

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

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### RESOURCE

[joinvroom.com](http://joinvroom.com)

## BIRTH TO 3RD GRADE

■ With the first version of the [Birth to 3rd Grade Action Plan](#) completed in September 2012, the [Birth to 3rd Grade Work Group](#) is working to update the plan and create version 2.0 by July 1, 2014. The group, chaired by Karen Howell-Clark, of United Way of King County, and Julie Rolling, of the Puget Sound Educational Service District, will focus on identifying what it will take to achieve the region's targets for kindergarten readiness and 3rd grade reading, and what strategies should be prioritized in 2014.

The next Birth to 3rd Grade Work Group meeting is April 17 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Puget Sound Educational Service District. Agenda items will include:

- English Language Learner Action Plan presentation and crosswalk with Birth to 3rd Grade Action Plan
- Action Plan 2.0 community mapping work
- Race to the Top PreK-3rd grade update: investment fund round 2 discussion

■ [Let's Read!](#), the region's summer reading campaign, is starting its 3rd year. Community planning meetings are being held in libraries across the region. There is a focus this year on collecting more data on the impact of the campaign efforts, and strengthening connections with key partners – school districts, free summer meal sites and others.

- Remaining planning meeting: Highline Community Planning Meeting, Tuesday April 1, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the White Center Library

■ The Bezos Family Foundation is working with the Road Map Project and many other partners to bring [Vroom](#) to the Road Map Project region. Vroom is a new initiative, grounded in the latest brain science, that aims to reach low-income parents with the important message that “everyday moments can be brain-building moments.” A pilot effort of Vroom is beginning in the High Point neighborhood in southwest Seattle and the district catchment areas of the Tukwila and Highline school districts. Vroom kicked off on March 29 with a family event at Foster High School in Tukwila. [Click here](#) to read The Seattle Times story about the celebration.

## RESOURCE

[roadmapracetothetop.org](http://roadmapracetothetop.org)

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## RACE TO THE TOP

■ For updates on the region's \$40 million Race to the Top grant, please visit [roadmapracetothetop.org](http://roadmapracetothetop.org) and sign up for the e-newsletter.

## COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS

■ In January 2014, the original [High School to College Completion Work Group](#) shifted into two committees: an Advisory Group and a Postsecondary Success Subcommittee. The High School to College Completion Advisory Group is charged with monitoring and supporting action plan implementation to make sure it will achieve the Road Map Project's college readiness and postsecondary completion goals. The group will provide ongoing feedback to lead implementers of major action plan strategies and the Race to the Top Stay Strong team, and identify course corrections and new strategies/opportunities as necessary. In April, the Postsecondary Success Subcommittee will be convened to further develop postsecondary persistence and completion components of the High School to College Completion Action Plan.

If you are a college staff member with strong interest in identifying strategies to improve postsecondary persistence and completion for recent high school graduates, please contact Avery at [kavery@ccedresults.org](mailto:kavery@ccedresults.org).

■ Once again, it is time to sign up eligible 8th grade students for the state's [College Bound Scholarship](#)! Like last year, CCER will be publishing sign-up rates by district. Look for those updates starting in April at the Road Map Project's [College Bound Scholarship web page](#).

■ Twelve "What's Next" events are scheduled across the Road Map Project region during the month of April. These events are part of the annual Road Map to College campaign and designed to help high school seniors get the resources needed to access financial aid and enroll in college. For dates and information, please visit [roadmaptocollege.org](http://roadmaptocollege.org).

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

■ The first version of the [English Language Learner \(ELL\) Action Plan and Toolkit](#) was completed in December 2013. At the start of January 2014, the group launched the implementation phase, using the toolkit as a guide and resource. The action plan was developed around a framework that targets five critical focus areas that must all be addressed in order to fully support ELL students: positive identity and primary language development, parent engagement, data collection, instructional practice and post-secondary success.

