

Dropout Prevention Action Planning Worksheet

Summit State/Community:	Louisville, Kentucky
Date and Location of Summit	July 30, 2008 at Bellarmine University
Geographical Area Covered by Summit:	Metro Louisville includes Jefferson and surrounding counties in Kentucky and Southern Indiana
Date Worksheet Submitted to APA:	18-Nov-08
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Current Grad. Rate: 74%

Vision & Goal

Vision Statement:	Every student in Louisville, Kentucky graduates high school with the knowledge, skills and motivation required to enter postsecondary education and obtain a college degree. (draft)
10-Year Goal:	1) To reduce the drop out rate in the Jefferson County Public Schools by 50%. <i>and</i> 2) To increase the graduation rate to place Louisville in the top tier of sixteen competitive cities (<i>currently rank 7th</i>).

Strategies

Strengthening Schools	Identify struggling students at-risk of dropping out - as early as possible in their school careers – and match with appropriate resources. Improve relationships and participation between schools, agency and business partners, and the community. Improve students' connections to school and caring adults.
Supporting Students	Unify the community around a Vision for Youth Success; garner community commitment to realize the Vision. Develop a community-wide System for Youth Development. Ensure that the community has a better understanding of the needs and dreams of youth by creating a Youth Profile. Create a high level position at JCPS to coordinate efforts around keeping kids in school.
Building Effective Policies	Remove policy barriers to graduation at national, state and local levels.
Life Readiness Solutions	Personalize the high school experience for 9th graders by institutionalizing Freshman Academies. Create a college-going culture within all schools. Provide students with ongoing exposure and real life experience in connecting what they do in school to future focus and eventual careers.

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Timeline	Actions									
	Getting Organized		Knowledge Building		Action Planning		Building Public Will		Sustaining Momentum	
	Activities	Benchmarks	Activities	Benchmarks	Activities	Benchmarks	Activities	Benchmarks	Activities	Benchmarks
Done Pre- or During Summit (Summit held 7/30/08)	Held initial meeting open to all who were interested in topic. Discussion to help frame topics for working tracks.	Topics developed for 4 working tracks and 3 informational committees - data, youth and parent voices.	Developed and collected data, gathered best practices, held youth focus groups and conducted surveys, compile information.	Summit website developed in order to share information with internal committee members. Data and survey results shared at summit.	Working track groups met and gathered information from myriad sources in order to present best possible information to summit attendees. Contracted with third party to write report.	Emerging recommendations from each track presented at summit.	Sent summit invitations to business, faith, community based, parent and other interested groups. Contacted media about summit.	Advance registration nearly double the number anticipated. Media coverage at summit was comprehensive.		Mayor and Superintendent announced vision to cut dropout rate by 50% in ten years and to move Louisville to top tier among competitive cities in graduation rates.
0-3 Months After Summit (thru 11/1/08)	Steering Committee and Working Track committees met; reviewed AP evaluation; expanded membership to include agency representatives that met in Washington DC with America's Promise.	Leaders of working track groups continuing to synthesize issues identified by and recommendations of their groups. Held joint meeting with representatives who attended DC America's Promise meeting in September.	Groups compared summit recommendations to see where they overlap and diverge. Continued to collect data and youth were asked for reactions and recommendations.	Determined common themes and suggested organizations to participate in each at joint meeting of steering committee.	Summit chair met separately with leaders from each team to refine action steps. Afternoon of Youth Development focused on Marketing to Older Youth based on recommendations from the Student supports group. First draft of summit report circulated to Committee Chairs for refinement.	Action steps refined; youth providers gain information and learn strategies to market programming to older youth.	Gave summit reports at community meetings, such as Every1 Reads, Leadership Louisville and Faith Forum. Develop report for presentation to civic groups and business associations to enlist their support.	Articles in newspapers following summit, including article in National League of Cities publication. Reports on summit given at Mayors Cabinet Meeting and leadership meetings for other partners.	Planned youth-only planning summit; youth focused on encouraging their peers to stay in school and why it is important. Met and corresponded with foundation and organizational leaders who might help accomplish or provide funding.	Youth planning summit arrangements finalized. Met with representatives from two foundations.
4-6 Months After Summit (thru 1/1/09)	Four tracks to refine recommendations; steering committee to prioritize and seek leadership for top action steps. Secure leadership for Youth Vision/Youth Plan process. JCPS proposes high school redesign to Board of Education.	Recommendations finalized and prioritized; leaders recruited to carry out each action step; Youth vision/youth plan process announced. JCPS Board of Ed approves high school redesign plan.	Continue to research best practices around specific actions. Interview national leaders to determine trends major foundations and organizations pursuing.	Findings shared with expanded steering committee.	Finalize list of goals, catalog steps partners are already pursuing, and specific action steps that still need to be tackled. Begin to look at funding partners.	Goals written, catalog of existing projects begun, action steps determined.	Complete "Proceedings of the Summit". Write Dropout Solutions e-newsletter to share progress; include local and national news items. Continue to share findings with community leaders. JCPS makes new high school redesign public following approval by Board of Education.	"Proceedings" completed. Dropout Solutions e-newsletter (volume 1) distributed to all who attended summit. Findings shared with faith leaders and Mayor's Education Roundtable. High school redesign is announced.	Hold youth-driven summit "Why It's Cool to Stay in School". Continue to meet and correspond with foundation and organizational leaders who might help accomplish or provide funding.	Youth who attended summit knowledgeable about dropout crisis and know how to talk with peers. Met with representative from large national foundation about overall school improvement (improving high school graduation and college going rates).
7-12 Months After Summit (thru 8/1/09)	Plan annual summit update; secure venue, recruit speakers, gather data, send invitations. Report progress to date and collect information to revise action steps as needed. Work with JCPS and community partners to further career clusters in high school redesign plan.	Summit update held July 2009. Planning underway for community and business pieces of high school redesign.	Youth Vision/Youth Plan process gathers market research on what teens and parents want; maps youth programs and determines gaps, and suggests how to coordinate city, school and community efforts within a System for Youth Development Services.	Completed market research, gaps analysis, framework for accountability. System for Youth Development Services outlined	Reconvene summit participants at one year post summit to review progress and propose revisions to plan. Legislative changes recommended in summit are put before legislature. High school redesign team begins meeting with businesses and other organizations to begin to form partnerships.	Summit update held. Action steps revised or reaffirmed. Legislation passed. Business and other partnerships proposed.	Complete white paper on recommendations. Share with newspapers, Rotary Club, etc. Continue e-newsletter monthly updates. Include annual update in newsletter. Use media to explain concepts of high school redesign.	Dropout issues and high school redesign are part of public dialog. Non-profit partners contribute to e-newsletter and write about issues in their own publications.	Dropout rate figured on data JCPS submits to the state on an annual basis. JCPS tracks Louisville's progress against peer cities. Seek funding from national foundation to further high school redesign and other action steps.	JCPS reports dropout data. Annual data and reconvening of summit participants draws attention to issue in local press. Proposal in to funding partner.

