

Education, Equity & Governance Committee

of the

Seattle City Council

January 4, 2017

2 p.m.



**Seattle** Department of  
Education & Early Learning



**the  
mayor's  
education  
summit**

The Mayor's Education Summit has been a community process:

- Focused on how to make Seattle a place where every child will graduate from school with hope and the ability to embrace his or her full potential.
- Intended to address the disparities in educational opportunity and outcomes that affect students of color and those from lower income families — referred to as the opportunity gap.

**43% of Seattle's African American and Latino students  
do not graduate on time, or at all.**

## Phases One & Two: Community Input

### **Phase One**

- Encompassed multiple community conversations across the city, and an online survey to gather ideas from Seattle's families, students, educators, and community members on how to address the opportunity gaps and disparities.
- More than 1,400 people participated in the conversations and survey.

### **Phase Two**

- Education Summit event on April 30, 2016
- 500 people in attendance

## Common Threads & Themes

Community input revealed three common threads for improving disparities: cultural competency, support for home languages, and equity in school funding. Nine themes emerged from the community about possible solutions to the opportunity gap:

- improving school climate
- improving in-school instruction and programming
- improving family/community engagement and partnerships
- supporting community and family needs
- strengthening post-secondary access and attainment
- school-city collaboration
- recruiting, supporting, and retaining diverse and high-quality educator workforce
- improving access to quality expanded K-12 opportunities
- expanding access to quality early learning

## Phase Three: The Advisory Group

Mayor-appointed, 30-member Education Summit Advisory Group:

- reviewed the ideas gathered from the community.
- developed a vision and goal statement to guide their work, which they referred to as their “North Star.”
- developed strategies and recommendations to reduce the opportunity gap for African American/Black and other students of color, low-income students, and ELL students.

## *Advisory Group Vision*

A City-led and broad-based community effort will shape Seattle as a city where children of all races and ethnicities thrive and succeed. Seattle's children will enter school ready to learn; they will have equitable access to educational opportunity and will thrive in school; they will graduate from school prepared for post-secondary credential attainment from colleges, trade schools, apprenticeships or other certificated programs; and they will arrive at young adulthood prepared to reach their full potential and succeed in life. By transforming our public education system, we change the course of Seattle children's futures and our own.

## *Goal*

Through targeted City, District, and other partnership investments across the education continuum, with specific emphasis on African-American/Black students and other students of color who have been historically underserved by the education system, post-secondary credential attainment for all SPS graduates shall **rise to 70% by 2030.**

# The Advisory Group Recommendations

## 1. *Improving Access to High Quality Learning Opportunities and Programs*

- Expand the Innovation School Model funded by the Families and Education Levy to Additional Elementary and Middle Schools; Develop a Comprehensive Approach for High Schools
- Expand Summer Learning Program
- Establish and Expand School-Based Mentoring Programs
- Enhance Opportunities for Before- and After-School Programs
- Increase Support for Parents and Caregivers of Children, Prenatal – 3 Years

# The Advisory Group Recommendations

## 2. *Creating Positive, Supportive and High Quality Teaching and Learning Opportunities*

- Expand the Innovation School Model to Additional Elementary and Middle Schools; Develop a Comprehensive Approach for High Schools (same as Improving Access A., above)
- Increase Diversity in the Educator Workforce
- Reduce Disproportionality in Discipline – Build and Sustain a Positive School Culture and Climate



# The Advisory Group Recommendations

## 3. *Providing Authentic Family and Community Support and Engagement*

- Expand School-Based Health Centers
- Increase Family Engagement and Partnership
- Enhance Family Support – Create Comprehensive, Robust System of Support for Families
- Improve Transportation – Provide Safe, Affordable Option to School and Extended Learning Programs
- Address the Needs of Homeless Students

# The Advisory Group Recommendations

## 4. *Strengthening Post-Secondary Access and Attainment*

- Enhance Workplace-Based Learning – Complement Career/College Prep in K-12
- Financing Post-Secondary Attainment – Remove Financial Barriers to Education and Training.
- Career/College Planning – Increase Post-Secondary Access and Persistence by Raising Career and College Awareness Through Guiding Curriculum
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Pathway - Expand the Continuum through Elementary and Middle Schools
- Expand Seattle Public School International Schools/Dual Language Immersion Programs
- Support Open Doors Programs – Increase Capacity of School Re-entry Programs

## The Advisory Group Priority Criteria

- Recommendations that are the most important in having an impact on the opportunity gap as it relates to African American/Black students and other students of color
- Recommendations that are the most important to implement in the short term
- Recommendations on which the City can have the greatest impact

## Phase Four: Next Steps & Initial Investments

- A. Mayor Murray included four actions recommended by the Advisory Group in his budget proposal:
- 1. Expand the My Brother's Keeper mentoring program**
  - 2. Expand the Innovation School Model to a high school**
  - 3. Broaden summer learning programs**
  - 4. Invest in ways to encourage post-secondary enrollment**
- B. Develop an Action Plan to implement additional recommendations.

## Collaboration and Partnerships

- The work to accomplish these ambitious recommendations will require a new level of collaboration and partnership.
- Partnerships among the City of Seattle, the Seattle School District, community-based organizations, parents, the business community, and philanthropy will be needed to implement these recommendations.
- The Advisory Group identified key elements of collaboration that will be required to achieve their recommendations.

“We set a goal of helping 70 percent of our African American/Black students and other students of color to achieve success in college or a credential program.... This goal is important to us because research done by the Georgetown University Center on Education in the Workforce states that

**by 2018, fully 67 percent of jobs in Washington state will require  
some form of post-secondary credential.**

Without making major changes to the ways in which we support African American/Black students and other students of color, they will be left behind as the workforce for the next generation is created.”

*Education Summit Advisory Group*

To view the complete Final Report of  
the Mayor's Education Summit Advisory Group,  
please visit  
<http://www.seattle.gov/educationsummit>