Identifying and Using School Feeder Patterns

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Webinar Agenda

- Hear about the Middle Grades Challenge and how a cohort of United Ways are working to strengthen middle grades success and transitions
- Learn what the latest data on high school graduation and dropout rates tells us related to progress and remaining challenges
- Understand what school feeder patterns are and the rationale for them as one important strategy for improving high school graduation rates
- Consider different approaches to mapping school feeder patterns based on your school-community context
Big Education Goal

United Way set out a challenge, that by 2018 we would work with communities to:

Cut by half the number of students who drop out & improve the number of students that graduate HS ready for college and career

Audacious goal that can’t be achieved by United Way alone
Our Point of View:
Work Across the Birth-21 Education Continuum

Key Focus Areas:

- Early Childhood Education
- Early Grade Reading
- Middle Grade Success and Transitions
- On-time High School Graduation
- College and Career Readiness
Middle Grades Challenge – Rationale

• Begin to execute on National Roadmap on Middle Grade Success and High School Graduation

• Timeliness of work - class of 2018 are current 7th graders

• Support and deepen existing work in the United Way network focused on middle school

• Share expertise, promising practices & develop resources and tools for United Ways interested in working on the middle grades

• Leverage national partnerships (Forum, AASA) and experts (Balfanz)

• Establish the United Way network as a credible leader in this education space
What the research tells us...

- Disengagement from school starts for many students in the middle grades – as evidenced by declines in attendance, academic performance and behavioral issues.
- Middle grades students are not keeping pace (in terms of academic gains) with elementary students (NAEP).
- Middle grades students who are retained a grade are 7x more likely to eventually drop out in high school.
- More students are held back in 9th grade than any other year – resulting in the “9th grade bulge”.
- Racial and socio-economic disparities persist – dropout rates higher for African-American, Latino and low-income students.
Building Blocks – What Research Tells Us Matter for Middle Grade Success

- Students enter middle grades ready to succeed
- Student responsibility (attendance, behavior, engagement)
- Family engagement & support
- Effective school environment, curricula, and instruction
- Safe and supportive learning environments (schools, families, communities)
# National Education Roadmap for Middle Grade Success &
High School Graduation – A Closer Look…

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<th>Community Strategy</th>
<th>High-Impact Approaches</th>
<th>Proposed United Way Roles</th>
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| **Organize a smart system of supports** to support middle grade success and on-time HS graduation | Partner with local school systems to facilitate and/or fund the development of early warning systems to identify students in low-performing and/or high-poverty middle and high schools that are at risk of dropping out. | • Broker partnerships and establish structures to connect low-performing and/or high-poverty schools with community-based organizations and businesses that can provide targeted interventions to students at risk of dropping out.  
• Leverage established relationships and structures to recruit, in partnership with low-performing and/or high-poverty schools, a “second shift”, or cadre of caring adult and near-peer volunteers to provide students at risk of dropping out with tailored supports. |
| **Engage and empower parents** and families to support student success and on-time high school graduation | Inform parents of how best to support their children’s middle and high school success | • Communicate with parents to inform them of ways to support their children at home and in the community, advocate for their children in schools, and position their children for success in middle grades, high school, college, and career.  
• Mobilize parents to create demand for school improvement. |
| **Reform and improve schools and school districts** to ensure student engagement, learning and preparation for life success | Ensure that school districts provide schools with the necessary conditions for success. This includes strong systems and district policies.  
Turn around low-performing schools and provide new school options | • Perform or fund a districtwide needs & capacity assessment  
• Support need and capacity assessments of target schools & advocate for customized supports  
• Create transition programs for students |
Middle Grades Success and Transitions Challenge Grantees & Learning Community Participants:

- Heart of Florida United Way (Orlando)
- King County United Way (Seattle)
- Metro United Way (Louisville)
- Spokane County United Way
- United Way Suncoast (Tampa)
- United Way National Capital Area (DC)
- United Way Allegheny County
- United Way of Central Georgia
- United Way of Greenville County
- United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County
- United Way of Greater Atlanta
- United Way of Greater Chattanooga
- Valley of the Sun United Way (Phoenix)
Middle Grades Success and Transitions Challenge Activities

- Facilitating a **learning community** of 13 United Ways (individual technical assistance, in-person mtgs., group calls, site visits), work is focused on
  - Community engagement
  - Coalition building
  - Using data to develop/refine community-based strategies

- Developing **tools** for the network – e.g. feeder pattern guide (forthcoming)

- Increasing **national visibility for the issue** (issue briefs, policy and advocacy efforts, strategic partnerships, etc.)

- Creating **learning opportunities** for the network – e.g. webinar series
DISCUSSION…

What are your questions related to identifying and using feeder pattern data in your community?
NEW TOOL – Guide to Identifying and Using School Feeder Patterns in Your Community (forthcoming)

- Jointly developed by United Way Worldwide, the Everyone Graduates Center at John Hopkins University, and Civic Enterprises, with support from Ready by 21

- Use the guide to help you:
  - Identify key stakeholders and existing efforts/coalitions
  - Know where to access national, state, and local data to understand the broader education context
  - Identify and map feeder patterns in your community
  - Use feeder pattern data for greater impact
  - Consider state and local policies that can support local efforts to strengthen student supports

- Expected publication date – May 2013
- Will be available in PDF format online at United Way Online
- Limited hard copies will also be available
- For more information, download the brochure available through this webinar
Next webinar in the Middle Grades Challenge Series:

- Developing Early Warning and Response Systems
- Guest Expert: Dr. Robert Balfanz, Everyone Graduates Center, John Hopkins University
- Featuring the work of local United Ways – Valley of the Sun & Spokane County
- Will be held on August 20, 2013 (specific time forthcoming)
- Look for additional details via UWW’s education listserv: EDUCATION-L@LISTSERV.UNITEDWAY.ORG
POST-WEBINAR EVALUATION

• PLEASE COMPLETE OUR EVALUATION SURVEY!

• CUT AND PASTE THIS LINK IN YOUR WEBINAR BROWSER:
  https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/uwwrb21feederpatterns