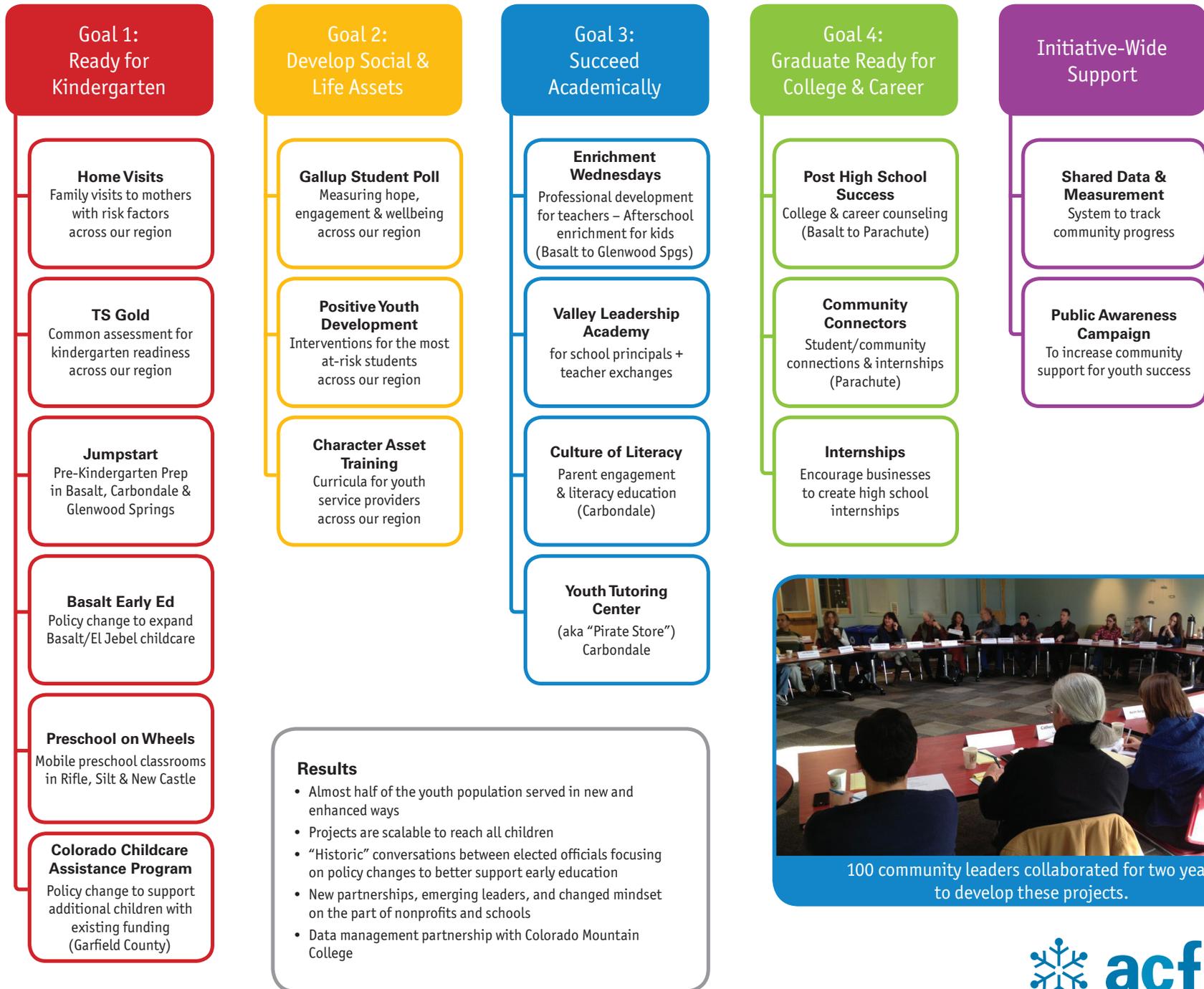


Cradle to Career Initiative Projects

The following are projects that have been implemented, are in development, or are under consideration.



Cradle to Career Initiative Project Descriptions

Goal 1: Ready for Kindergarten

Because 90% of brain development occurs before age five, early education sets young children up for success in kindergarten and later life.

Home Visits – Increase family visits to mothers with risk factors to help them understand the developmental and educational needs of their children. Research shows that such visits can substantially increase the odds that their children will later graduate from high school.

TS GOLD – Adopting a common kindergarten readiness assessment tool across our region enables schools to strengthen teaching and implement targeted student interventions.

Jumpstart – 5-week, full-day summer program for incoming kindergarteners with no previous early learning opportunities. Build the social, emotional, executive, language and numeracy skills necessary for school success.

Basalt Early Education – Encourage policy changes to increase access to quality childcare and early education in Basalt/El Jebel region.

Preschool on Wheels – Licensed mobile classrooms for young children in Rifle, New Castle and Silt who would otherwise have no access to preschool.

Colorado Childcare Assistance Program – Work with community partners to influence policies that determine how funds are allocated for low-income families.

Goal 2: Develop Social & Life Assets

Developing strong life skills and character assets will help our region's youth achieve academic and personal success.

Gallup Student Poll – Survey of our region's 5th - 12th graders to measure their hope, engagement and wellbeing, which are key indicators of academic success.

Positive Youth Development – Strengthen early intervention systems for the most at-risk teens. Re-engage them with their school and community.

Character Asset Training – Train youth service providers and teachers in how to build specific life skills and character traits, such as hope and perseverance, that have been shown to help youth succeed in school and later life.

Goal 3: Succeed Academically

Academic success is a good predictor of later life outcomes, such as whether a student will graduate high school and enter a postsecondary program.

Enrichment Wednesdays – Provide quality professional development time for teachers, as well as academic and enrichment programs for students.

Valley Leadership Academy – Align professional development efforts to create a regional Leadership Academy for school principals. Create teacher exchange opportunities to share effective strategies.

Culture of Literacy – Parent engagement and literacy education to enhance a student's learning at home while strengthening the family's engagement with a child's school.

Youth Tutoring Center – Connect community volunteers with youth for tutoring and mentoring in a highly creative and engaging environment. Inspired by 826 Valencia's "Pirate Store" in San Francisco.

Goal 4: Graduate Ready for College & Career

Future workforce expectations make it imperative that students receive a postsecondary certificate or degree in order to thrive.

Post High School Success – Dedicated college and career counselors to ensure a strong *culture of college and career* in all our region's high schools. Counselors both advise individual students and lead classes in achieving postsecondary success.

Community Connectors – Engage community partners to create "expeditionary" educational opportunities for younger students and career internships for high school students.

Internships – Encourage businesses to create high school internships.

Initiative-Wide Support

Shared Data & Measurement – Partnership with Colorado Mountain College to collect and report regional data in order to track the community's progress in moving the Cradle to Career Initiative indicators of youth success.

Public Awareness Campaign – Public outreach to increase support for youth and expand the public's understanding of what young people need in order to flourish. Offer every community member a role in helping our children succeed.