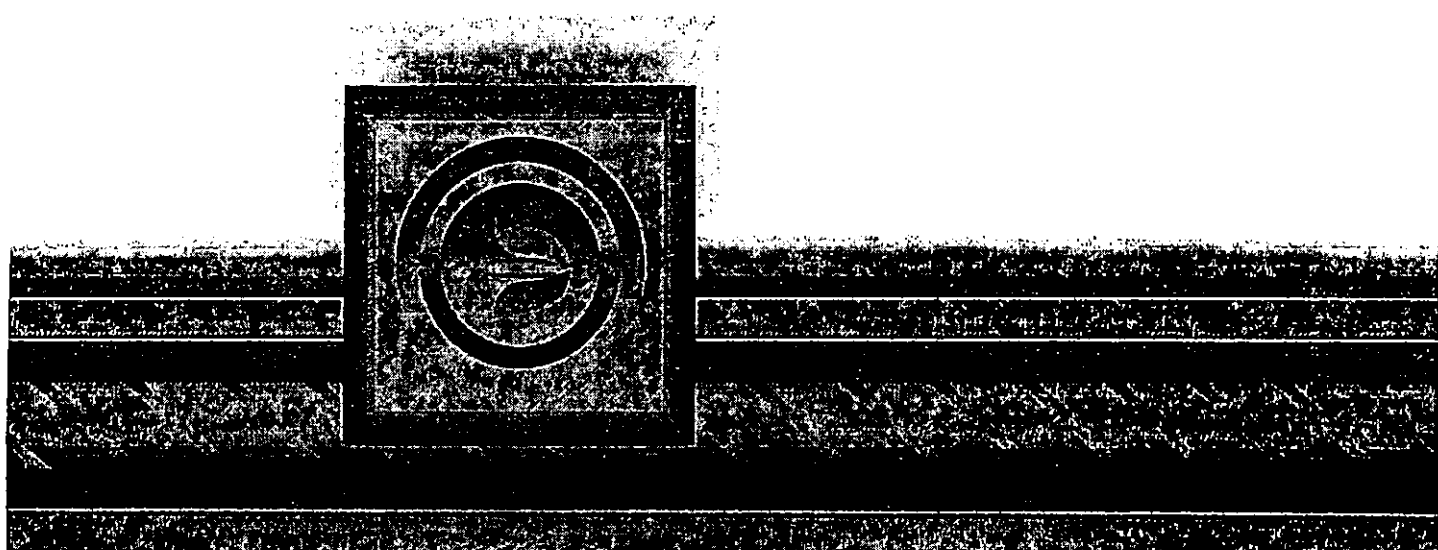


Project Status

Education, Early Literacy, Truancy & Dropout
Subcommittee

Chair: W.C. Gentry



Meetings / Action Items

Full committee has met twice and will continue to meet biweekly.

Subcommittees have been formed to address the following topics:

- Early Learning
 - Truancy / Dropout
 - School Relevancy
 - School Security
- *Subcommittees meet in the off week and report back to the full committee.*

Early Learning

– Crime & Early Learning

(presentation: ELC of Duval)

- At-Risk 3- & 4-year olds randomly excluded from Perry Preschool Program were **FIVE TIMES** more likely to become chronic offenders by the age of 27.

Chronic offender = more than 4 arrests

- *High Scope/Perry Preschool: 40 year study; considered the landmark research establishing the human and financial value of quality preschool education.*

Early Learning

- In 2008:
 - 72 early learning centers have been rated and are actively supported by ELC.
 - 96 early learning centers are being coached, which can be a two-year process leading to an initial rating.
- *An estimated 200+ centers in Duval are receiving little or no support from qualified area agencies.*

Summary: Early Learning

● Identified Goals:

- Identify funds to expand early learning training, staff and resources to an additional 100 centers by the end of 2008, with the balance being served in 2009.**
- Long term: All children who enter DCPS should be served by early learning centers, not daycare.**

Truancy/Dropouts

According to the National Dropout
Prevention Center,

a student drops out of school

EVERY 9 SECONDS.

*-17 out of 22 High Schools in Duval
County are above the state average of
3.5%. DCPS dropout rate is 6.6%*

Truancy/Dropouts

- **Truancy: 17,700 students missed 20+ days of school in Duval County**
- **No single cause**
 - **family, community, school, and the student themselves are all contributing factors**

Truancy/Dropouts

- DCPS has identified a three-pronged strategy to attack chronic truancy.
 - Reorganization of attendance service staff
 - Attendance matrix, including earlier intervention
 - Evaluation of Truancy centers: *Are they being used properly? Appropriate staff?*

Summary: Truancy/Dropouts

● Identified Goals:

- Focus on transition from middle to high school;**
- Introduce Attendance Coaches system-wide that report at the district level;**
- Identify or create multiple pathways to graduation (*Can students drop back in? Fundamental problem for truants.*)**

School Relevancy

- **Subcommittee has been asked to look at several items:**
 - **Teacher hiring & retention**
 - **Education alternatives to college**
 - **Dropouts + increased graduation standards**
 - **Magnet schools**
 - **Teacher & principal allocation**

Overall Committee Progress

- **Subcommittee charges have been refined and the groups will begin meeting 1/25.**
- **All subcommittees will report back to the full committee on 2/5.**

Preliminary: Funding Needs

Resources for the Early Learning Coalition of Duval to expand into additional early learning centers;

Resources to add Attendance Coaches in area middle and high schools;

Resources to staff truancy centers with trained social workers.

Summary

- **Studies show that financial investment in early education and truancy/dropout prevention provide long-term public value:**
 - **Reduced crime overall**
 - **Better educated work force**
 - **Increased earning potential**
 - **Decreased programming from city, state, and federal agencies**

Conclusion

- **Education, Early Learning, Truancy
& Dropout Subcommittee**
 - **Chair, W.C. Gentry**