

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FEBRUARY 15, 2016

**NORTHFIELD PROMISE (NORTHFIELD)
EVERY HAND JOINED (RED WING)
and
PARTNER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (ST. CLOUD)**

This report is prepared in compliance
with the reporting requirement in Minnesota Laws 2015,
1st Special Session, Chapter 3, Article 2, Section 70, Subdivision 26.



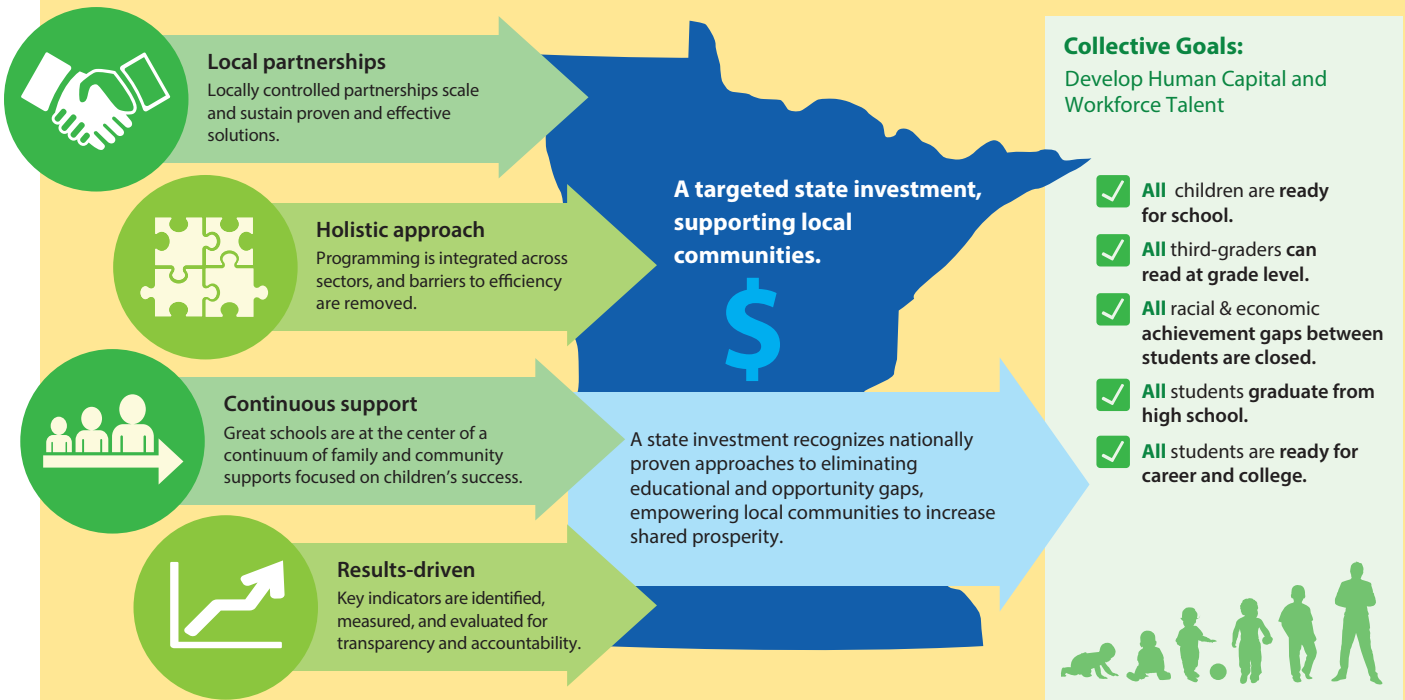
Every child. Cradle to career.



Partner for Student Success

Educational Partnerships Coalition | Aligning Efforts. Multiplying Impact.

Establishing a statewide network of comprehensive educational partnerships that emphasizes local solutions and results-based accountability to close the opportunity gap.



February 2016

History of Partnership

Formed in 2012, Northfield Promise is a collective impact initiative designed to achieve community-level change for children and youth growing up in Northfield, Minnesota. Northfield Promise seeks to build a culture of collaboration and shared accountability among community partners to ensure ALL our children achieve their full potential. As a data-driven initiative, Northfield Promise is not about just building new programs, but instead about aligning partners and resources to expand efforts that are seeing results.

