Stations

The group envisions the use of public and private facilities for volunteer-staffed reading-readiness programs. The group foresees developing a pilot model, soliciting the time of area retired teachers, and creating a program that integrates with existing reading programs at area schools.

“Education...I tell you...it’s the most beautiful word in the English language.”
– Bernard Rapoport,
Board President
Bernard & Audre Rapoport
Foundation

Edu-College Program

The group believes all children can be empowered to see themselves as postsecondary students. A list of frequently asked questions would be gleaned from postsecondary sources and modified for distribution to appropriate high school and middle school personnel. With the intent to help students to consider higher education options earlier in their school careers, programs such as visits to college campuses and the use of postsecondary mentors would better ensure an earlier consideration of options.

Passport

With the intent to steer parents and their children to appropriate community agencies and services, a program would be devised and coordinated in which a passport stamp would be issued at certain milestone events. The initial passport would be given at the first OB-GYN doctor visit and “stamps” provided as information sessions, parenting classes, immunizations, and other major encounters are managed. The accumulation of stamps would entitle the family to discounts on items such as diapers and car seats. The passport would create a community-recognized “right of passage” for students and parents.

First-Year Action Items and Assumption Targets

- Form subcommittees of experts in the field of education along content areas, and by natural grade ranges, for more specific pedagogical assistance; adapt for broad experience and balance of theoretical and practical, i.e., reading 0–3 and pre–K, K–3, 4–8, and 9–12 grade levels
- Create guidance documents and training modules for non-educator use in addressing the assumption targets of other stakeholder groups
- Network with other stakeholder groups to assist with their initiatives for soundness of practice, efficiency, and effectiveness
- Identify best practices and make resources available via the website
- Document baseline data and collect documents in order to monitor progress and validate intervention progress

Long-Range Proposals

- Utilize the EducateWaco.com website as a clearinghouse for educational resources that are aligned with the community
- Address mathematics, especially Algebra 1
- Continue to support assumption-related local initiatives that are already in existence

Other Ideas Being Considered

- Universal pre-kindergarten for Waco area children