

Detailed, monthly updates from around the Road Map Project
April 2014

CONTENTS

Page 1 - Birth to 3rd Grade

Page 2 - College & Career Success

Page 3 - English Language Learners

Page 4 - STEM

Page 4 - Youth Development for Education Results

Page 5 - Opportunity Youth

Page 5 - Parent & Family Engagement

Page 6 - Community Engagement

Page 7 - Advocacy

Page 8 - Project Sponsors

Page 9 - Data

Page 10 - Aligned Funders

NOTE TO READERS: Thank you for reading the April issue of the Road Map Project Traffic Report! These updates are intended to build upon information shared in the previous Traffic Report. For more background, please visit <http://www.roadmapproject.org/the-project/the-traffic-report/> and view the March Traffic Report.

Also, for updates on the region's \$40 million Race to the Top grant, visit roadmapracetothetop.org and sign up for the e-newsletter.

Lastly, don't forget to register for the May 8 Education Results Network meeting at the Renton Pavilion! You can register by [clicking here](#). Hope to see you there.

CONTACT

Lynda Petersen

CCER Associate Director
and work group staffer

lpetersen@
ccedresults.org
206-838-6619

WEBSITE

joinvroom.org

BIRTH TO 3RD GRADE

- The Road Map Project [Birth to 3rd Grade Work Group](#) and the [English Language Learner \(ELL\) Work Group](#) have devoted time at their most recent April meetings to discuss the overlap of work included in the groups' action plans, specifically in the area of parent engagement. The next steps with this work is to identify a small cross section of members from both work groups (and new members) who will identify specific priorities for 2014 and begin to work on implementation.
- Congratulations to OneAmerica and Seattle Jobs Initiative for winning a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for a two-year parent engagement project in South King County! (More information about this exciting announcement can be found on page 3.)
- The [Vroom](#) pilot in the Road Map Project region has begun. The March 29 kick-off event at Foster High School in Tukwila drew hundreds of parents and children and provided lots of fun activities for the whole family. [Click here](#) to read coverage of the event.

Vroom tool kits are now being distributed to partner organizations that work with parents in the pilot area. (Please contact Lynda Petersen at lpetersen@ccedresults.org if you work with parents and would like materials or if you have questions about Vroom materials.) The Vroom website, joinvroom.org, has lots of free content for parents, including a free Vroom app for Android that gives parents daily tips for turning everyday moments into brain-building moments.

CONTACT

May Saetern

CCER Summer
Reading Campaign
Coordinator

msaetern@
ccedresults.org
206-838-6627

WEBSITE

letsreadkingcounty.org

CONTACT

Torie Gonsalves

CCER College Bound
Support Coordinator

tgonsalves@
ccedresults.org
206-838-6621

■ The *Let's Read!* summer reading campaign is in full swing! As of April 21, distribution of Race to the Top Summer Reading Commitment materials is complete to South King County school districts (Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton and Tukwila). Distribution of materials to Seattle Public Schools will happen in May in coordination with Seattle Public Libraries. *Let's Read!* print materials will be available to schools and community-based organizations on May 14. If you haven't already been contacted by May Saetern or Kelsey Landes about requesting materials, please email msaetern@ccedresults.org.

With the help of the Puget Sound Educational Service District, Highline Public Schools and the King County Library System, CCER staffers filmed a short *Let's Read!* video to be used as a tool for school and community partners. The video is intended to communicate both the purpose of *Let's Read!* summer reading materials and library summer learning logs, and the importance of reading in the summer. This video will be available in mid-May in English and Spanish and will be posted to www.letsreadkingcounty.org.

The partnership between *Let's Read!* and the United Way of King County's One Million Meals Campaign is growing! United Way is hiring more than 70 full- and part-time summer interns to help with the implementation of the One Million Meals Campaign. By working together to leverage these efforts, more low-income children will have access to free summer meals and high-quality summer learning opportunities. To learn more, please [click here](#) or contact BasicNeeds@uwkc.org.

COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS

■ Initial College Bound Scholarship sign-up rates are in and the results are exciting! Already, 80% of eligible low-income students have signed up for the College Bound Scholarship, up 8 percentage points from where the region was last year at this time despite an increase in eligible 8th graders. The South King County College Access Network and College Success Foundation are working together to create a plan for supporting the bottom 11 performing schools with sign-ups.

■ Mark your calendar for Oct. 13-17, 2014, when DiscoverU will be back for a second year! DiscoverU is a week where students across Seattle and South King County engage in activities and conversations that explore college and career. This year, DiscoverU is expanding from a day to a week so schools, youth programs and community members can incorporate activities on the days that are most convenient for them. First Lady Michelle Obama has officially been invited and we hope to make this year even bigger. Volunteer opportunities will be expanded so postsecondary institutions and the business community can get in on the fun! More information will be shared at the May 8 Education Results Network meeting and at www.roadmaptocollege.org/discoveru/. If you would like to be involved in the planning, please contact Torie Gonsalves at tgonsalves@ccedresults.org.

CONTACT

Kirsten Avery, "Avery"

CCER College and Career Success Director and work group staffer

kavery@ccedresults.org
206-838-6613

CONTACT

Roxana Norouzi

Education Policy Manager at OneAmerica and work group staffer

roxana@weareoneamerica.org
206-452-8425

■ The CCER College and Career Success Team (Kirsten "Avery" Avery, Torie Gonsalves and AmeriCorps VISTA team member Katherine McKeon) is currently working closely with the CCER Data Team on high school data reports. These reports will provide early warning and college enrollment data at the school-building level.

■ The Road Map Project [High School to College Completion Advisory Group](#) has been meeting in small groups to better define advocacy priorities and develop initial action steps for advocacy implementation.

■ This summer, CCER will partner with the Puget Sound Educational Service District to host the second High School and Beyond Leadership Institute on Aug. 5-7. During May, 40+ counselors, principals and teacher leaders will be recruited to participate. The leadership institute will provide an opportunity for school leaders to give input on current work taking place in the region, advocacy issues and professional and technical pathways at area colleges.

■ On April 16, CCER supported a career visitation day for 30 9th graders from Highline High School to learn about work in nonprofits. A big thank you to OneAmerica, Bike Works, FareStart, Mockingbird Society, The VERA Project and the YMCA for contributing to activities and panels. Also, thanks to Katherine McKeon for organizing!

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

■ The ELL Work Group is getting ready for its annual, full-day retreat on Friday, May 2. The group will use this time to reflect on accomplishments from 2013/2014 and dive deep into creating project proposals for their four 2014 projects, which they are hoping to launch in the upcoming months.

After initial presentations and discussions at their respective April work group meetings, the ELL Work Group and the Birth to 3rd Grade Work Group will move forward with next steps to form a project to work on jointly, and will solidify this project more concretely in May. The group submitted a brief with recommendations for how to better integrate ELL priorities into the Race to the Top Project 1 investment fund based on the ELL Action Plan and each individual district's application. The ELL Work Group is also exploring how to connect with the Road Map Project Advocates Caucus and Project Sponsors to support better alignment of regional priorities, implement various projects and build stronger accountability to the action plan.

■ OneAmerica, the organization that staffs and leads the ELL Work Group, recently received a [grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#) for a two-year parent engagement project in South King County that focuses on infusing diverse parent voice into our emerging early learning system and birth to 3rd grade networks. Based on a dual generation approach to improving kindergarten readiness, this project will train a cadre of immigrant/refugee parent leaders to strengthen their leadership capacities and skills while also providing opportunities for career and economic mobility through a partnership with the Seattle Jobs Initiative. The goal is to organize parents to build a stronger system of parent engagement throughout South King County, where parents are a powerful voice and equal partners in supporting their children's education. This pilot project is drawn from key strategies identified in the [parent engagement section of the ELL Action Plan](#) and will pave the way for more work and projects in this area.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH (STEM)

■ For updates on Race to the Top STEM work in the region, please visit roadmapracetothetop.org and sign up for the Race to the Top newsletter.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATION RESULTS

■ School's Out Washington is formally launching new statewide youth program quality standards in King County in conjunction with the next [Youth Development for Education Results](#) meeting. Meeting attendees can expect to discuss the quality standards, assessment tools for quality and youth outcomes (surveys), accessing student-level data and strategies that schools and community partners can use together to build student skills. This meeting is for youth development practitioners and leaders, school and university partners and other interested parties. Lunch will be served. The meeting is set for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, May 30, at South Seattle College's Georgetown Campus.

