



Education Partnerships Coalition Fund

Report to the Legislature

As required by Minnesota Statutes, [2017 Minn. Laws 1st Sp. Sess. Chap. 5 Art. 9 Sec. 1](#), [124D.99 Subd. 6](#)

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As requested by Minnesota Statutes, section 3.197: This report cost approximately \$500.00 to prepare, including staff time, printing and mailing expenses.

Upon request, this material will be made available in an alternative format such as large print, braille or audio recording. Printed on recycled paper.

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Legislative Charge

The legislative charge is to report on the education partnership program. At a minimum, the report must summarize grantee activities, identify grant recipients and awards, analyze program performance measures and outcomes, and make any recommendations for legislative changes.

Minnesota Statutes, Subd.6. [124D.99](#) Legislative report

By December 15 of each odd-numbered year, the commissioner shall submit a report on the education partnership program to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees having jurisdiction over kindergarten through grade 12 education, early childhood education, economic development, and human services. At a minimum, the report must summarize grantee activities, identify grant recipients and awards, analyze program performance measures and outcomes, and make any recommendations for legislative changes.

Executive Summary

The intent of this program is to establish a program supporting a coalition of coordinated, aligned education partnerships to form a comprehensive network of evidence-based support services. These services are designed to close opportunity gaps and improve educational and developmental outcomes of children and their families within communities experiencing poverty and impediments to economic viability.

The premise of this grant program is based on leveraging partnerships at all levels. For Education Partnerships to be effective, communities must engage multiple stakeholders at the state, regional and local levels to ensure all possible supports are in place for success, and to meet the varying needs of children and families in each unique community.

Each Education Partnership Community works together to define solutions that will enable them to impact schools' readiness, third-grade reading, high school graduation, and close achievement gaps. By supporting communities to align efforts through local partnerships that allow them to scale and sustain proven and effective solutions, ensure programming is integrated across sectors, and remove barriers to efficiency, we are supporting the capacity of communities to build effective and comprehensive support systems, where the schools are at the center of a continuum of family and community supports focused on *all* children's success.

Introduction

The Education Partnerships Coalition is comprised of eight communities: Austin Aspires (Austin, MN), Cradle to Career (Rochester, MN), Every Hand Joined (Red Wing, MN), Generation Next (Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN), Northfield Promise (Northfield, MN), the Northside Achievement Zone (Minneapolis, MN), Partners for Student Success (St. Cloud, MN), and the Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood (St. Paul, MN). The coalition uses the collective impact model to build the civic infrastructure in local communities needed to drive meaningful change

and deliver measurable results for Minnesota’s children across all races and income. The coalition’s work reaches over 120,000 children across Minnesota.

All the Education Partnership Coalition grantees focus on a common set of collective goals that prioritize human capital and workforce talent. Those goals include: All children are ready for school; All third graders can read at grade level; All racial and economic achievement gaps between students are closed; All students graduate from high school; and All students are ready for career and college.

This grant program compliments many existing statewide initiatives and legislation. Most notable, the goals of the Education Partnership Coalition are very similar to the state’s World’s Best Workforce initiative, under Minnesota Statutes, [Section 120B.11](#). Other areas this grant program compliments is the Full Service Community Schools grant program, the Early Learning Scholarship program, various other state- and county-level assistance programs, the work being done on supporting communities to align their early learning systems PreK through 3rd grade, and adult basic education and family education programs.

Analysis

The overall analysis of the annual reports submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is positive. Each community has a unique set of strategies being implemented that are best suited to address their needs. Through the review of the annual reports, MDE feels each grantee is in compliance of the intent of the grant and is working toward their goals areas in a proactive and efficient manner. Below is a small sampling of highlights from each grantee:

	2017 Legislation	2019 Legislation	Core Activities	Performance Highlights
Austin Aspires	N/A	Supporting Partner (no grant)	Priority is to increase college persistence rate.	To date, rate has increased from 76% in 2016-17 to 79% in 2017-18.
Rochester Area Foundation for Cradle to Career	N/A	\$250,000 each year	Priority is to engage stakeholders and increase the number of community partners to work on Kindergarten Readiness and On-time Graduation.	To date, 50+ partners have been identified.

