



Detailed updates from around the Road Map Project

Hello!

Thank you for reading the **March/April issue of the Road Map Traffic Report!** These updates build upon information in previous Traffic Reports. Please visit the [Road Map Project website](#) to view earlier issues.

The Traffic Report is being issued every two months to better provide you with helpful and thorough updates from across the Road Map Project. Please email [info@ccedresults.org](mailto:info@ccedresults.org) with any feedback or questions.  
Thank you!!

-CCER Team

**BIRTH TO 3RD GRADE**

*CONTACT for Let's Read!: Sara Siegel, Let's Read! Campaign Coordinator, [ssiegel@ccedresults.org](mailto:ssiegel@ccedresults.org)*

*CONTACT for Birth to 3rd Grade Work Group: Lynda Petersen, CCER Associate Director and Birth to 3rd Grade Work Group staffer, [lpetersen@ccedresults.org](mailto:lpetersen@ccedresults.org)*

**Let's Read! planning**

Planning is in full swing across the region to prepare for the summer and to help ensure all children have a chance to continue learning in the summer. Seven *Let's Read!* community planning meetings were held this spring in libraries across the region, where participants discussed how to strengthen partnerships and work together to reach more children and families in the summer. You can find the meeting recaps and contact lists for these meetings on the [Let's Read! website](#). Work is also underway to ensure the children attending drop-in summer meal sites in King County this summer are provided consistent, fun learning opportunities. The *Let's Read!* team is excited to be working closely with School's Out Washington, United Way of King County, Seattle Public Libraries and King County Library System to support the meal providers and AmeriCorps members working at the meal sites to include a fun learning activity for the children accessing the free summer meals.

**Summer reading plan materials widely distributed**

Thanks to the help of teachers and district leaders across the region, 17,000 *Let's Read!* summer reading materials are being distributed to schools this month. Kindergarten through 2nd grade students at 61 elementary schools across the region will be given materials to help them and their families discuss plans for reading and learning in the summer. This is one of the key components of the Race to the Top commitment to work with community partners to support learning in the summer.

**Free books!**

In March, the *Let's Read!* campaign was able to secure 5,000 free books from First Place Books. Thank you to Carol Baker, child nutrition assistant director at the Auburn School District, who helped

to secure a storage space for the books on very short notice. An effort to distribute these books to organizations working with kids in the summer will be planned for late May. If you are interested in learning about this opportunity to secure free books, please contact Sara at [ssiegel@ccedresults.org](mailto:ssiegel@ccedresults.org).

### **Summer learning program kick-off celebration**

The King County Library System's summer learning program kick-off event will be on June 19 at the Renton Community Center from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. There will be many fun STEM and literacy activities, including robotics, stop-motion animation, musical performances and much more. Please help share this info with families!

### **Birth to 3rd Grade Work Group update**

The [Birth to 3rd Grade Work Group](#) is working through a six-month process to refine the group's action plan and to prioritize strategies for the next one to two years of implementation that will help the region achieve the targets and close the opportunity gaps for kindergarten readiness and 3rd grade reading. The results of this process will be shared in the next edition of the Traffic Report. For more information, please contact Lynda at [lpetersen@ccedresults.org](mailto:lpetersen@ccedresults.org).

## **COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS**

*CONTACT: Kirsten Avery, "Avery," CCER College and Career Success Director and High School to College Completion Advisory Group staffer, [kavery@ccedresults.org](mailto:kavery@ccedresults.org)*

### **College Bound Scholarship and State Need Grant advocacy**

Senate Bill 5851, which provides recommendations on how to strengthen the College Bound Scholarship Program has passed and is awaiting final approval from Gov. Inslee. Thank you to the High School to College Completion Advisory Group and others who provided input on the recommendations and advocated on behalf of the bill! The governor will be hosting a bill signing event for SB 5851 at Mill Creek Middle School in Kent on May 12 at 11 a.m.

Advocacy for State Need Grant funding in the final budget continues. During the special budget session, you can help by telling budget leaders Sen. Andy Hill and Rep. Ross Hunter to fully fund the State Need Grant.

### **College Bound Scholarship communications**

Improving College Bound Scholarship communications for the benefit of parents and students from sign up through college completion is a High School to College Completion Advisory Committee action plan priority this year. The initial research phase to better understand student, family and school staff experiences with College Bound Scholarship communications and needs is nearly complete. Five discussion groups have been held and 240+ student and family surveys were collected from the Seattle College Bound conference.