Northfield Promise stakeholders spent 18 months and engaged over 500 community partners to help identify 10 critical community-level benchmarks for kids' academic, social-emotional and physical well-being. These begin in early childhood and culminate when youth graduate from high school with a plan for the future.

The Northfield Healthy Community Initiative provides the backbone support for Northfield Promise, recruiting and convening the partners and helping ensure the implementation of the action steps. Northfield Promise is one of 65 communities nationwide accepted into the Strive Together network (the national leaders in collective impact work).



Activities Funded by State Appropriation

- Developed and are implementing community action plans around six of the 10 benchmarks on the Northfield Promise cradle-to-career continuum; more than **125 community partners** have participated in the action teams
- Worked with local evaluation and statistics experts to finalize ways to measure each of the 10 Northfield Promise benchmarks
- Finalized a “Report to the Community,” outlining the current local data on each of the 10 Northfield Promise benchmarks
- Implemented a districtwide kindergarten readiness assessment recommended by the Minnesota Department of Education – Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST)
- Supporting more than **1,100 youth** (unduplicated count) in free out-of-school-time programming
- Providing academic support and coaching to nearly **350 youth** in grades 6-12 who are low-income, students of color, and/or potential first-generation college attendees; **96%** of the 73 seniors are on track to graduate, **74%** have applied to college and **58%** have already been accepted!
- Piloted an intensive summer reading intervention for 30 elementary children behind grade level in reading. Reversing the summer slide, **88%** of the children who completed the program showed improvements in their standardized reading test scores at the end of the summer.
- Provided an eight-hour, evidence-based training to **346 adults** who work with young people on how to identify youth with mental health concerns and make referrals
- Launched a citywide initiative to increase youth engagement in civic decisions; **62 high school students** are now serving as appointed members of local boards and commissions.

Northfield Promise

Changes in Outcome Measures

86% of the 2015 incoming kindergarteners demonstrated most or all of the early kindergarten reading skills	94% of local 8th graders in 2016 have articulated ideas about what they want to do after high school	90% of Northfield’s high school students districtwide graduated in four years
82% of the 2015 incoming kindergartener demonstrated most or all of the early kindergarten math skills	79% of Northfield youth report being involved in a sport, club, or other group (fall 2015)	87% of Northfield middle school youth reported having support from adults other than their parents (fall 2015)

Northfield’s Program Plan for the Remainder of the Biennium

THE PLAN

Continue key program initiatives outlined above and implement the approved action plans

Launch of early literacy initiative providing literacy resources to children under the ages of 5 – and reading strategies to their parents – through the local medical clinics and Rice County Public Health

Support to local early childhood providers to enhance quality and to increase the number of children accessing high-quality programs

Develop action teams around increasing the number of children proficient in math and enhancing young people’s social-emotional well-being

Continue direct alignment with Northfield Public Schools’ “World’s Best Workforce” goals and the promotion of community-supported strategies to help the district reach these targets

Movement into the “Sustaining Gateway” on the Strive Together national collective impact framework (highest level achieved by cities thus far; currently only 27 cities nationwide have reached this level)



Moving Forward

Funding from the State of Minnesota has allowed for the rapid acceleration of the work of Northfield Promise. The funding has served as a **catalyst** to help turn the strategies recommended by the action teams into reality. The level of community commitment to this work – and the initial results being seen – are exciting.

Additional support will help grow this work at an exponential rate. It would enable the expansion of the intensive summer reading program (with daily reading coaching, family workshops, and multiple home visits by licensed teachers)

for children behind grade level in reading. It would allow for scaling up the early literacy efforts that utilize local pediatricians and public health workers as sources to teach literacy to young children and their families. Finally, it would expand career pathways opportunities for all high school students, plus provide additional coaching and support to Northfield’s low-income youth, students of color, and first-generation college students as they leave high school and make the often difficult transition to their next chapter.



THANK YOU

for your investment in the children and young people of Northfield.