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2 Years After Summit (thru 8/1/10)	System for Youth Development planning to involve key players; school system, non-profits and city to fully engage in implementation. Launch newly redesigned high schools around career cluster plan.	System for Youth Development plan rolled out. Successful high school graduation becomes a key indicator of success. Redesign high schools in operation.	System for Youth Development outlined, partners on board, funders coordinating investment in youth-serving agencies, outcomes defined and tracking system in place.	System for Youth Development launched.	Monitor progress on steps of action plan. Legislative changes recommended during summit and summit reconvening are put before legislature. System for Youth Development takes on high school graduation action steps as one of primary charges.	Progress made on Action Plan. Legislation passed.	System for Youth Development rolled out. Continue e-newsletter monthly updates. High school redesign is institutionalized; media covers to give public information about successes and positive results.	Public understands how Youth Development System is designed to improve outcomes for youth. Public understands how high school redesign leads to better life, career and college preparation.	Youth Vision and Youth Development System planning process underway. JCPS tracks dropout rate and Louisville's progress against peer cities. Continue to pursue funding.	Youth Development System has funding for planning elements. JCPS dropout data improves and progress made on improving Louisville's standing in comparison with peer cities. Funding secured.
5 Years After Summit	System for Youth Development conducts follow-up needs assessments and proposes programming and legislative changes needed. Continue to work on improving career clusters and high school redesign.	Annual reports and updates. Improved high school scores and graduation rates.	System for Youth Development gathers information about best practices; issues reports on progress.	System for Youth Development "go to" place for latest and greatest in field.	System of Youth Development monitors progress on action plan.	Progress made on Action Plan; high school graduation rates increase.	System for Youth Development researches community needs and communicates to public. Share success stories about high school redesign.	System for Youth Development lobbies for changes in funding and legislation. High school redesign gets positive feedback in public survey.	Youth Development System fully institutionalized. JCPS tracks dropout rate and Louisville's progress against peer cities.	Youth Development System has funding for planning elements. JCPS dropout data improves and progress made on improving Louisville's standing in comparison with peer cities.
10 Years After Summit	System for Youth Development conducts needs assessments and proposes programming and legislative changes needed. Continue to improve career clusters and high school redesign.	Annual reports and updates. Improved high school scores and graduation rates.	System for Youth Development gathers information about best practices; issues reports of progress.	System for Youth Development "go to" place for latest and greatest in field.	System of Youth Development monitors progress on action plan.	Progress made on improving high school graduation rates. Goal to cut dropout rate in half is met.	System for Youth Development researches community needs and communicates to public. Evaluate high school redesign.	System for Youth Development lobbies for changes in funding and legislation. High school redesign shows positive evaluation results.	Youth Development System fully institutionalized. High school redesign fully functioning.	Youth Development System mature. JCPS dropout rate cut in half and Louisville moves to top tier among peer cities.

How can the America's Promise Alliance best support you in your dropout prevention work? America's Promise can help connect Louisville with national partner agencies and funders, provide up-to-date research and technical assistance when needed.

Please provide a roster of individuals and organizations committed to being part of the team that will implement this plan, and provide the phone # and email address for the on-going point of contact. Point of Contact: Lynn Howard, Louisville Metro Office of Policy and Management, 502 574-4349; lynn.howard@louisvilleky.gov.
Team Members & Organizations: