

Detailed, monthly
updates from around
the Road Map Project

June 2014

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THANK YOU for reading the June issue of the Road Map Project Traffic Report! These updates build upon information shared in the previous Traffic Report. Please visit the [Road Map Project website](#) to view earlier issues.

LET'S READ!

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BIRTH TO 3RD GRADE

Let's Read!

In preparation for the summer, the *Let's Read!* team has updated the website and created a few new tools for our partners to help spread the campaign far and wide. Visit the site, letsreadingcounty.org, to see lots of fresh content to help families and organizations support our youngest readers. Updates include summer literacy events, online resources, downloadable posters and more!

In case you missed it, there is [a short video](#) available to help communicate the purpose of *Let's Read!*. The video is also now [available in Spanish](#). Also, literacy tips are being distributed every Friday to partner organizations via email, [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). These short and colorful tips are meant to be shared with parents and families. If you have a tip or are interested in getting on the email distribution list, please contact May Saetern. If you haven't already, don't forget to follow [@letsreadskc](#) on Twitter. Twitter has allowed the *Let's Read!* team to share updates on the latest campaign news instead of sending out numerous emails, and connect with other organizations working toward the same goal (including one in England and one in India).

To better understand the great work happening to decrease summer learning loss in our region, commitment cards are being distributed. Anyone can complete a commitment card, and yours could be featured on the *Let's Read!* social media sites. Please contact Kelsey (klandes@ccedresults.org) with questions or to receive a commitment card. Over 30 commitment cards have already been completed!

Through a very generous donation by World Vision, Forgotten Children's Fund and First Book-Seattle, the *Let's Read!* campaign will be giving away

over 4,000 books to 23 organizations this summer! We are very thankful to be distributing books to partners working directly with children.

The *Let's Read!* team attended a taping of King 5's "New Day Northwest" on July 1. This episode featured a Seattle Public Library's children's librarian and a Pacific Science Center staffer. Together, they demonstrated easy science experiments families can do at home. [Click here](#) to watch the segment. Also, public service announcements about the *Let's Read!* campaign are now airing on Univision and KPXA community radio.

COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS

College Bound Scholarship

Exciting news! The percent of eligible 8th grade students in the region who are signed up for the College Bound Scholarship has hit 93%! With delayed application processing, we expect that we are well on our way to hit our sign-up goal of 95%.

Lumina Foundation Convening

In late June, Kirsten Avery from CCER attended the Lumina Foundation's Community Partnership for Attainment convening in Louisville, Kentucky, with representatives from over 50 communities. The convening focused on data, and Avery presented on a panel titled, "Mapping the Data Domain: What Can Data Help Us Do?" In breakouts, valuable information was shared on reverse transfer degrees, degree audit systems and postsecondary early warning systems. It was useful learning from other communities. For example, in Louisville, the 55,000 Degrees initiative has institutions and organizations pledge to increase the number of bachelors or associates degrees by a certain number, and tracks their progress. [Click here](#) for more information.

High School and Beyond Leadership Institute

Recruitment for the 2014 High School and Beyond Leadership Institute has been a great success. Over 50 middle school and high school counselors from all seven Road Map Project districts will be attending the institute this summer, Aug. 5-7.

Coalition Compact

On June 20, Puget Sound Coalition for College and Career Readiness members signed a ground-breaking Compact that commits to regional change in K-12 and postsecondary education. The first of its kind in the State of Washington, the document was drafted by Task Force members Green River Community College President Eileen Ely; Auburn, Kent and Puget Sound ESD Superintendents Kip Herren, Lee Vargas, and John Welch; CCER Executive Director Mary Jean Ryan; and CCER College and Career Success Director Kirsten Avery. The Compact articulates an agreement to implement a range of practices across organizations strengthening student experiences through the high school to postsecondary transition. The Compact can be

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found on the new [Puget Sound Coalition for College and Career Readiness website](#). Next steps to implement the Compact include developing and executing a communications plan and defining an agenda for learning in 2014-15 to support promising practices across the region.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

Bilingual and Biliterate Celebration

“Bilingual and Biliterate in Washington State: Celebrating Success and Looking Forward,” an event co-hosted in early June by the English Language Learner (ELL) Work Group, was a great success! It was one of many first steps to raise visibility among legislators and district leadership of dual-language programming as a strategy for closing the opportunity gap for ELLs. As part of the ELL Action Plan, the ELL Work Group will continue to promote bilingualism and biliteracy, and work to advance the growth of more dual-language programs in our schools.

