



Detailed updates from around the Road Map Project

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

The Traffic Report will be issued every two months to better provide you with helpful and thorough updates from across the Road Map Project. Please email info@ccedresults.org with any feedback.

Thank you!!

-CCER Team

BIRTH TO 3RD GRADE

CONTACT (Let's Read!): Sara Siegel, Let's Read! Campaign Coordinator, ssiegel@ccedresults.org

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

Let's Read!

[Let's Read!](#), a regional summer reading campaign, is kicking off a fourth year with another round of community planning meetings. The goal of *Let's Read!* is to broadly spread the message about the importance of learning in the summer and to make connections among all the different organizations and providers working with children and families in the summer to increase learning opportunities. Key stakeholders -- those whose work supports and serves children and families during summer -- are being convened in communities across the Road Map Project region to discuss gaps in summer efforts and collaborate on projects. These meetings are open to anyone who wants to get involved in this effort.

- **Tukwila**, Friday, March 6, at Valley View Library, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Federal Way**, Wednesday, March 11, at Federal Way 320th Library, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- **Kent**, Tuesday, March 17, at Kent Library, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- **Highline**, Monday, March 23, at White Center Library, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Seattle**, Tuesday, March 24, at Douglass-Truth Library, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Auburn**, Friday, March 27, at Auburn Library, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- **Renton**, Thursday, April 2, at Fairwood Library, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

There are still a few months left until summer starts, which means there is much more to come! Please contact Sara (contact information above) to get involved.

Regional kindergarten registration campaign

In January, a regional kindergarten registration campaign for the Road Map Project districts began. The goal is to have all families with a child turning 5 by Aug. 31 to be registered to begin kindergarten in fall 2015 by the end of this school year. By registering early, families can access summer programming that can boost kindergarten readiness. Please help share this message with families! On the [Race to the Top](#)

[website under the "Resources" tab](#), you will find flyers, available in 12 languages and promotional tools such as web banners and starter language for social media platforms and newsletters.

Birth to 3rd Grade Work Group

The Birth to 3rd Grade Work Group will be meeting monthly in 2015 and is focusing on identifying the priority strategies the group will support in implementation. If you have questions or are interested in learning more, please contact Lynda (contact information above).

COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS

CONTACT: Kirsten Avery, "Avery," CCER College and Career Success Director and High School to College Completion Advisory Committee staffer, kavery@ccedresults.org

College Bound Scholarship & State Need Grant Advocacy Day

The Road Map Project partnered with various organizations, including College Success Foundation, UW Dream Project, College Access Now, Seattle Education Access, the Puget Sound Educational Service District, SOAR and others, to hold a College Bound Scholarship & State Need Grant Advocacy Day in Olympia. About 300 middle school students, high school students, college students, parents, educators, youth advocates and community members from across Washington gathered on Feb. 17 at the Capitol to ask lawmakers to support full funding for the College Bound Scholarship and State Need Grant. Full funding of these programs is an advocacy priority for the High School to College Completion Advisory Group and Road Map Project.

Transportation, T-shirts, breakfast, lunch and advocacy training were provided for all participants. There were individual meetings with legislators, a meeting and group photo with Lt. Gov. Brad Owen on the Senate floor, a resolution honoring College Bound Scholarship students introduced by Sen. David Frockt and a boisterous rally in the Capitol Rotunda. The group even had a very brief surprise visit from U.S. Sen. Patty Murray!

Advocacy Day was a huge success, but we understand that our advocacy efforts must continue. CCER staff members plan to provide action alerts and updates on State Need Grant and College Bound Scholarship-related bills and the House and Senate budgets when they are released. Together, the C2C Coalition, High School to College Completion Advisory Committee and Advocacy Day participants can continue to lend their voices to the decision-making process in Olympia.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

CONTACT: Chelsea Whealdon, OneAmerica Education Policy Associate and ELL Work Group staffer, chelsea@weareoneamerica.org

ELL Work Group 2015 priorities

The ELL Work Group uses collective advocacy and cross-sector collaboration to improve outcomes for ELL students, with a focus on system-level change. In 2015, the ELL Work Group will continue to advance strategies from the [ELL Action Plan and Toolkit](#), with the beginning of the year focused on the following:

Improved data

In conjunction with Education Northwest and the Road Map Project Data Advisors Group, the ELL Work Group is proposing new ELL indicators that more accurately capture ELL students' progress. The new indicators will also examine system-level changes, such as how many bilingual students have earned the [World Language Credits](#) and the [Seal of Biliteracy](#).