As the ELL Work Group continues to build out the implementation strategies this year, the group has also homed in on three specific project areas and formed teams around them:

1. Creating a regional para-educator to teacher pipeline to diversify the teaching workforce and increase the number of teachers reflective of student communities
2. Forming a regional network of ELL coaches to share best practices and improve integration of ELL support in content classrooms
3. Exploring alternative models for older-entering ELLs and garnering resources and knowledge to initiate a pilot project

The next ELL Work Group meeting is April 3 from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Highline Public School District. Agenda items will include:

- Birth-3rd Grade presentation and crosswalk with ELL Action Plan
- May retreat planning
- Updates: dual language visit (more information below), Race to the Top Project 1 funding pool, passage of Seal of Biliteracy
- Projects work block: focus on strategic planning/funding options

Recently, members of the ELL Work Group collaborated to bring two top national researchers on dual language models, Virginia Collier and Wayne Thomas, to the Road Map Project region. Their longitudinal research shows that well-implemented dual language programs can fully close the achievement/opportunity gap for ELL students. To get a recap and learn more about the effectiveness of this model, [click here](#).

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH (STEM)

- For updates on Race to the Top STEM work in the region, please visit [roadmapracetothetop.org](http://roadmapracetothetop.org) and sign up for the Race to the Top newsletter.

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATION RESULTS

- The [Youth Development for Education Results Work Group](#), staffed by Youth Development Executives of King County (YDEKC), has continued to refine the model of defining and measuring Motivation and Engagement and 21st Century Skills based on latest research ([School Success Skills & Dispositions](#)). While the debate on what to call these factors continues (social emotional skills, soft skills, non-cognitive skills), there is growing recognition that they really do matter. Jessica Werner, YDEKC Executive Director and staffer for the work group, presented on this topic with Pete Bylsma from the Renton School District and Greg Lobdell from the Center for Educational Effectiveness at the Washington Education Research Association conference in December. For more background on the rationale and early measurement results, [click here](#) for the presentation.

## GET MORE INFO

Please contact Melodie Reece with further questions/resource requests at [melodie.reece@k12.wa.us](mailto:melodie.reece@k12.wa.us)

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The Renton, Auburn, Tukwila and Seattle school districts are using the Student Engagement and Motivation Survey (SEMS) developed by the work group. Results will be available in the coming months and YDEKC hopes to work with the districts to engage community partners in using the data to inform practice. For Version 2.0 of the school-based survey, [click here](#). To hear a national story about Growth Mindset, one of the constructs the survey focuses on, [click here](#).

■ We know that high-quality programs lead to better outcomes for kids. School's Out Washington, in partnership with key stakeholders, just published the Washington State Quality Standards for Afterschool & Youth Development Programs. These standards will provide organizations and staff with guidelines for what quality looks like in a program setting. Stay tuned for a King County launch later this spring for educators and youth development staff. Please [click here](#) to download the standards.

## OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

■ The Opportunity Youth Work Group, co-chaired by Kelly Goodsell and Israel Mendoza, kicked off in late December and had its third meeting in March. The group has been reviewing and discussing data about the size, characteristics and needs of the Opportunity Youth population (16 to 24 year olds who are not in school and not working) as well as the current landscape of re-engagement programs. Discussions about how to organize emerging strategies into a framework for an action plan are getting underway, as is small group work to further explore data issues and current needs.

Interest in [Open Doors](#), Washington's relatively new dropout retrieval law and framework, is growing. CCER organized a second regional convening of new and emerging Open Doors programs this February. That group identified common challenges that can be advanced through peer learning, support and data coaching over time. The group is also a forum for exploring the feasibility and potential for a regional Open Doors system and whether key system functions could support coordination, scale and quality.

CCER is partnering with SOAR and the [King County Youth Advisory Council](#) to ensure young people are involved in the developing Opportunity Youth effort. Three members of the council serve on the work group and the full council serves as a sounding board for strategy development. The Youth Advisory Council has provided input on re-engagement messaging (what kinds of messages, images, outreach strategies would effectively reach teens who dropped out or were pushed out) as well as King County's Reclaiming Futures 2024 Vision that Road Map Project is partnering on.