ELL Work Group

The ELL Work Group created a brief to inform feedback to the districts’ Race to the Top Pre K-3rd Grade Investment Fund letters of intent. The strategies pulled from the action plan for this brief heavily emphasize the importance of well-planned and highly inclusive family outreach and engagement in early learning settings. The ELL Work Group will host the lead of the investment fund at the Aug. 7 meeting to learn how the final projects were able to incorporate the brief’s suggestions.

Wonderful work is happening amongst the ELL Work Group’s four 2014 project teams (Regional Network of ELL Coaches/Leads, Para-Educator to Teacher Pipeline, Early Learning/Parent Engagement and Stronger Pathways for ELLs). The groups have been meeting outside of monthly ELL work group meetings to solidify project concepts, search and apply for funding, and bring in other relevant stakeholders. Additionally, the ELL Work Group and the Birth to 3rd Grade Work Group continue to identify and align areas of overlap.

STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH)

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

Grant Announcement

Youth Development Executives of King County has recently received funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to continue to focus on [shared youth development outcomes](#) and to support the connection between schools and youth-serving organizations. Over the course of summer, plans

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will be made for a new Road Map Project Youth Development for Education Results Work Group that will launch in the fall.

New Skills and Dispositions Report

[Skills and Dispositions Part 2: Strategies to Build Motivation and Engagement](#) is hot off the press! The purpose of this report is to illuminate strategies that support the development of student motivation, engagement and 21st century skills. This is an extensive document that can be used to help schools and community partners think differently about partnerships and integrate strategies to improve youth success. Fourteen strategies are described in some depth with links to resources. A brief executive summary of both [Part One: Defining & Measuring](#) and Part 2 (linked above) can be [found here](#).

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

Expanding CBO Re-Engagement Work

The United Way of King County's Reconnecting Youth demonstration project will significantly expand CBO-led re-engagement programming in the Road Map Project region starting this fall. An RFP released in June will fund CBOs to provide case management and postsecondary navigation services in partnership with YouthSource/King County, Renton Technical College and Renton Schools. This effort marks a major expansion of re-engagement capacity in South King County and will help ensure that several hundred opportunity youth get the instructional and wrap-around support needed to reconnect to education and employment in 2015!

Support for SEA

Seattle Education Access (SEA) is receiving support from the Road Map Project's Open Doors Technical Assistance Fund to strengthen postsecondary navigation supports at re-engagement programs around the region by expanding partnerships and developing tools. A key partner in regional system-building, SEA is working with community colleges, CBOs and school districts across King County to provide low-income students whose education has been disrupted with student-centered college and career readiness, access and navigation support as well as gap scholarships. Learn more about their services [here](#).

Opportunity Youth Work Group

Following the June 5 meeting of the Opportunity Youth Work Group, an initial action plan has been drafted. That draft is now being revised by members of the group and will be reviewed in full at their July meeting. Over the summer, the work group will seek and integrate feedback from a wide range of additional stakeholders. The focus of the action plan is *building a robust, coordinated, diverse system of re-engagement pathways designed to help youth and young adults reconnect to education and progress towards a college or career credential and living wage work.*

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PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Harvard Family Engagement Institute

This August, a regional delegation of parents, school and district leaders, and community partners from each district in the Road Map Project region will attend a three-day family engagement institute at Harvard. *Family Engagement in Education: Creating Effective Home and School Partnerships for Student Success*—a new program—is designed to provide tools for building systemic family engagement and helping leaders design practices that are directly linked to improving student learning. This trip is an opportunity to deepen systemic and align effective family engagement across the Road Map Project region. The institute is led by Dr. Karen Mapp and other Harvard faculty who are seasoned practitioners, as well as district and community leaders.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Faith Leaders Meeting

Twenty regional faith leaders attended a convening on June 30 to learn about the Road Map Project, have an exploratory dialog about faith-based/Road Map Project collaboration and get a sense of capacity and willingness to partner around Road Map Project priorities, such as advocacy, *Let's Read!* and improving literacy.