Defining and measuring the "soft skills" kids need to be successful in school and life continues to be challenging for the youth development field and for schools. [Click here to read](#) a full research summary on the framework the Road Map Project through the Youth Development for Education Results Work Group is using to define motivation and engagement and 21st century skills. Watch in May for "Part Two – Strategies to Build Student Motivation and Engagement," a report that should be useful to schools and their community partners in tackling some of the non-academic side of school success. The full report will be available at the May 30 meeting referenced above.

To subscribe to Youth Development Executives of King County's monthly e-newsletter, please email lbui@ydekc.org.

CONTACT

Jessica Werner

Executive Director of
Youth Development
Executives of King
County and work group
staffer

[jwerner@youth
developmentexecs.org](mailto:jwerner@youthdevelopmentexecs.org)
206-336-6912

CONTACT

Nicole Yohalem

Director, Road Map
Project Opportunity
Youth Initiative

nyohalem@
ccedresults.org
206-838-6620

CONTACT

Anthony Shoecraft

CCER Community
Engagement Manager

ashoecraft@
ccedresults.org
206-838-6615

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

■ The [Opportunity Youth Work Group](#) is reviewing and prioritizing strategies in several areas that the Opportunity Youth Action Plan will be organized around. System-building is at the core of the plan, with an emphasis on *improving the quantity, quality and coordination of re-engagement pathways* for opportunity youth in our region. Additional action plan areas that will support a system of pathways include *data capacity, stakeholder engagement, and supportive policies and financing*.

A supply/demand scan is underway that summarizes what we know about 1.) our local opportunity youth population and 2.) the current programmatic landscape. Information is being compiled into a brief report that makes the case for expanding re-engagement opportunities and linking existing opportunities together into a system.

A team of work group members from King County, Renton Technical College, Seattle Education Access and the United Way attended the Aspen Opportunity Youth Investment Fund site meeting in Los Angeles this April and brought back lots of valuable examples, tools and contacts that will help advance our efforts.

Israel Mendoza, co-chair of the Opportunity Youth Work Group, has joined the Road Map Project's sponsors group. He brings to that table valuable expertise related to the community/technical college system, employment and adult education.

[Click here](#) to check out the most recent Opportunity Youth blog, which focuses on court-involved youth.

PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

■ About 60% of the nearly 100 invited parent engagement community-based organizations and district leaders participated in an online decision-making process to help the University of Washington (UW) research team prioritize items for the field survey. A smaller subset of parent engagement CBOs and Road Map Project district leaders met recently to finalize the items as a last step in development of the survey instrument.

The survey is being designed as a tool to reach the diverse group of families in the Road Map Project region who typically struggle to engage with their schools. It is intended to capture more data related to the Road Map Project's parent engagement indicators (parent confidence in supporting their child's education, welcoming climate, and parent leadership opportunities and influence on decision-making), and to add family-teacher interaction, family-teacher trust, family-family school opportunities and interactions. The goal is to pilot the field survey at a small scale soon and implement it regionally in the 2014-15 school year.

In late April, the UW research team will transcribe and translate the field survey and conduct cognitive interviews with families (to ensure congruence between question intent and meaning of terms to recipients). In mid to late May, the UW research team will pilot the field survey at two high-needs elementary schools in the Kent School District.

■ For the last few years, the Road Map Project Small Grants Fund has provided grants between \$500 and \$5,000 to fund activities, events and projects that build the capacity and leadership of local grassroots organizations and community stakeholders (i.e., residents, informal or formal organizations) to participate in improving education results within South Seattle and South King County. The priority is to fund grassroots parent engagement efforts. For more information about the Small Grants Fund, [please click here](#). Below is a list of the 2014 grantees thus far. Please stay tuned to future Traffic Reports to see additional projects funded through the Road Map Small Grants Fund.

