



Policy Forum on Raising 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency

Minnesota Department of Education
September 4, 2013

*"Leading for educational excellence and equity.
Every day for every one."*

Welcome

Setting the Agenda for the Day

*- Bobbie Burnham, Deputy Director,
Office of Early Learning, MDE*

WiFi user name and password:

User Name: public

Password: PHench1950

Presenter PowerPoint's:

<http://mnprek-3.wikidot.com/start>

Who is here?

- Minnesota Governor & Commissioner of Education
- Minnesota Legislators
- Children's Cabinet & Early Learning Council
- Departments of Education, Health & Human Services
- Institutions of Higher Education
- Charter Schools
- Superintendents, District Administrators and School Board Members (rural & metro)
- Childcare Organizations & Associations
- Regional Service Cooperatives

Who is here?

Key Public and Private Partners:

- Bush Foundation
- Head Start
- MESPA and AMSD
- MIF's
- MN Reading Corp
- McKnight Foundation
- Minneapolis Foundation
- MinneMinds
- National Governor's Association
- NAZ and I3 Staff and RTT Partners
- PASR
- Target Corporation
- United Way

Why are we here?

We are all responsible for closing Minnesota's achievement gap.

We all have a role in getting children reading at or above grade level by the end of 3rd grade.

Opening Remarks

Commissioner of Education

Brenda Cassellius

BETTER SCHOOLS FOR A BETTER MINNESOTA

“Taking what’s good and making it better”

A 7-Point Plan for Achieving Excellence

1. Funding Education for the Future

- Invest in Early Childhood and All-Day Kindergarten
- Invest in strategies that close the achievement gap and target resources to the classroom
- Establish a Governor’s Commission on Better School Funding

2. Better Early Childhood Education

- Target All-Day Kindergarten
- Expand existing K-12 system into a comprehensive pre-K–12 system
- Implement clearly defined school readiness standards

3. Raise the Bar – Close the Gap

- Set accountability targets to close achievement gaps
- Establish *Governor’s Award for Excellence in Education*
- Establish *Governor’s Achievement Gap Innovation Fund*

4. Reading Well by 3rd Grade

- Launch Statewide Literacy Campaign
- Set school accountability targets to ensure all students are reading well by Grade 3
- Adopt Pre-K–3 Literacy Standards

5. Support Teaching for Better Schools

- Create alternative pathways to teacher licensure that maintain quality
- Establish a statewide teacher performance evaluation and development system and create support networks
- Support early childhood teacher observation and development

6. Better Testing for Better Results

- Develop assessments for learning that measure growth
- Establish a Test Reduction Task Force
- Examine new accountability measures based on growth that fairly assess and report student and school progress

7. A Department of Education that Provides Educational Leadership and Support

- Reposition Minnesota Department of Education to support teachers, schools and districts
- Reauthorize Statewide Early Childhood Advisory Council and reestablish Children’s Cabinet
- Charge Commissioner of Education with leadership of early childhood initiatives

Policy Action Framework to Improve Third Grade Reading Outcomes: NGA Governor's Guide

- Albert Wat, NGA

NGA's 5 Policy Actions for a Comprehensive Strategy

1. Adopt comprehensive language and literacy standards to **inform curricula and assessments**.
2. **Expand access to high-quality** early care and education.
3. Engage and support **parents as partners** in early language and literacy development.
4. **Equip B-3rd educators** with the necessary skills and knowledge for improving reading proficiency.
5. Develop mechanisms to **promote continuous improvement and accountability**.

Minnesota's Comprehensive Strategy: *Inform Curricula & Assessments*

Early Childhood Indicators of Progress (ECIP)

- Indicators currently under revision;
- Evidence-based;
- Reflect best practices;
- Align with kindergarten through third grade MN ELA K-12 academic standards;
- Revision of Parent Aware indicators to include language & literacy instruction and best practice.