Parent engagement and access for linguistically diverse families

The ELL Work Group believes South King County school districts and schools must become more welcoming, inclusive and reflective of diverse communities to better engage diverse parents. To inform this change, the work group is focused on creating a regional or district-level parent advisory board specific to parents of ELL students to inform decision-making about programs and policies. It

is important to note that the federal government recently acknowledged severe gaps across the nation for ELL students and their families and, in January, the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice released joint guidance reminding states, school districts and schools of their obligations under federal law to ensure that English learner students and "limited English proficient" families have equal access to a high-quality education. The ELL Work Group is urging leadership in the region to take stock of where they are not fulfilling these obligations and take action to improve outcomes for ELLs.

Primary language development and valuing bilingualism

As a result of the ELL Work Group's advocacy to create more opportunities for bilingualism in schools, OneAmerica is leading the charge at the state level to pass policy increasing dual-language programs and building a bilingual teacher pipeline in Washington State. Learn more [here](#). The ELL Work Group is also working on a communications campaign on the importance of primary language development for young children. This project was largely inspired by a visit to the University of Washington's I-LABS by parents and ELL Work Group members who learned more about the scientific benefits of developing bilingual skills at a young age. Additionally, the ELL Work Group is translating the [World Language Credit Program Video](#) into the top 13 languages of the region and will distribute widely for community outreach in spring/summer.

If you are a community-based organization member, community member or school-level staff or teacher and are interested in joining the ELL Work Group, please contact Chelsea (contact information above).

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH (STEM)

CONTACT: Sylvester Cann, STEM Network Manager and staffer, scann@ccedresults.org

South King County STEM Network

The South King County STEM Network is "re-booting" to improve STEM outcomes in the region. Participants are re-prioritizing the [business plan from spring 2013](#), focusing on data, indicators, goals and targets and will develop a clear logic model to explain the charge of the STEM Network. Formalizing the network has been a high priority, and members are in the process of signing onto a set of operating guidelines developed by a small group of members that address the benefits of participation, commitments, decision-making structures and leadership.

Focusing on early wins

The network is in a good place to start focusing on early wins. By partnering with the North Sound LASER Alliance and Institute for Systems Biology, the network will begin assisting districts with their plans for a transition to the Next Generation Science Standards. A forum is being planned for district teams on May 12.

The network will also support a DonorsChoose.org campaign focused on math and science classroom projects in the Road Map Project region. This campaign will likely run from late March to mid-April.

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

Work group goals

The Youth Development for Education Results Work Group has begun setting goals to improve partnerships between schools and youth-serving organizations. The purpose of this work is to improve student success and to bring a more intentional focus to "non-academic" indicators, such as student engagement and motivation. Learning from the successes and challenges of the Race to the Top Deep Dive 3 project will be a focus in the coming months. To follow along with the Youth Development for Education Results Work Group, please [click here](#).

King County Youth Program Directory

The new King County Youth Program Directory website that is being built with leadership from YDEKC,

CCER, SOAR and other partners and powered by an expanded set of data being made available through King County 211, will be launching later this spring. This is a project made possible with support from an Aligned Funders' Rapid Resource grant. Now is the time to be sure your programs are listed (programs for school-age children through young adults). Contact Leah Bui at lbui@ydekc.org if you need to list your programs. Watch for a soft launch in late April or early May.

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

CONTACT: Nicole Yohalem, Director of the Road Map Project Opportunity Youth Initiative and Opportunity Youth Work Group staffer, nyohalem@ccedresults.org

Regional Re-Engagement Network

Meetings of the Regional Re-Engagement Network take place on the fourth Fridays of each month. Participation in this community of practice has grown since meetings began in September 2014, with case managers, instructors and program leaders from Open Doors and other re-engagement programs across the region participating. January's meeting focused on case management and February's meeting focused on outreach and recruitment. Meeting materials and participant information are posted [here](#). The [Opportunity Youth Work Group](#) (now Advisory Group) also continues to meet quarterly to advise on and review progress on implementation of the [Opportunity Youth Action Plan](#).

Opportunity youth data

This two-page [infographic](#) developed by CCER provides a colorful summary of the prevalence and characteristics of our region's opportunity youth. CCER is also continuing development of a new set of opportunity youth indicators and will release a baseline report during 2015. Researchers at the RDA Group at the Department of Social and Human Services are partnering with CCER to conduct additional analyses this spring that will provide more detailed "segmentation" information about the opportunity youth population.

Social Innovation Fund

CCER and United Way received word in February that we are a finalist for a Social Innovation Fund grant through [Aspen Opportunity Youth Incentive Fund and Jobs for the Future](#). If funded, the project will involve embedding education advocates from Seattle Education Access at multiple Open Doors dropout re-engagement programs in the region over the next three years to ensure young adults get the support they need to not just finish high school, but transition to college or career pathways. This work will advance work toward the Opportunity Youth Action Plan and support implementation of the United Way's Reconnecting Youth initiative. A final decision on the proposal will be made by April 1.