### **College access data**

The CCER data team and college and career staff have developed a College Access Spreadsheet (CAS). CAS is a data tool that provides college access indicator data at the school level. The purpose of CAS is to support organizations, community partners and students/families to use the data to improve programs, make service decisions, advocate for supports, have a baseline for comparison and follow trends. Training for college access providers and others on how to use CAS will begin this summer.

### **DiscoverU**

Mark your calendars! DiscoverU will be back again Oct.12-16, 2015. DiscoverU is an exciting week for students across Seattle and South King County to explore college and career options. Pass along

the dates to your institution, organization or community. Together, we can get the word out early so DiscoverU is bigger and better than ever! If you would like to be added to the DiscoverU information listserv, please email Avery at [kavery@ccedresults.org](mailto:kavery@ccedresults.org).

### **College access provider convening**

On April 23, the Seattle/South King County college access network (new name to be announced May 19), brought together college access providers from across Seattle and South King County to discuss their programs and service areas, determine where there are gaps in service to students and identify potential areas for collaboration. Eleven organizations were represented and the Seattle Public Library hosted at its Rainier Beach Branch.

### **Puget Sound Coalition for College and Career Readiness update**

[Alan Berube](#) of the Brookings Institution was a recent guest at the Puget Sound Coalition for College and Career Readiness meeting. The co-author of "[Confronting Suburban Poverty in America](#)" provided rich data and evidence about the impact of demographic trends in South King County and the implications for K-12 and postsecondary education. The presentation he and Natalie Holmes delivered can be found [here](#). Alan and Puget Sound Educational Service District Superintendent John Welch also co-presented on this topic at the American Planning Association meeting.

### **Project Finish Line**

[Project Finish Line](#), funded with a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is supporting student completion among our region's community and technical colleges. Teams of staff from the Seattle Colleges and Green River College visited Walla Walla Community College to learn about Walla Walla's Aspen Institute-award winning strategies and came together to be trained in completion coaching. Professor Bob Hughes, the project's external evaluator, released a report highlighting factors that contributed to Walla Walla Community College's success that emphasized the importance of a systems-level and collaborative approach to building a campus culture that focuses on postsecondary completion.

### **Race to the Top Stay Strong projects**

Close to 90 staff from across the region came together on March 3 to share promising practices supporting college and career readiness at the Race to the Top Stay Strong convening. Participants touched on a range of efforts, including broadening access to rigorous courses, enhancing guidance counseling and promoting regional participation in the College Board College Readiness Assessments (including ReadinessStep, PSAT and SAT). The Race to the Top College and Career Readiness RFP was released on April 27 and more information about the third and final round of the Investment fund may be found [here](#).

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)**

*CONTACT: Chelsea Whealdon, OneAmerica Education Policy Associate and ELL Work Group staffer, [chelsea@weareoneamerica.org](mailto:chelsea@weareoneamerica.org)*

### **ELL Work Group update**

There are many upcoming events on the horizon for the ELL Work Group and lots of planning taking place. Please refer to the last [Traffic Report](#) for updates on this group.

Upcoming meetings:

- ELL Work Group Steering Committee Retreat: May 8
- ELL Work Group Meeting: May 21, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- ELL Work Group Annual Retreat: June 12, 9 a.m. 4 p.m.

If you would like get involved or learn more about this work, please contact Chelsea Whealdon at [Chelsea@weareoneamerica.org](mailto:Chelsea@weareoneamerica.org).

### **Road Map Project collaboration: Washington State Kappan article**

Roxana Norouzi and Hilary Loeb have published an article in the spring 2015 edition of [Washington State Kappan](#) focusing on social justice and education. Norouzi and Loeb provided an overview of the history and implementation of the Road Map Project's English Language Learner work plan for the piece.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH (STEM)**

*CONTACT: Sylvester Cann, STEM Network Manager and staffer, [scann@ccedresults.org](mailto:scann@ccedresults.org)*

### **Support for math and science teachers**

There are a lot of very excited teachers across the region because of the recent [DonorsChoose.org](#) campaign. Nearly 450 math and science classroom projects were fully funded in April thanks to the South King County STEM Network with help from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. A teacher actually put the words "Yee-Haw!" in an email expressing her enthusiasm about the opportunity. The campaign is just ending and the data are still being compiled. Look for a more complete summary of the campaign in the next Traffic Report.

### **Next Generation Science Standards**

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are approaching -- and they are approaching fast. Each district in the Road Map Project region is planning for this big transition. Teachers have asked for help with this transition because it's a lot more than new textbooks and tests. On May 12, the South King County STEM Network and the Logan Center for Education at Institute for Systems Biology will convene teams from all seven districts to start in-depth planning to prepare for a transition to the new standards. This will be the first of many gatherings to support districts with the implementation of NGSS.

