Education Funders Briefing
DC Fiscal Policy Institute & DC Alliance of Youth Advocates Present

CONNECTING THE PIECES FROM
CRADLE-TO-CAREER

Presented By

Co-Sponsored By

The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region
Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers
Raise DC
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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

BACKGROUND:

• More high quality infant/toddler child care slots needed
• Provider reimbursement rates still below-market despite recent increases
• Maternal/child home visiting services need local investment

KEY INDICATORS:

• Infant care = $20,000 a year, or 80 percent of single-parent median income
• 1,800 babies born each year (1 in 5 city wide) are at risk
**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

**BUDGET CONTEXT:**

- New investments in child care capacity & quality - $9.2M
- New Healthy Tots Act (early childhood nutrition) - $3.3M

**WHAT’S NEXT:**

- Need to better understand supply & demand for quality child care
- Raise visibility of the importance of home visiting
- Ensure progress is maintained after mayoral transition
BACKGROUND:
• School funding formula revisited after many years
• Mayor education “adequacy” study & Council Fair Student Funding legislation

KEY INDICATORS:
• ¼ of DC children, 28,600, are poor. Poverty is greater than 50% in some neighborhoods in Wards 7 & 8
• At-risk funding does not follow students to individual DCPS school budgets
• Over 2,450 homeless children were in DCPS schools in 2012-13
• 5,000 DC children go without needed mental health services (CLC report card)
PRE-K TO 12TH GRADE

BUDGET CONTEXT

- New weight for at-risk students in the school funding formula - $81M (including summer school)
- Six new school-based mental health clinicians - $470,000
- New local resources to support homeless students - $200,000

WHAT’S NEXT:

- Greater budget transparency needed at DCPS systems level & individual charter schools
- Longer budget timeline needed to allow parents & school leaders to engage
- Ensure progress is maintained after mayoral transition
- Must better understand the needs of homeless youth
- Mental health clinicians in 23 more schools would get DC to the halfway mark
EXPANDED LEARNING

BACKGROUND:

• Past cuts in funding have complicated the operations of & access to expanded learning programs
• There has been consistent collaboration & resource-sharing between DCPS & community partners

KEY INDICATORS:

• In DC Public Schools there are 31,633 at-risk students, but only 6,935 expanded learning slots
• Quality programs work, example: Higher Achievement
• Community-based expanded learning providers bring $20M in private dollars for services, but need stable public investment
EXPANDED LEARNING

BUDGET CONTEXT:
• Funding levels in three key programs remained stable for FY15
  • DCPS Out-of-School Time Program - $8.4M
  • Federal 21st Century Learning Center Grants - $10M
  • Children & Youth Investment Trust Corporation - $3M

WHAT’S NEXT:
• Improve the enrollment process & continue to cultivate school coordination with Community Based Organizations (CBOs)
• Develop & implement quality program indicators with CBOs
**DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

**BACKGROUND:**

- Reconnecting youth to school & work has, due to sheer numbers, become an area of importance throughout the education systems.
- Lack of data sharing between systems & programs serving disconnected youth.
- “Connecting Youth to Opportunity” findings demonstrate the varied barriers youth face to reconnection including the need for additional services & support in navigating the process.

**KEY INDICATORS:**

- Reports from OSSE suggest that at least 80% existing alternative education seats are occupied.
- OSSE data now suggests that at minimum, 7,000 school-aged students are not in school & have not received a diploma. An additional 3,000 to 7,000 are not in school or working.
BUDGET CONTEXT:
• The FY15 Budget includes funding to support the establishment of a re-engagement center - $822,000
• The Alternative Schools Subtitle amends the process of alternative school designation

WHAT’S NEXT:
• Continued effort on the part of OSSE & stakeholders to determine opportunities to increase capacity within alternative education programs
• Work in collaboration with other partners, including RaiseDC to eliminate other barriers to reconnection
**ADULT EDUCATION**

**BACKGROUND:**
- 60,000 adults without a high school diploma, often with very low levels of literacy & numeracy skills
- Implications: high unemployment rate, income inequality, & intergenerational poverty
- Better educated parents are better resources for school-aged children

**KEY INDICATORS:**
- 2013: 8,100 adult learners in programs across 5 distinct agencies, with no coordinated goals or common policies
- Only 1 of the 5 agencies publicly reported outcomes data
ADULT EDUCATION

BUDGET CONTEXT:
- $105,000 to create a Career Pathways Coordinator
- Gained $70,000 to fund necessary technical assistance to support the Adult Career Pathways Task Force to connect basic education to employment

WHAT’S NEXT:
- Connect adult learners to sustainable careers
- Allocate $1M for an innovation fund to pilot, evaluate, & scale evidence-based practices
- Create a cross-agency adult career pathways taskforce to advise the fund
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