Youth-led video project

SOAR is hiring two young people to partner with CCER and the Road Map Project to plan, film and edit several short videos that will feature different opportunity youth, their stories and the programs that are helping them reconnect to education and employment. This effort will advance work toward one of four main goals in the action plan: "improving awareness of and access to re-engagement pathways in the region."

New Open Doors option in South King County

In early February, Federal Way Public Schools opened [Acceleration Academy](#) in a storefront at 2104 S. 314th Street in Federal Way. The school is open to former Federal Way Public Schools students ages 16-21 who want to earn their diploma. Open 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., the new program is self-paced and flexible, combining online instruction with in-person coaching and case management. Staff from the Acceleration Academy plan to join the Regional Re-Engagement Network next month, and network members are excited to work with them to support more opportunity youth in returning to education!

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

CONTACT: Anthony Shoecraft, CCER Family and Community Engagement Director, ashoecraft@ccedresults.org

Family engagement survey

From fall 2013 to winter 2014, the UW research team piloted a Road Map Family Engagement Survey at two high-need elementary schools in the Renton School District. The goal of the pilot was:

1. To collect data to improve and validate the survey
2. Develop actionable baseline data (not evaluative) to inform family engagement practice at the two schools
3. Pilot strategies for participation that will build parent leadership, particularly among traditionally marginalized families

The baseline data gathered can be categorized into the Road Map Project's family engagement indicators: Family Knowledge & Confidence, Welcoming & Culturally-Responsive School Climate and Decision-making & Influence. The following additional indicators were also developed: Family-Educator Trust, Family-Educator Communication and Leadership for Engagement. Community learning gatherings are being planned to bring together parents, community-based organizations and school/district staff in early March, April and late spring to discuss the Renton survey findings and other family engagement innovations from throughout the region.

Harvard Family Engagement Institute 2015

CCER is excited to help organize another sizable regional delegation to attend the [Harvard Family Engagement Institute](#) (July 21 to 25). This is a tremendous opportunity to strengthen regional leadership for family engagement, as the institute's [objectives](#) strongly align with the Road Map Project's goal of advancing systemic family engagement across the region to achieve the 2020 goal. CCER and the Puget Sound Educational Service District are coordinating with district family engagement and PreK-3rd/early learning leads to identify comprehensive teams composed 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.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CONTACT: Carlina Brown-Banks, CCER Parent Engagement Coordinator, cbbanks@ccedresults.org

Community Network DD3 recommendations

In February, the Road Map Project Community Network developed the following set of recommendations for the Race to the Top Executive Committee regarding the Deep Dive 3 (DD3) Investment Fund:

1. Amend the funding allocation structure to allow proposals to be initiated by community-based organizations or community-based organization partnerships
2. Consider holding a third round of DD3 investments
3. Leverage underspend from other projects for school-community partnerships
4. Require district-initiated proposals to include ELL and family engagement directors in proposal development

The Community Network has been an active partner with Puget Sound Educational Service District leadership on Race to the Top implementation and the recommendations were developed out of alignment between DD3 goals -- inventing and scaling highly effective, 24/7 service integration models and school-community partnerships to raise achievement -- and Community Network racial equity priorities to improve student success. Sili Savusa, Community Network Co-Chair and Executive Director of the White Center Community Development Association, and Sharonne Navas, Community Network member and Executive Director of Equity in Education, formally presented these to and engaged in thoughtful dialogue with the Race to the Top Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is expected to have follow-up discussion in March and make a decision by April.

Results Roundtables -- new community toolkit launched

Following the release of the 2014 Results Report, CCER released a new toolkit for Results Roundtables, which includes a planning and implementation framework for holding two types of events: Living Room Conversations Results Roundtables and Community Results Roundtables. Living Room Conversations Results Roundtables 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. Community Results Roundtables are larger events hosted by community-based organizations designed to support participants in exploring three to five data themes and networking with others around the education results. Gatherings are planned and led by local leaders and designed to build on goals and actions identified by participants. If you are interested in planning, participating in or support a roundtable or conversation, please contact Carlina (contact information above).

ALIGNED FUNDERS

CONTACT: Betsy Dennis, Aligned Funders staffer, bdennis@philanthropynw.org

Aligned Funders meeting

In January, 23 funders representing 17 organizations attended the January Aligned Funders meeting. At the meeting, participants discussed areas where momentum is building in the Road Map Project region, including current efforts to support parent engagement. A follow-up meeting in March was scheduled to discuss potential investment opportunities in the area of parent and family engagement. Attendees also heard from Eric Wilson, with the Foundation for Tacoma Students, who talked about the challenges and successes that Graduate Tacoma is experiencing.

Rapid Resource Pooled Fund

In January, the funders participating in the Rapid Resource Fund were pleased to award a grant submitted by the director of ELL and International Programs with Seattle Public Schools on behalf of the ELL Work Group. This grant will cover the cost of a day-long leadership retreat in August 2015 led by a team from Stanford University. The team includes Dr. Kenji Hakuta, Dr. Jeffrey Zwiers and Dr. Sara Rutherford Quack. These leaders from Stanford have spent the past several years working to support school leaders, teachers and the community in understanding the shifts in instruction, the implications for ELLs and developing professional learning opportunities for district staff to meet the numerous demands of the Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards and English Language Proficiency Standards. The next deadline for proposals is March 19, 2015. Please contact Betsy (email is above) for more information about the Rapid Resource Fund.

ADVOCACY

CONTACT: Sylvester Cann, CCER Advocacy Director and Advocates Caucus staffer, scann@ccedresults.org

College Bound Scholarship & State Need Grant Advocacy Day

The Road Map Project partnered with multiple organizations to hold a very successful College Bound Scholarship & State Need Grant Advocacy Day in Olympia on Feb. 17. A full description of the event can be found in the High School to College Completion section of this Traffic Report.

The Road Map Project has been working to advance three advocacy priorities adopted by the Project Sponsors in late 2014. The first priority is the Cradle Through College Coalition, which asks the State to adhere to four core principles when making budget decisions that impact education funding. The principles are:

1. State investments must be made cradle through college
2. Strong accountability for results
3. Encourage innovation and spread of best practices
4. Additional funding is needed

The coalition has been rapidly expanding since it was announced. Recent supporters of the coalition include King County Executive Dow Constantine, The Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound, School's Out Washington, City of Kenmore and many others. The full list of supporters can be found on the website at www.c2cCoalition.org. The coalition has tracked key early learning and higher-education legislation in Olympia to this point, but the true impact will come toward the end of March when the budget discussions begin at the State Capitol. Please sign up to [join the coalition](#) and receive updates on this important effort.

The second Road Map Project advocacy priority is helping school districts change the approach to discipline and reduce exclusionary discipline practices. The Road Map Project Advocates Caucus is developing a strategy that will involve many partners.

The third advocacy priority is increasing ownership of ELL outcomes in school districts. The ELL Work Group is developing a strategy that involves new indicators and new measures of accountability for districts to report out.

DATA

CONTACT: Alessandra Pollock, CCER Data Analyst, apollock@ccedresults.org

2014 Results Report

The [2014 Results Report](#) is available now! The Technical and District Reports, which include more disaggregation to support the ongoing work to close the opportunity gap by 2020, will be ready in the coming weeks. Check the Road Map Project [Data Center webpage](#) for more information. These data will be available to be used in community events, including Results Roundtables and Living Room Roundtables.

Data Advisors Group (DAG)

The DAG met in February for its first meeting of 2015. The group is looking forward to a busy year and will be working on the development of new ELL indicators, revising targets for math and reading assessments (as a result of the new assessments aligned with Common Core) and looking for ways to get actionable data to Road Map Project work groups and other key partners. If you are an analyst or researcher and interested in serving on the DAG, please contact Alessandra (contact information above). We welcome new members from districts, the Puget Sound Educational Service District and community-based organizations who can help us move the data agenda forward.

New 2014-15 WaKIDS data

OSPI just released results from the 2014-15 WaKIDS kindergarten readiness assessment. This is the first of the 2014-15 data to be available to the Road Map Project and the public. Please contact CCER if you're interested in learning more or head to the [OSPI Report Card](#) to find the WaKIDS data presented in easy-to-use tables.

COMMUNICATIONS

CONTACT: Kristin Johnson-Waggoner, CCER Communications Manager, kjohnson@ccedresults.org

Communications plan development

The Road Map Project Strategic Communications Plan is moving into the research phase. With help from EMC, a Seattle research and polling firm, and The Metropolitan Group, the communications firm selected to support the plan development, the following research strategies are being implemented: interviews with community leaders, a regional voter poll and discussion groups with parents, students and principals/counselors. This research will support the goal of engaging many different audiences to expect, demand and help create a more equitable system with better results for all students.

Research findings will be shared with the Partner Team, a group of Road Map Project partners interested in supporting and implementing pieces of the plan, and other interested groups. A draft of the communications plan is expected in May, with a final version in June.

The communication plan's goals and objectives are as follows:

Goal 1: There is strong public will, expectation and demand in our region for improved education outcomes for low-income students and students of color

- **Objective 1:** The regional community (all of King County) is aware of the large inequities in educational attainment in the Road Map Project region and is motivated and willing to demand improvement
- **Objective 2:** Strong early learning and reading proficiency at the end of 3rd grade is a community priority
- **Objective 3:** Improving postsecondary attainment for students of color and low-income students is a community priority

Goal 2: Parents are engaged and valued supporters of their children's education, and are active advocates for their children's education

- **Objective 1:** Parents have the information they need to support their children's learning, from cradle through college