## **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATION RESULTS**

*CONTACT: Jessica Werner, Executive Director of Youth Development Executives of King County and Youth Development for Education Results Work Group staffer, [jwerner@ydekc.org](mailto:jwerner@ydekc.org)*

### **Strengthening school community partnerships**

Building stronger partnerships between schools, communities and youth-serving organizations is gaining traction around the region. The Youth Development for Education Results Work Group is taking lessons learned from the Race to the Top Deep Dive sites to feed the development of a partnership toolkit as well as action plan goals that are beginning to take shape. Several case studies will also share what's working in the region.

### **National expanded learning system convening**

Supported by the Raikes Foundation, a team of 11 leaders from our region recently attended the Every Hour Counts expanded learning system convening in Oakland. One reflection the delegation had upon their return was that most other cities/regions that have developed a connected after-school or expanded learning system got started as a result of a major crisis. We have a hidden crisis in our region, where things have not improved -- especially for kids of color and low-income kids. The case made [here](#) by King County Executive Dow Constantine for the [Best Start for Kids](#) levy proposal highlighted many of the disparities facing our communities and may begin to create some urgency around improving the lives of kids and families in King County, and bringing our crisis to the headlines. Read this [blog post](#) about the convening for other reflections.

## **Youth program directory SNEAK PEEK!**

As promised in the last Traffic Report, the brand new [www.youthprogramdirectory.org](http://www.youthprogramdirectory.org) is in beta test mode. Programs are still being added and bugs are being worked out -- your feedback is welcome! Please contact Jessica Werner, [jwerner@ydekc.org](mailto:jwerner@ydekc.org), with questions or comments.

## **OPPORTUNITY YOUTH**

*CONTACT: Nicole Yohalem, Director of the Road Map Project Opportunity Youth Initiative and Opportunity Youth Work Group staffer, [nyohalem@cccedresults.org](mailto:nyohalem@cccedresults.org)*

### **Support for college/career navigation**

The United Way and CCER's application to the Social Innovation Fund was selected for funding by Jobs for the Future and the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions. This \$740,000 grant will advance the Reconnecting Youth initiative by supporting college and career education advocates from Seattle Education Access (SEA) at Open Doors re-engagement programs over the next three years. Individualized, youth-centered support from SEA will ensure that re-engagement students, especially youth of color, get the support they need to finish high school and transition to college or career pathways and living-wage employment. This marks an important milestone in the United Way's Reconnecting Youth initiative, helps advance implementation of the Opportunity Youth Action Plan and expands services delivered by one of our region's highly effective community-based organizations.

### **Alignment is in the air!**

Local leaders are increasingly focused on the transition to adulthood and building a strong system of pathways for opportunity youth. The recently released [2015 Refresh of the Comprehensive Plan](#) to Prevent and End Homelessness in King County by 2020 includes a commitment to partner with the Road Map Project to ensure that homeless opportunity youth have access to effective education and employment supports. King County's [Best Starts for Kids Levy](#) includes a specific commitment to "re-engaging youth who have dropped out of school." The [King County Youth Action Plan](#) identified fragmented second-chance educational options as a top problem for 16-24 year-olds and calls on the county and partners to "prioritize workforce development and match opportunity youth with the best education and employment opportunities." Alignment is great, but only if we act -- boldly, effectively and together.

### **Progress on the data front**

When opportunity youth work in the Road Map Project began in fall 2013, it was clear that the status quo was unacceptable and that a strong system of quality programs was needed. But besides pointing to high dropout rates, it was difficult to describe the educational experiences of opportunity youth with specificity and therefore hard to get a handle on what is needed in terms of the capacity of a re-engagement system. After several months of work, we are much closer to a clear picture of the educational trajectories of young people who drop out or are pushed out of high school. For example, initial analyses suggest that nearly a third of young people who leave high school prior to graduating do enroll in some postsecondary institution by age 24, though as few as 3.5% complete a two- or four-year degree. This information will help the Opportunity Youth Advisory Group and Re-engagement Provider Network set goals and targets going forward. Additional forthcoming analyses from the Department of Social and Health Services provide descriptive information about the challenges facing opportunity youth that can inform program and system development.

### **Doors opening across Washington State**

Nearly 3,000 students are re-enrolled in education via statewide Open Doors programs, now operated by 68 districts working in partnership with a growing number of community-based organizations and colleges. This spring, the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges joined the Open Doors steering committee and hired an administrator to support college involvement in Open Doors and

High School 21+, a new competency-based high school diploma initiative that is also expanding across the state. OSPI is fine-tuning program tracking and reporting, and in June will convene Open Doors programs from around the state to provide updates and support cross-site learning. OSPI is also working with ERDC to launch a longitudinal study of students' education and employment outcomes.