History of Partnership

On September 26, 2012, leaders from Red Wing Public Schools, businesses, non-profits, local government agencies and foundations came together to focus on Red Wing's most important resource – its youth. These different entities believe that by joining together and working collectively, they could have a greater impact upon Red Wing youth and the community's future than working separately. Since that first meeting, Every Hand Joined has been a community-wide initiative with over 250 volunteers committed to helping all children reach their full potential and be successful in life. This commitment runs from pre-school through a young person's first career. 5 goals were approved at that first meeting and those goals remain the focus of the initiative:



1. Every child is prepared for school
2. Every child is supported inside and outside of school
3. Every child succeeds academically
4. Every child enters some form of post-secondary education or training
5. Every child completes their post-secondary education or training and enters a career

Activities Funded by State Appropriation

Data accumulation, analysis and dissemination.

Every Hand Joined is a data driven organization. Since September 2015, Every Hand Joined has aggressively pursued data in all areas of the initiative and used that data to drive all aspects of the priority-setting and decision-making process. A Data Manager has been hired to help drive this element forward.

Post-Secondary awareness and information.

Every Hand Joined has partnered with the School District to provide students with post-secondary information and support. A post-secondary toolkit has been developed, printed and distributed to high school juniors and their parents to help navigate the post-secondary journey. A college fair was coordinated providing students with access to representatives from 16 colleges, 5 branches of the military, local employers and local scholarships. Workshops have been presented on college options, financial aid and

the college experience. Support has also been provided for FASFA completion.

Kindergarten readiness.

A “coach” is now working with local pre-schools, in-home providers and parents on behavior issues with pre-k children. Coaching will be provided to assist these providers in addressing social-emotional needs and development for children under five. Informational brochures have also been developed and distributed to interested community members.

Baseline social-emotional data.

Working in partnership with the school district, Every Hand Joined administered the REACH assessment from Search Institute to 1077 6th through 12th grade students. As a result of the successful administration of the assessment, there is now baseline social-emotional data for middle and high school students. This data is being used to

Every Hand Joined

develop targets for increased student participation in clubs, sports and out-of-school activities. The data indicated that building strong relationships between students and school personnel is an area of opportunity. Strategies have been developed and implemented to build relationships with the desired outcome being the connection of students to another caring adult.

Early numeracy.

An early numeracy pilot is underway in which early numeracy kits have been developed and will be distributed to pre-k children in a local preschool and our Hispanic Outreach programs. The kits provide these children with access to manipulatives designed to build a better understanding of math. Once proven, these kits will be made available to all pre-school children and their parents.

Addressing hunger.

Work has been done to remove hunger as a barrier to

learning and academic success. Awareness campaigns have been undertaken to increase the number of free/reduced eligible students participating in school sponsored breakfast programs. A Summer Food Program has been launched to ensure children have access to food during the summer months.

Community report card.

Every Hand Joined produced its second annual report to the community documenting progress made to date. Chapter Two was printed and mailed directly to over 10,000 homes in the Red Wing area.

Staff training.

Every Hand Joined participated in the Strive Together National Convening, held in Minneapolis. The Every Hand Joined team attended numerous sessions gaining best practices and information from other Strive communities and national experts.

Changes in Outcome Measures

- Based upon KSEP (Kindergarten Student Enrollment Profile) data, 85% of children were assessed as kindergarten ready in the fall of 2015; up from 69% in fall 2014.
- Kindergarten Boot Camp (a four-day exposure to school for incoming kindergartners) has increased from 115 children in 2014 to 140 in 2015 – 76% of the entire class.
- 51% increase of juniors in attendance at the November 2015 post-secondary information evening event as compared to the same event for the previous junior class.
- 61% increase in the number of meals served in the 2015 Summer Food Program as compared to the previous year.
- Every Hand Joined has worked to raise awareness and promote participation of free/reduced eligible students in breakfast at school. This awareness campaign has resulted in a 40% year-over-year increase in the number of free/reduced-eligible high school students participating in the school breakfast program; 11% year-over-year increase in the number of free/reduced-eligible primary school students participating in breakfast.