Juneteenth Luncheon

Thank you to everyone who attended the Juneteenth Luncheon on June 17! More than 100 people participated in the event, which honored the legacy of Juneteenth and examined the current state of education of Black students (i.e. children of African descent) in the region and its implications for their educational results. The luncheon set the stage for the release of a comprehensive report and series of community dialogues about African American education results in the fall. Highlights from the program included children reading "The Stolen Ones," written by Marcia Tate Arunga, and a keynote address from Anita Koyier Mwamba.

The event capped with attendees responding to a call to action by submitting cards detailing their commitments to increase education outcomes for Black children in the region. Over 70 commitments were made to support summer learning, College Bound Scholarship sign-ups and Education Results Roundtable planning in the fall. Pictures from the luncheon can be viewed on the [Road Map Project's Facebook page](#). A debrief and next step planning meeting was held July 2.

ADVOCACY

Advocates Caucus

The Road Map Project Advocates Caucus is continuing to refine a new process for identifying project-wide advocacy priorities through various

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sources of input (i.e. work groups, Project Sponsors, Education Results Network, Education Results Roundtables, etc.)

At its June 20 meeting, the Caucus made progress that will lead to a recommendation regarding advocacy that will be made to the Project Sponsors in September. The key elements of work are:

- Developing criteria that will guide the recommendation process to the Project Sponsors
- Engaging work groups to solicit their advocacy priorities with project-wide significance
- Identifying lead implementers and coalitions that can assist in advancing advocacy priorities

The Caucus will meet several times before September to continue developing this work plan.

College Bound Advocacy

The Road Map Project was present at the first College Bound work group meeting in Olympia that was formed from [SB 6436 sponsored by Senator David Frockt](#). Partners from the University of Washington Dream Project and Seattle College Access Network provided testimony about the impact and system-building work that is taking place because of the College Bound Scholarship.

DATA

Data Standards

Working with several national collaborators, CCER is continuing development of data privacy and security standards. The standards and a certification process are intended to help organizations improve data privacy and security practices.

High School to College Data

CCER's data team continues to test the cross-sector data for high school to college completion reporting. The team is also continuing work on identifying exemplar schools to support improvements across the K-12 system.

Action Plan and Indicator Refinement

CCER's data team is supporting the development of refined work group action plans and a set of key performance indicators for high-leverage strategies in each work group domain. CCER is working closely with its external evaluation team from Education Northwest on this effort.

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PROJECT SPONSORS

Meeting Wrap-Up

The Road Map Project Sponsor Group met on June 12. At that meeting, the following new members were welcomed:

- Minty LongEarth, Executive Director, South King Council of Human Services – Community Network representative
- Bernard Koontz, Language Learning Director, Highline Public Schools – English Language Learners Work Group representative
- Sharonne Navas, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Equity in Education Coalition – Advocates' Caucus representative
- Candace Gratama, Executive Vice President, the BERC Group – Data Advisors Group representative

The group was briefed on the process for developing the Sponsor Group commitments. Mary Jean Ryan is meeting with each founding member to discuss commitments, and for members who represent work groups, the respective staff member will work with the Sponsor to develop the work group commitment document. The hope is to have many of these completed and shared at the September meeting and the rest at the November retreat.

The Sponsor Group discussed the advocacy proposal presented by Sylvester Cann. The purpose of Road Map Project advocacy is to get favorable policies enacted at both the state and local level that will help move our region toward the 2020 goal. The Sponsor Group expressed cautious support for moving forward with the new advocacy agenda development process recommendations.

The Sponsor Group also gave input on criteria for identifying project-wide advocacy priorities and offered some suggestions (i.e. high impact on children of color, strong community support, puts children's interest at the forefront, advances innovation and emphasizes assets). Further work will be done to develop criteria, and input will be sought from the Community Network and other work groups. In September, the criteria and first set of recommendations for Road Map Project-wide policy priorities will be brought to the Sponsor Group. At that time, the basic elements of the advocacy strategy contemplated for each will also be presented.