



Education Partnerships Coalition Fund

Report to the Legislature

As required by Minnesota Statutes, section [124D.99 Education Partnerships Coalition Fund](#)

For more information:

Amanda Varley
Early Learning Services
Minnesota Department of Education
400 NE Stinson Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55413
651-207-3105
Amanda.Varley@state.mn.us
education.mn.gov

As requested by Minnesota Statutes, section 3.197: This report cost approximately \$750 to prepare, including staff time, printing and mailing expenses.

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Legislative Charge

The legislative charge is to report on the education partnership program outlined in [Minnesota Statutes 2023, section 124D.99, subdivision 6](#).

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 the Education Partnership Coalition Fund is to establish a program supporting a coalition of coordinated, aligned education partnerships to form a comprehensive network of evidence-based support services. Partnerships serve as backbone organizations, or anchor entities, to d to achieve

This infrastructure is 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 partners 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 kindergarten readiness and youth development; grade 3 reading proficiency; middle school mathematics; high school graduation; postsecondary educational enrollment; postsecondary education completion or attainment; physical and mental health; development of career skills and readiness; parental engagement and development; community engagement and programmatic alignment; and reduction of remedial education. 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 nine communities. Seven are neighborhood partnership grants, meaning a sustaining grant for the ongoing operation, stability, and expansion of existing education partnership program locations serving a defined geographic area within a single municipality. They include Austin Aspires (Austin), Cradle 2 Career (Rochester), RiseUp Red Wing (Red Wing), Generation Next (Minneapolis and Saint Paul), Northfield Healthy Community Initiative (Northfield), Children First and Partnership for Success (St. Louis Park), and United Way of Central Minnesota (St. Cloud). Two are regional neighborhood partnership

grants, meaning an implementation grant for the ongoing operation, stability, and expansion of activity of existing education partnership program locations serving a defined geographic area encompassing an entire municipality or part of or all of multiple municipalities. They are the Northside Achievement Zone (Minneapolis) and the Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood (St. Paul). 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. This grant program compliments many existing statewide initiatives and legislation. The goals of the Education Partnership Coalition align to the state's World's Best Workforce initiative, under Minnesota Statutes 2023, section 120B.11. The grant program also compliments the Full Service Community Schools grant program. The Minnesota Department of Education was awarded a one year technical assistance award from the National Center for Community Schools (NCCS) to help further understand statewide capacities and needs, and co-design and deliver Community Schools Forward (CFA)-aligned training and coaching for Minnesota's community schools, and regional and neighborhood partnerships. This work is an intentional step in furthering the relationship between Full Service Community Schools and Education Partnerships.

Analysis

The overall analysis of the annual reports submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) as well as the department's site visits to each grantee 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 goal areas in a proactive and efficient manner. One highlight is that [Northfield Promise](#) achieved "Proof Point" status, which makes it just the 12th community in the nation to reach this level of the [Theory of Action](#) from [StriveTogether](#), a leader in collective impact. [Park Partnership for Success](#) joined the Coalition in 2021.

Below is a small sampling of highlights from each grantee:

Grantee	2021 Legislation	2023 Legislation	Performance Highlights*
Generation Next	\$250,000(FY22) \$225,000 (FY23)	\$200,000 (FY24 and FY25)	Generation Next convened community-based organizations along with Minneapolis and Saint Paul school districts and teacher preparation partners to support and increase pathways into teaching. At an October convening, the partnership welcomed over 40 attendees, representing over 20 organizations.
RiseUp Red Wing	\$250,000(FY22) \$225,000 (FY23)	\$200,000 (FY24 and FY25)	In Goodhue County, partners from 15 agencies and organizations came together to impact 8,167 youth.
Austin Aspires	\$250,000(FY22) \$225,000 (FY23)	\$200,000 (FY24 and FY25)	Aspires' staff worked closely with over 800 families to provide access to food support, legal support, transportation services, childcare, medical services, and more.
United Way - St. Cloud	\$250,000(FY22) \$225,000 (FY23)	\$200,000 (FY24 and FY25)	The initiative invests and aligns over \$2 million in community and grant raised funds to impact more than 12,000 youth through a data-informed process to achieve the greatest collective impact across the community.
Rochester Area Foundation/Cradle to Career	\$250,000(FY22) \$225,000 (FY23)	\$200,000 (FY24 and FY25)	Cradle 2 Career launched a Kindergarten Readiness Cards pilot to address kindergarten transition. Partners distributed 400 cards in English, Arabic, Somali and Spanish to parents through network partners and back-to-school events.
Northfield Healthy Community Initiative	\$250,000(FY22) \$225,000 (FY23)	\$200,000 (FY24 and FY25)	Northfield Promise supported the Greenvale Park Community School throughout the 2021-22 school year. A total of 563 youth and 181 family members participated in programming, and 85 volunteers contributed time and resources.
Children First and Partnership for Success in St. Louis Park	N/A	\$200,000	Children First launched a week-long equity-focused Summer Reading Festival, taking learning and reading outdoors to public spaces to kindle the joy of lifelong learning in families and children. Open to all, this free celebration targeted groups who could benefit from additional learning opportunities, building assets, and resiliency for youth and adults.
Wilder - St Paul Promise Neighborhood	\$1,300,00 (FY22 and FY23)	\$1,300,00 (FY24 and FY25)	Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood works to close the opportunity gap permanently by ensuring scholars have a safe, supportive, and culturally relevant learning environment during the summer.
Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ)	\$1,300,00 (FY22 and FY23)	\$1,300,00 (FY24 and FY25)	Over half of NAZ early childhood scholars are meeting or exceeding developmental expectations. NAZ third-eighth grade scholars have more consistent attendance than non-NAZ third-eighth grade scholars.

*Performance highlights are summarized as reported by grantees in the [2022 Education Partnership Coalition Data Snapshot](#)

Conclusion

The grant program enables under-resourced communities to expand access to comprehensive, holistic services 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.

This approach to the whole child, whole family, whole community and the partnerships that are developed is as important as raising achievement levels and closing opportunity gaps. Through these collaborative community partnerships across the birth through career learning continuum, children and families are better served, and communities take on the collective responsibility for ensuring all children and youth's needs are met. For more information, review the [Education Partnership Coalition](#) webpage, including the [December 2022 Education Partnership Report](#).