## **PARENT ENGAGEMENT**

*CONTACT: Anthony Shoecraft, CCER Family and Community Engagement Director, [ashoecraft@ccedresults.org](mailto:ashoecraft@ccedresults.org)*

### **Harvard Family Engagement Institute coming up**

The Road Map Project region will be well represented at this year's Harvard Family Engagement Institute with a 60+ delegation of parents, community-based organizations (who do family engagement) and school/district staff. This planning approach proved to be effective last year and is linked with regional efforts to align PreK-12 family engagement systems and supports. (CCER, the Puget Sound Educational Service District, the leads of district family engagement and PreK-3rd/early learning leads have completed identifying their teams that will attend this year's institute.)

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

*CONTACT: Carlina Brown-Banks, CCER Parent Engagement Coordinator, [cbbanks@ccedresults.org](mailto:cbbanks@ccedresults.org)*

### **Race to the Top Deep Dive investment fund**

At the April Race to the Top Executive Committee meeting, members voted to approve a number of recommendations submitted by the Road Map Project Community Network Steering Committee (CNSC): 1) Change the proposal development process to allow proposals to be initiated by community-based organizations (CBOs) or CBO partnerships; 2) Consider holding another round of Deep Dive 3 investments (and utilize underspend from other Race to the Top projects); and 3) Amend the funding allocation structure (the U.S. Department of Education approved this amendment request in late April). The adoption of these recommendations resulted from several months of advocacy and engagement between the CNSC and the Executive Committee.

Other key decisions made at the April meeting include extending the DD3 timeline to August of 2017 and approving Seattle Public Schools' proposal: "Building Blocks: Investing in Students, Families and Community" (contingent on them meeting a series of conditions). In light of these new decisions, the Executive Committee will vote to approve a budget to propose to Department of Education at the May meeting.

For more information on DD3, please contact Matthew Gulbranson at [mgulbranson@psed.org](mailto:mgulbranson@psed.org) or 425-917-7878.

### **Results Roundtables and Living Room Conversations**

A Kent Results Roundtable is being planned for mid-June at the Kent Senior Community Center. Community Network Council is leading this event with a planning team of over 18 community, school district and civic leaders. Community Results Roundtables are larger events, hosted by community-based organizations, designed to support participants in exploring three to five data themes and networking around the data relevant to their community.

A recent pilot of a Living Room Conversation organized and hosted by parents was a success. Eight parent leaders participated in a pilot event hosted by CCER. We have commitments for 8 additional Living Room Conversations. These conversations are intended to be small-group conversations

among groups of parents and other interested community members that allow for deep exploration of one to two data themes.

## ALIGNED FUNDERS

*CONTACT: Betsy Dennis, Aligned Funders staffer, [bdennis@philanthropyw.org](mailto:bdennis@philanthropyw.org)*

### **Aligned Funders Group update**

In March, 12 funders representing 11 organizations attended the March Aligned Funders meeting. The theme of the meeting was: How do we make data more actionable? Funders were introduced to the recently developed College Access Spreadsheet which is being developed by CCER. Please see the High School to College Completion section for more information about the College Access Spreadsheet.

### **Rapid Resource Pooled Fund**

In March, the funders participating in the Rapid Resource Fund were pleased to award a grant to the Puget Sound Educational Service District to support implementation of Bridge to College Transition Coursework. The grant will provide a stipend to teachers who agree to teach the course as well as ongoing professional learning community convenings for this group of teachers. The next deadline for proposals is May 21. Please contact Betsy at [bdennis@philanthropyw.org](mailto:bdennis@philanthropyw.org) for more information about the Rapid Resource Fund.

## ADVOCACY

*CONTACT: Sylvester Cann, CCER Advocacy Director and Advocates Caucus staffer, [scann@ccedresults.org](mailto:scann@ccedresults.org)*

### **Discipline policy**

A focus on discipline policy in the Road Map Project region is gearing up. OneAmerica and TeamChild will co-lead a strategy to reduce discipline disproportionality across the region. The plan will be developed in partnership with many stakeholders and leverage existing and related work. If you would like to get involved, please contact Rich Stoltz, of OneAmerica, at [rich@weareoneamerica.org](mailto:rich@weareoneamerica.org).