2014 Road Map Project Small Grants Fund recipients (so far):

- East African Community Services (Southeast Seattle) – School-Aged Family Engagement (SAFE) Project
- Literacy Source (SeaTac/Tukwila) – Valley View Early Learning Center Increasing Parent Engagement Through Literacy Project
- Somali Community Services Coalition (Tukwila) – Refugee and Immigrant Parent Engagement Project
- Saint Vincent de Paul (Kent) – El Centro Rendu PUENTE Parent Project
- Highline High School (Highline) – Latino and Pacific Islander Family Nights Project
- Horn of Africa Services (Southeast Seattle) – Parent and Teacher Engagement for East African Students Project
- King County 4-H (Federal Way) – STEM Take Home Learning Series Project
- Southeast Seattle Education Coalition (Southeast Seattle) – Black Parent Education Caucus Project

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

■ The first-ever Road Map Project Education Results Roundtable was held April 17 in Kent. The planning committee included committed community partners, and the event was well attended with over 60 participants. Kent Mayor Suzette Cooke provided a welcome message, which was followed by energized table discussions. The Kent Parent Academy for Student Achievement (PASA) parents attended with a Vietnamese translator. This allowed them an opportunity to have every slide translated in detail. The parents asked various questions and it was noteworthy that this occasion gave them access to information that normally is not available to ELL families. Participants were so engaged in their conversations that when the time came to rotate to new topic, they stayed put and engaged in their conversations for a full 40 minutes.

CONTACT

Carlina Brown-Banks

CCER Parent
Engagement Coordinator

cbbanks@
ccedresults.org
206-838-6624

A Renton Education Results Roundtable was held April 22 and was also well attended, including by Renton Superintendent Dr. Merri Rieger. Community, parents and leaders were fully engaged in conversations on data themes: discipline/absence, math preparation/STEM, English language learners and early learning/3rd grade reading.

Federal Way is the first school district to request an Education Results Roundtable. This event was held April 30. Federal Way Public Schools provided child care, food and 60 pre-registered attendees. The same topics listed above were the themes for this event. The facilitators were community members and partners of Federal Way Public Schools.

The first subgroup roundtable will be coming soon! An African American Education Results Roundtable is in the planning stages. Stay tuned for more information.

ADVOCACY

■ The Road Map Project [Advocates Caucus](#) last met on April 10 at the OneAmerica office. The group is actively working to develop a local advocacy function with various partners. During the meeting, the Advocates Caucus agreed to focus on three advocacy items in the short run:

1. Ensuring that the Education Results Roundtables are working to keep parents/community engaged after they attend the event
2. Ensuring the compact drafted by the Puget Sound Coalition for College Readiness captures the project's most urgent priorities
3. Meeting with the ELL Work Group to better understand their advocacy priorities and advise on strategies and tactics

■ The group is working together to offer suggestions in the rule-making process for the discipline legislation passed in the 2013 session ([click here for a draft of the letter](#)). The group will also be working on drafting a letter to OSPI to encourage appointing School's Out Washington to the newly formed Expanded Learning Opportunity Council.

■ A challenge for the Advocates Caucus is finding the best way to coordinate with the work groups in terms of deciding advocacy priorities and taking action. The group is trying to strike the proper balance of an impactful and actionable advocacy agenda for the project that grows from the greatest need of the action plans. This issue will continue to be discussed with the Project Sponsors and work groups in the coming months.

CONTACT

Sylvester Cann

CCER Project Associate
and Advocates Caucus
staffer

scann@
ccedresults.org
206-838-6612

PROJECT SPONSORS

■ The Project Sponsor group is the Road Map Project's strategic steering body. The group's primary duties include:

- Provide strategic direction and help make decisions for the Road Map Project.
- Review progress on priority strategies and actions, and offer support for strong implementation. Priority focus is on crosscutting issues and our biggest challenges.
- Be active owners of the Road Map Project goal and targets, both as a group and as individual organizations.
- Keep major focus on opportunity gap closure.
- Identify additional critical work that can help the region move toward achieving the Road Map Project goal.
- Help support strategic fundraising as appropriate.