Every Hand Joined's Program Plan for the Remainder of the Biennium

- Maintain and strengthen commitment to data
- Continuation of key program initiatives listed above
- Provide post-secondary experiences for students currently not on a post-secondary track
- Expand sites for Summer Food Program
- Add an academic component to Summer Food Program
- Bring early numeracy kits to scale, providing a kit for approximately 600 children
- Additional training for staff and community partners in collective impact best practices
- Alignment with Red Wing Public Schools' World's Best Workforce Plan
- Launch a Community Action Network focused on early literacy
- Continue work toward moving from the Sustaining Gateway into the Systems Change Gateway on the Strive Together national collective impact framework (to date, no community has achieved this status)

Every Hand Joined

Moving Forward

Every Hand Joined thanks the State of Minnesota for its belief in this initiative and the children of Red Wing. Your support has truly allowed us to positively impact children within our community. This work has resulted in an increase in the number of children assessed as ready to begin kindergarten. It has also helped high school students make more informed decisions about life after high school. The work of Every Hand Joined can be accelerated with additional funding from the state. Additional targeted funding will be used to increase the work being done to prepare students to begin school and to assist students as they leave high school. Additional funding will allow Every Hand Joined to identify and work with children not academically or socially ready to begin kindergarten – to close the preparedness gap by helping parents better

understand the importance of these early years and their role in helping their children arrive ready to start school. At the other end of the continuum, students are leaving high school and making life-altering decisions with little or no understanding of the impact of those decisions. They often incur staggering debt because they did not get necessary post-secondary information. They attend the wrong school or don't access scholarships and other forms of aid. Additional funding will allow Every Hand Joined to help students receive the career and educational counseling that currently doesn't exist. Additional funding will allow children to be ready to start kindergarten with their peers (not behind) and students will leave high school with a plan for the future that is tailored to their needs and abilities.





Partner for Student Success

Interim Legislative Report – Executive Summary

Partner for Student Success

St. Cloud Area School District 742

February 2016

History of Partnership

Partner for Student Success is a collaborative initiative begun by St. Cloud Area School District 742 in 2010. Since then, Sartell-St. Stephen School District, Sauk Rapids-Rice School District, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud Technical and Community College, the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce, the NAACP, and over 50 other organizations (including businesses, education, community agencies, funders, and government) in the greater St. Cloud Area have joined the partnership. The Partnership serves

approximately 17,615 students in grades PreK-12 within 13 communities in a tri-county area.

Our aim is to increase opportunities so that all students achieve academically, engage in the community, and are ready for postsecondary/career training and experiences. A particular concern is expanding opportunities for students who have significant challenges because of barriers of poverty and immigrant status. Our cradle-to-career strategic plan includes the following goal areas:

1. Every child is prepared to be a lifelong learner.
2. Every student succeeds in school.
3. Every student is ready for career training or postsecondary education at high school graduation.
4. Every student is ready for a career.

To date, our focus has been on the first strategic goal around early childcare and early education. Currently, we have begun to embark on the third strategic goal of readiness for career training and postsecondary education.



Activities Funded by State Appropriation

- Data Manager (consultant) hired.
- Phase one of pre-school experiences parent survey analyzed; phase two begun to link student demographic and achievement data to survey data. Data sharing agreements developed and signed by three school districts. Pre-school survey for 2016-17 edited, improved and live for three districts.
- Executive Director hiring process developed and implemented.
- Administrative Communications Assistant (consultant) recruited and hired to improve communications among partners and assist in on-boarding new Executive Director.
- Area-wide agreement on expectations for kindergarten completed; marketing materials with all involved partners developed and translated into Somali and Spanish.
- Established area-wide stakeholder team (including school districts, higher education, business, non-profits and community representatives) to develop common understanding, goals, priorities, measureable objectives and work plans to achieve the goal of career/postsecondary readiness for all students aligned with World's Best Workforce plan

Program Plan for the Remainder of the Biennium

- Complete phase two analysis of pre-school survey data linking demographic and achievement data to pre-school experiences
- Begin analysis of results for three districts' preschool assessments using TS Gold results (state-approved authentic assessment)
- Assist districts to receive training and implement kindergarten assessments aligned to K readiness characteristics
- Improve participation in pre-school survey by parents
- Complete hiring and on-boarding of Executive Director
- Continue to educate childcare providers, private early childhood education centers and interested parents about the K Expectations and Parent toolkit
- Provide workshops and convenings for area preschool teachers, kindergarten teachers and Head Start teachers around Kindergarten Readiness Characteristics and assessment
- Work with CentraCare and others to connect with representatives of underserved parents and communities
- Develop feedback forms/process to track education and workshop impact
- Complete strategy and action plans of community work team around career/post-secondary readiness and begin implementation.

QUESTIONS?

PLEASE CONTACT:



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