

# Stakeholder Group Summit Outcomes and Plans

## Extracurricular Stakeholder Group

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### Pre-Summit Stakeholder Group Assumption Targets and Proposed Activities

Will address assumptions 2–5

- Create a membership network among private and non-profit organizations to support extracurricular program providers
- Develop a comprehensive school transition program for both students and parents

#### Summit Report in Brief

Who attended?

*Attendees included representatives from independent school districts, a college, a university, non-profits, and the City of Waco.*

What the stakeholder group considered

*We recognized that there are some good after-school and weekend programs in place, but that there needs to be a network or coalition in place to centralize or coordinate the activities. We also considered the need for parents, youth, and teachers to be aware of the programs that are available.*

*We discussed each assumption and concluded that an after-school tutoring program could address assumptions 2 and 3 and that a program to assist students in developing career goals could address assumptions 4 and 5. The attendees determined that planning would have to occur in conjunction with the ISDs.*

What will be our success?

*We would be successful if the community viewed after-school activities as an external educational experience.*

#### Discussion

The Extracurricular Stakeholder Group addressed each of the two pre-summit ideas. The first idea was to create a membership network among private and non-profit organizations to support extra-curricular program providers. The network would allow programs to come together and discuss current issues, share ideas, develop community-wide training for staff, and provide other support. Consideration was given to how to get the word out to the many varied groups. It was proposed that the parent-teacher organizations from the schools could be one mechanism. It would require orientations with parents and creating lists of the current programs offered after school. The logistical issues of coordinating a network were considered, including how to manage it and keep records current. It was decided that a framework could be created from other networks that exist in Austin, Dallas, Houston, and other areas. As the network evolves, the group itself would determine its future path.

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The group also discussed the second pre-summit idea, to develop a comprehensive school transition program for both students and parents. The local school representatives at the meeting said their programs are minimal and mainly used to help youth register for school. In the transition from elementary school to middle school and middle school to high school, students experience changes in their environment, social structures, workload, and educational practices. By developing a program that provides a proactive and positive introduction for both new students and their parents, a positive impact could be made prior to the transition. The group felt that negative behaviors could be prevented and students would feel engaged at school with such a program.

National programs were discussed, such as the National Peer Helpers Association (NPHA), a program in which older students are matched with younger ones to assist them with transitions that take place from grade to grade. The group considered how such a program could be introduced on a large scale within the region's schools.

Dropout prevention programs and strategies to keep students engaged were reviewed, and the stakeholders considered how it might interface with the other stakeholder groups. As an example, the group considered issues of healthcare and the positive influence of good nutrition and exercise on student attentiveness. It considered how the stakeholder area could provide collaborative opportunities with the schools and with both parent education and programs that enhance the school's objectives.

## First-Year Action Items and Assumption Targets

### *Network*

- Gather information on all local extracurricular out-of-school programs
- Develop a framework for a network
- Invite all programs to join the network
- Elect leadership and develop committees to ensure network success

### *Transition Program*

- Create a committee to meet with ISD officials
- Develop a program plan

## Long-Range Proposals

### *Network*

- Develop a shared vision and influence others to believe in the power of afterschool programs
- Examine quality and imagining systems where afterschool programs are supported and sustained in significant ways
- Raise awareness among key decision makers about the impact afterschool programs can have on student success
- Engage afterschool champions who shed light on the importance of afterschool programs among legislators, business people, parents, and community leaders
- Hold forums and meetings to engage potential local and regional providers and supporters
- Compile and analyze data to inform continuous improvement and policy development
- Develop systems and principles for effective afterschool programs
- Provide testimony and recommendations on issues of quality and sustainability

## Other Ideas Being Considered

### *How to engage older youth in out-of-school-time programs*

- Job shadowing programs
- Stipends to youth
- Focus on specific "in" things (i.e., gamers understanding how to create games, graphic design)

"Everybody in the community can be involved."

– Star De La Cruz, Journalist  
Fronteras and Waco Today