Minnesota's Comprehensive Strategy: *Inform Curricula & Assessments*

Comprehensive Assessment System

- Universal developmental screening
- Targeted child assessments aligned to the standards
- Program quality assessments
- Aligned to ECIPS and K-12 MN Standards

Minnesota's Comprehensive Strategy: *Expand Access*

Expand Parent Aware Statewide (by 2016)

- Early Learning Scholarships
- Full-day Kindergarten – 2014
- Federal Grants:
 - Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge
 - Investing in Innovation (i3)
 - Northside Achievement Zone

Minnesota's Comprehensive Strategy: *Engage Parents as Partners*

- Family home visiting
- Read Well by Third Grade Legislation– parent notification and guidance
- *Engaged Families* Component of PreK-3rd Grade Framework
- MDE Cross-agency Parent Engagement Work Group
- Investment in public awareness and outreach

Minnesota's Comprehensive Strategy: *Engage Parents as Partners*

- Invest in public awareness and outreach
 - Office of Early Learning
 - Parent Aware
 - Childcare Aware
 - Parent Aware for School Readiness (PASR)

- Public-private partnerships:
 - GenerationNext
 - Children's Cabinet
 - Early Learning Council
 - Investing in Innovation (i3)
 - MinneMinds
 - Northside Achievement Zone
 - United Way
 - Saint Paul Promise Nbhd
 - McKnight Foundation
 - Target Foundation

Minnesota's Comprehensive Strategy: *Equip B-3 Educators*

- Establish effective professional standards based on the Board of Teaching and Core Competencies
- Minnesota Center for Professional Development re-design
- Engage with Institutions of Higher Ed
- Collaborate with Minnesota Association for Elementary School Principals and Association of Metropolitan School Districts
- PreK-3rd Leadership Institute

Minnesota's Comprehensive Strategy: *Promote Continuous Improvement*

➤ **Read Well by Third Grade Legislation**

- Local Literacy Plan
- Literacy Aid Incentive

➤ **Integration Aid, Compensatory and CCAP funding changes**

➤ **NCLB Waiver work**

- ELA Standards Implementation Toolkit

➤ **Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge**

- Early Childhood Longitudinal Data system
- Comprehensive Assessment System

Minnesota's Comprehensive Strategy: *Promote Continuous Improvement*

- **Regional Centers of Excellence expansion** to include early childhood;
- **Revision of Parent Aware indicators** to include language and literacy best practice;
- ***Framework for Planning, Implementing and Evaluating PreK-3 Approaches (Kauerz & Coffman)*** and accompanying toolkit.

Potential Areas for Policy Development

- Further investment in coaching, training and technical assistance .
- Enhance policies that support parental involvement.
- Provide financial support and incentives to help staff attain higher professional qualifications and training.
- Adoption of research-based criteria for professional development investments to ensure strategic and effective use of public resources.
- Develop state agency budgets that support resources to deliver technical assistance, research and disseminate best practices, and offer incentives that spur local innovations.

Minnesota Reading Corps: State and National Update

**- David Parker, Research Director,
ServeMinnesota**

Framework for Planning, Implementing, and Evaluating PreK-3rd Grade Approaches

**- Kristie Kauerz, University of
Washington**

Review of Research on Early Literacy and Language Development

**- Molly Branson Thayer, University of
Chicago**

Panel Discussion

Moderator: Anna Lovejoy – National Governor’s Association

- **Brenda Cassellius** – Minnesota Commissioner of Education
- **Meghan Barp** – VP of Community Impact - Greater Twin Cities United Way
- **Molly Branson Thayer** – Director of Literacy, Urban Education Institute - University of Chicago
- **Maria Erlandson** – Principal, Foley Elementary School/ Early Learning Council Member
- **Kristie Kauerz, Ed.D** – Research Assistant Professor of P-3 Policy & Leadership, University of Washington (UW)
- **Rep. Carlos Mariani** – Chair, House Education Policy Committee
- **Maureen Seiwert** – Exec. Dir. of Early Childhood Education, Minneapolis Public Schools

Next Steps for Minnesota

- **Solidifying PreK-3rd Grade place on the agenda for promoting 3rd Grade Reading proficiency**
 - Set policy agenda for legislative session
 - Connect with Prenatal – 3 Framework
 - Effectively partner with Library System
 - Engage Head Start and all types of early learning providers in the planning, implementation and evaluation process for the early literacy / PreK-3rd Grade agenda

Next Steps for Minnesota

- **Prek-3rd Grade Leadership Institute, in partnership with United Way and facilitated by Kristie Kauerz**
 - Development of Community / District Leadership Teams
 - Guided implementation of *The Framework for Planning, Implementing, and Evaluation PreK-3rd Grade Approaches* (Kauerz & Coffman)
 - Continued development of accompanying tools/resources to support implementation
 - Development of PreK-3rd Grade Community of Practice
 - Continued engagement in Public / Private Partnerships

Contact Information

Bobbie Burnham

Deputy Director, Office of Early Learning

Minnesota Department of Education

Bobbie.burnham@state.mn.us

651-582-8414