### **Cradle Through College Coalition**

This legislative session is one that everyone involved in the Road Map Project should be intensely focused on. The implications for education in this budget are huge! That's why the Cradle Through College Coalition was formed; we all must do what we can to influence the final budget deal. The coalition has met with The Seattle Times editorial board twice, most recently in April with four key coalition members: Jon Gould, with Children's Alliance; Frank Ordway, with League of Education Voters; President Elson Floyd, from Washington State University; and Seattle City Council member Tim Burgess.

This week, an [open letter](#) is being sent to budget negotiators stating five priorities to address in the special session. The priorities are:

- fully fund the State Need Grant
- pass the Early Start Act with a 12-month authorization for Working Connections Child Care
- K-12 improvements to make *McCleary* work
- end the over reliance on local levies
- provide operating increases for higher education institutions

Anyone can help to amplify these messages using your email networks and social media.

## DATA

*CONTACT: Alessandra Pollock, CCER Data Analyst, [apollock@ccedresults.org](mailto:apollock@ccedresults.org)*

### **CCER data team is hiring**

Do you know someone who could be CCER's new Senior Education Data Analyst? We are looking for someone with experience wrangling education data, whether it's pre-K assessments or postsecondary completion records. Please see the Road Map Project website for the [full job announcement](#). Resumes and cover letters can be sent to [jobs@ccedresults.org](mailto:jobs@ccedresults.org).

### **2014 district reports**

Curious about 7th grade math in South Seattle or Tukwila? Want to know what schools in the Road Map Project region are doing well with 3rd grade reading? How about high school graduation rates across the Road Map Project region? You'll find answers to these and many other questions in the 2014 Road Map Project district reports. You can compare results on Road Map Project Indicators of Student Success across districts, and by subgroups within districts. Check out the [Road Map Project website](#) for the full reports in printable PDF format.

### **New data: on-time and extended high school graduation**

CCER's staff has integrated Class of 2013 extended graduation rates and Class of 2014 on-time graduation rates for Road Map Project district and schools into our data system. CCER staff have put together stories about [on-time](#) and [extended graduation](#) on the Tableau Public site.

### **Smarter Balanced Assessments**

Our students have been taking these new assessments (using computers only) in reading and math, and the CCER data team is working with the Road Map Project Data Advisors Group to identify appropriate ways to show the data and adapt Road Map Project targets during the transition.

## COMMUNICATIONS

*CONTACT: Kristin Johnson-Waggoner, CCER Communications Manager, [kjohnson@ccedresults.org](mailto:kjohnson@ccedresults.org)*

### **Communications plan research findings**

The research phase of the Road Map Project strategic communications plan is wrapping up. As a reminder, the overall goals of the plan are to:

- Increase public will, expectation and demand in our region for improved education outcomes for low-income students and students of color
- Ensure that parents are engaged and valued supporters of their children's education and are advocates for their children's education

The plan is being developed with many partners and implementation work will be widely distributed. Please review the [January/February Traffic Report](#) to see the plan's full set of goals and objectives.

Over the past two months, the following research has been conducted to better understand audiences and build out the communications plan:

- 13 interviews with regional opinion leaders, including elected officials, community-based organization directors and business leaders
- Phone poll with 700 likely voters in the Road Map Project region (offered in English and Spanish)
- Discussion groups:
  - o Parents of young children (Somali-speaking)
  - o Parents of young children (Spanish-speaking)
  - o Parents of young children (English-speaking)
  - o College Bound Scholarship students (Latino)

- o College Bound Scholarship students (non-Latino)
- o College Bound Scholarship parents (Spanish-speaking)
- o College Bound Scholarship parents (English-speaking)
- o Guidance counselors and district staff

Thank you to all the partner organizations that helped organize and support the discussion groups! Draft reports of the research findings are available. Please email Kristin at [kjohnson@ccedresults.org](mailto:kjohnson@ccedresults.org) to learn more.

Are you or your organization interested in co-developing this plan for our region? There will be three soon-to-be-scheduled sessions in the next month that will dive deeper into the following:

- The plan as a whole
- Building public will for educational equity
- Improving information flow to parents

This is a great time to get involved! Please contact Kristin ([kjohnson@ccedresults.org](mailto:kjohnson@ccedresults.org)) if you'd like to stay informed about these sessions.

**Road Map Project Facebook page hits 1,000 likes!**

Thank you to everyone who is supporting the Road Map Project on Facebook! In late April, the Road Map Project page reached 1,000 likes, a big milestone! The page is a great way to learn about updates, get meeting information, share pictures and more. Check it out here: <https://www.facebook.com/roadmapproject>. And don't forget the Road Map Project is also on Twitter at [@roadmapproject](https://twitter.com/roadmapproject)!