

AT-RISK WORKING GROUP: MEETING 4

May 11, 2017
Working Group
Meeting

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Goals for Working Group Meeting 4**
- **Where We Left Off**
- **Review - Working Group template and process for developing recommendations**
- **Brainstorm - Theories of action on cross-sector efforts to improve outcomes for off-track secondary students**
- **Next Steps**

GOALS FOR TODAY'S MEETING

- Brainstorm theories of action for creating cross-sector structures to improve outcomes for off-track secondary students (based on Grad Pathways work)
- Determine next steps

WHERE WE LEFT OFF – FOUR POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

Inequitable distribution of at-risk students across schools

Inadequate or inefficiently used funding for at-risk students

Lack of structures in place for cross-sector sharing of best practices for serving at-risk students

Lack of cross-sector coordination on serving off-track secondary students

WORKING GROUP TEMPLATE

Chapter [x] – Improving Outcomes for At-Risk Students
Section [x] – Off-Track Secondary Students

Section [x]. Improving Outcomes for Off-Track Secondary Students

Related Task Force Goal(s):

Goal 1-Improve the experience of parents and families understanding and navigating their public school options;

Goal 2-Develop methods for information sharing with the public and across public school sectors;

Goal 5-Identify educational challenges that need to be addressed through cross-sector collaboration.

Theory of Action: [insert: connection to guiding principles and why the goal(s) matter for students]

Working Group Subject Area: [insert: this could be broad subject area or a narrower statement of subject area]

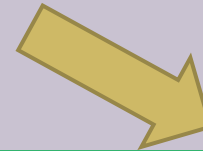
Working Group Charge: To examine the obstacles to achieving [insert language related to larger Task Force goal and/or assigned subject area] and develop recommendations for effective policy solutions.

Brief Overview of the Issue and Key Data: [insert: what we know about the issue and supporting data]

Possible Policy Solutions: [insert: broad policy solutions discussed and considered]

WORKING GROUP: PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS

Discuss the Principles and Goals related to the Working Group's subject area



Formulate recommendations



Develop and discuss possible policy solutions



Define (and refine) the problem we want to solve



Ask probing questions about what we know now; brainstorm theories of action; determine what further information we need

**OFF-TRACK
SECONDARY STUDENTS**

POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR OFF-TRACK SECONDARY STUDENTS

1. Replicate data and information exchange(s) at key transition points

2. Identify and replicate best practices of highest value-added high schools

3. Create educational programs to specifically serve off-track secondary students

4. Ensure at-risk students have positive adult relationships that provide social and emotional “anchor” in school

5. Improve attendance in middle and high school

6. Build sufficient counseling services and mental health supports for middle and high school students and their families

BRAINSTORMING THEORIES OF ACTION

BRAINSTORMING ON EACH FOCUS AREA:

- What do we know?
- What are some possible theories of action? Keeping in mind the following:
 - How does this align with the Task Force's goals and principles?
 - How does this improve outcomes for at-risk students?
- What more do we need to know before considering recommendations?

Define (and refine)
the problem we
want to solve



Ask probing questions about what
we know now; brainstorm theories
of action; determine what further
information we need

BRAINSTORMING THEORIES OF ACTION

Example - Replicate data and information exchange(s) at key transition points

What do we know?

- Cross-sector “Bridge to High School” Data Exchange works – 11 LEAs (charter and DCPS) enrolled over 2,000 first-time 9th graders, more than 700 of whom transferred across LEAs.
- Participating schools were able to promote early interventions, establish relationships between staff and new students within and across schools, and plan resource placement.

What are some possible theories of action?

- “At-risk students are more likely to successfully transition from elementary school when . . .”
- “Sharing key student data between elementary and middle schools improves the transition of at-risk students because . . .”

What more do we need to know?

- Who (i.e., which government agency or agencies) will be responsible for implementation?
- At what scale should this begin (e.g., Pilot? Geographically focused? Limited to DCPS and particular charter LEAs?)

BRAINSTORMING THEORIES OF ACTION

What do we know?

What are some possible theories of action?

What more do we need to know?

NEXT STEPS