In 2013, the Project Sponsors decided to change its composition to include more representation from the work groups. Currently, a member from each work group is in the process of being added with the expectation that the new appointments will all be completed by the June meeting. The members and alternates, as of April 23, 2014, are as follows:

- Chris Korsmo, Executive Director, League of Education Voters
- David Bley, Director, Pacific NW Initiative, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Alternate: Ken Thompson, Pacific NW Initiative, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Deborah Wilds, Chair, Road Map Project High School to College Completion Work Group & Washington State School Board member
- Dr. Edward Vargas, Superintendent, Kent School District
- Ed Taylor, Vice Provost and Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs, University of Washington
Alternate: Tom Stritikus, Dean, College of Education, University of Washington
- Holly Miller, Executive Director, City of Seattle Office for Education
- Israel Mendoza, Chair, Opportunity Youth Work Group
- Jessica de Barros (ex officio member), Race to the Top Project Director, Puget Sound Educational Service District
- Jill Sells, Chair, Road Map Project Birth to 3rd Work Group & Executive Director, Reach Out and Read Washington State
- Jill Wakefield, Chancellor, Seattle Community Colleges

List continues on next page.

- John Welch, Superintendent, Puget Sound Educational Service District
- Michael Brown, Vice President, Community Leadership, The Seattle Foundation
Alternate: Caroline Maillard, Senior Officer, Community Leadership, The Seattle Foundation
- Rich Stolz, Executive Director, OneAmerica.
Alternate: Roxana Norouzi, Education Policy Manager, OneAmerica
- Rosa Villareal, Chair, English Language Learners Work Group
- Sara Levin, Senior Vice President, Community Services, United Way of King County
Alternate: Karen Howell-Clark, Director, Early Learning, United Way of King County
- Sili Savusa, Executive Director, White Center Community Development Association
- Trish Millines Dziko, Executive Director, Technology Access Foundation

DATA

■ The [Data Advisors Group](#) (DAG) is close to choosing a representative to send to the Project Sponsor group. This link will ensure each group is aware of the other's priorities and opportunities for multi-faceted action.

■ In the spring of each year, the DAG reviews the Road Map Project's Indicators of Student Success and changes the indicators as necessary. The focus this year is especially heavy on the postsecondary indicators. As the analysis of postsecondary data unfolds, more information will surface that will help the DAG work with all relevant stakeholders to refine the related indicators and targets. This is also an opportunity to identify new gaps in data that need to be bolstered with renewed or alternate data sources. The indicator review process also formally marks the beginning of work for the 2014 Results Report!

■ The CCER data team (Andrew Sahalie, Alessandra Pollock, William Wynn and DeSean Rodgers) is continuing to build analysis capability with regard to postsecondary data and the linkage between K-12 and postsecondary data collections. The data team is also analyzing data specific to the College Bound Scholarship Program.

CONTACT

Andrew Sahalie

CCER Senior Data
Manager and staffer for
the Data Advisors Group

asahalie@
ccedresults.org
206-838-6617

ALIGNED FUNDERS

■ The Road Map Project Aligned Funders Group includes funders investing to improve education outcomes in South King County and South Seattle. In 2013, the group decided to create a small pooled fund that could provide timely investments in the Road Map Project region. The Rapid Resource Fund will award approximately 10-15 grants, beginning in May 2014, ranging in amount from \$5,000 - \$20,000 depending upon the scope of work and anticipated outcomes. Eligibility for funding will require that applicant organizations are recommended by a Road Map Project work group and align with one or more of the Road Map Project work group action plans or priorities.

Proposals should articulate a clear plan for improving system-level supports that are currently impeding the success of the Road Map Project. While system changes require time and coordinated efforts at multiple levels to fully implement, proposals should make the case that the funded outputs will lead to a system-change. In these instances, a theory of change that supports a broader change is encouraged. Local funders participating in this aligned fund will meet every other month to assess proposals based on the fund criteria.

This funding opportunity will be discussed with Road Map Project work groups in the coming months. Proposals should be generated from Road Map Project work groups and discussed with Road Map Project work group co-chairs and staffer. If you have questions, please contact your Road Map Project work group staffer and/or Lynda Petersen at lpetersen@ccdresults.org.