	2017 Legislation	2019 Legislation	Core Activities	Performance Highlights
Generation Next – Twin Cities	N/A	Supporting Partner (no grant)	Priority is to increase number of children screened at 3 years old.	To date, number has increased from 989 in 2011 to 1,307 in 2017.
Jones Family foundation for Every Hand Joined – Red Wing	\$160,000 each year	\$250,000 each year	Priorities are increasing postsecondary completion and kindergarten readiness	Percentage of children Ready for Kindergarten rose from 69% in 2014 to 83% in 2017. 78% of Red Wing graduates enrolled in postsecondary within a year of high school, a 17% increase from 2013.
Northfield Healthy community Initiative - Northfield	\$160,000 each year	\$250,000 each year	Priority is to improve literacy proficiency.	To date, third-grade reading proficiency has increased from 57.1% in 2017 to 63.9% in 2018.
Northside Achievement Zone – Minneapolis	\$1.3 million each year	\$1.3 million each year	Priority is to accelerate reading proficiency.	To date, reading proficiency has significantly increased from 2014-15 to 2016-17 going from 20% to 27%. NAZ worked with 1,163 families, 20% more than in 2017, which surpassed The NAZ goal in 2018 objective of 1,000 families. 95 families graduated from Family Academy.

	2017 Legislation	2019 Legislation	Core Activities	Performance Highlights
United Way of Central MN -Partners for Success – St. Cloud Area	\$160,000 each year	\$250,000 each year	Priority is to close opportunity gaps.	70% of multilingual learners showed above average growth in their literacy development 86.5 of the staff have seen more academic growth than they usually see in some or most of their students
St. Paul Promise Neighborhood – St. Paul	\$1.3 million each year	\$1.3 million each year	Priority is preventing summer learning loss.	To date, 92% of students in summer programs prevented summer learning loss.

Conclusion

The grant program enables underserved communities to expand access to comprehensive, holistic services throughout their communities, by forging meaningful partnerships so all children can have equal access to these high-quality services and educational opportunities. MDE has met with the Educational Partnership Coalition, and is in full support and agreement that this holistic approach to programming across sectors is an effective and efficient strategy to meet the goals of each community’s World’s Best Workforce Plan.

This approach to the whole child, whole family, whole community and the partnerships that is developed is as important as raising achievement levels and closing opportunity gaps. Through these collaborative community partnerships across the birth through graduation learning continuum, children and families are better served, and communities take on the collective responsibility for ensuring *all* children’s needs are met.

A sampling of comments from grantees:

Northside Achievement Zone - *“The activities supported by this grant were critical to getting us closer to our goals, allowing us to build the capacity and expertise needed to refine and implement our groundbreaking strategies. Not only did funding help us in our programmatic goals, state investment has helped us leverage additional private investment in our work. We are thankful for the opportunity to bring public and private support together to achieve goals that benefit our entire region.”*

United Way of Central Minnesota – *“Through this funding we are able to support the backbone infrastructure needed to truly make an impact by creating partnerships that support cradle to career goals and objectives. This funding is essential to the core of our work. We will continue to refine and update structures based on community feedback, effectiveness and best practices.”*

Every Hand Joined – *“Every Hand Joined is very satisfied with the support this grant provides to the activities identified in the grant. These activities are the result of strategies identified by Every Hand Joined networks though constant review of data. Without this support the breath of work that is done with the community and schools most likely would not be accomplished.”*

Educational Partnership Coalition Annual Report links:

[*Education Partnerships Coalition Summary*](#)

[*Education Partnerships Coalition Report*](#)

Recommendations for Legislative Changes

No recommendations at this time.