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## PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

■ Three new parent engagement indicators debuted in the 2013 Results Report. These indicators represent a foundational step for the field of parent engagement and were developed through a collaboration involving the University of Washington College of Education and the Road Map Project's Community Network and Data Advisors Group. An initial data snapshot for the indicators was gathered from a large, regional phone survey conducted in fall 2013. The second phase of the indicators is the development of a field survey for use by schools and community-based organizations, which is set to be piloted in May. Over the next few weeks, Road Map Project family engagement partners (family engagement organizations and district leaders) will be helping the UW research team prioritize items for measuring the indicators identified for the field survey. Nearly 100 partners from the local field were invited for participation. Additional indicators for the field survey include: family-teacher communication and interaction, family-teacher trust, family-family school opportunities and interactions. Two-high needs elementary schools in Kent have been identified for the pilot.

After items are prioritized, the UW research team will transcribe and translate the field survey before conducting cognitive interviews with families (to ensure questions are being interpreted as intended). Mid-May is the tentative target for implementing/piloting the field survey.

■ The South King Council of Human Services held a Funders Forum on March 25 at SeaTac City Hall. The session was intended to be a conversation with the Parent Engagement Collective members to help funders learn more about the needs of organizations doing parent engagement in South King County. The session allowed organizations the opportunity to relay their challenges, barriers and needs when seeking and receiving funding.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

■ Planning teams have been developed and activities are underway for Education Results Roundtables in Kent and Renton. Both sets of planning teams consist of community members, advocates and Road Map Project school/community partners from the respective communities. The primary objective of these events is to share education data with parents and community members in engaging and interactive ways that build awareness of the state of education in their district and neighborhoods, foster relationship-building between parents, community and schools, and promote community action and school accountability. These events are also co-designed between school and community partners and aim to catalyze and build on existing advocacy momentum in their neighborhood and district. In addition to the two Education Results Roundtables listed on page 6, an African-American focused event is being explored for late May. Please monitor future Traffic Reports for more information.

- Education Results Roundtable - Kent  
6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Thursday, April 17  
Kent Senior Activity Center  
600 E. Smith St., Kent, WA 98030  
[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

- Education Results Roundtable - Renton  
6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 22  
Renton Community Center  
1715 SE Maple Valley Highway  
Renton, WA 98057  
[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

## ALIGNED FUNDERS

- Look for updates from the Aligned Funder Group in future Traffic Reports.

## ADVOCACY

- The Advocates Caucus, a sub-committee of the Community Network chaired by Rich Stolz, of OneAmerica, and Tony Lee, of Solid Ground, is putting a stronger focus on local advocacy work in 2014 and beyond. This means finding ways to influence policy decisions and support implementation of key strategies. First up on the local agenda are the Education Results Roundtables, one of the first localized advocacy activities (read more about the roundtables in the “Community Engagement” portion of this newsletter).

The legislative session ended as scheduled on March 13 and numerous priorities were advanced, including the Dream Act and Seal of Biliteracy.

An Advocates Caucus meeting is being planned for the second week of April. The caucus will discuss asking a member from each work group to join the caucus in an attempt to strengthen the content knowledge of the group. Please contact Sylvester Cann at [scann@ccedresults.org](mailto:scann@ccedresults.org) to learn more.

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## RESOURCE

Road Map Project data  
reports are available  
online at <http://www.roadmapproject.org/data-center/reports/>

## DATA

■ CCER's data work this year is focusing more on getting information out into the community, and we are also increasingly focused on the community and technical college realm for which we are improving our data capabilities. Partly as a result of this focus, we will soon review our indicator of postsecondary persistence to provide a more nuanced look at student progress. We are also planning for the upcoming changes to the state assessments, helping to build the pre-K data availability and linkages, and aligning to other data work that is happening in the community.

The [Data Advisors Group](#), co-chaired by Sarita Siqueiros Thornburg, of the Puget Sound Educational Service District, and Pete Bylsma, of the Renton School District, recently met to start the process that will follow to refine targets and progress measures in light of the state's transition to Common Core state standards beginning this year.

As part of a renewed effort to help data-driven findings support community action, CCER is providing data to Education Results Roundtables (see the "Community Engagement" update for more information). Many of these data come from the district results reports that are available on the [Road Map Project website](#). (You can also find the 2013 Results Report and 2013 Technical Results report on the website.)