

**Educational Success Task Force  
Monday, September 12, 2011  
Senate Committee Room 354  
State Capitol Building  
200 East Colfax, Denver, CO  
Prepared by Kristen Johnson, Legislative Council Staff**

All of the materials referenced in this summary are available on the Educational Success Task Force website at: <http://www.colorado.gov/lcs/EdSuccessTF>.

**1:00 p.m. - Overview of the Results Matter Program**

Senator King welcomed the members of the Educational Success Task Force (task force) to the meeting. The members of the task force introduced themselves. Several members participated electronically. A list of the meeting attendees is included at the end of this meeting summary.

Senator King invited Nan Vendegna, Director, Results Matter, Colorado Department of Education, to present information on the Results Matter program. Ms. Vendegna presented a power point that provided background information on the program and stated that the program is a national model for measuring early childhood outcomes. She stated that the program responds to children's needs by monitoring their successes and through assessment. Ms. Vendegna also presented information and data on the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP). Ms. Vendegna responded to questions from the members of the task force.

**1:50 p.m. - Student Voices: A Panel Discussion**

The meeting agenda was rearranged to provide time for the student panel and the presentation on the Colorado Basic Literacy Act was moved to the student panel time slot, below.

Four, 11th grade, students who attend non-traditional high schools spoke to the members of the task force about their experiences in Colorado's traditional and non-traditional public high schools. The students responded to the following questions:

- what has been your greatest challenge in school and how have you addressed it?
- what does public education need to do to support the success of students?
- what are your future goals and how are you working to meet those goals? and
- what do you think your greatest challenge will be in the transition from high school to college?

The students responded that their biggest challenges in school include:

- difficulty obtaining academic assistance;
- course material was delivered too slowly;
- fitting in with peers;

- didn't understand the value in the information being taught; and
- big class sizes where attention from the teacher is impersonal.

The students stated that public schools can do the following to support the success of their students:

- students need one-on-one time with teachers;
- students need to be able to trust their teachers;
- schools should be more personal and tune into students' interests and strengths; and
- schools need to recognize the different and sometimes non-traditional learning styles of their students.

All of the students on the panel responded that they have plans to continue their education beyond high school graduation. Some of the greatest challenges facing these students in the transition from high school to post-secondary education include finances and remaining focused and goal-oriented.

The students responded to questions from the members of the task force.

### **2:45 p.m. - Break**

### **2:50 p.m. - Colorado Basic Literacy Act: What Does the Data Tell Us?**

Dianne Lefly, Director of Research and Evaluation, Colorado Department of Education, presented the power point entitled *Colorado Basic Literacy Act (CBLA)*. Dr. Lefly stated that the CBLA assessments look at the reading level of students. She provided graphs to show the link between CBLA data and CSAP data and stated that CBLA data is predictive of CSAP levels in grades 3 through 5. She also stated that the data shows that students who reach proficiency tend to stay proficient.

Dr. Lefly responded to questions from the task force members.

### **3:20 p.m. - Response to Intervention**

Adena Miller, Principal Consultant, Response to Intervention, Colorado Department of Education, presented the power point entitled *Response to Intervention*. Ms. Miller provided an overview of the model and described Response to Intervention (RtI) as the practice of systematically providing high-quality, research-based instruction and intervention that is matched to student need and uses frequent progress monitoring to make decisions about goals for the student.

Ms. Miller responded to questions from the task force members.

### **4:00 p.m. - Standards Based Learning**

Oliver Grenham, Chief Information Officer, Adams County District 50, presented the power point entitled *Standards Based Learning*. Dr. Oliver provided background information on the standards based learning system that is a district-wide undertaking in the Adams County School District. He described the program as a systematic, learner-centered approach to reaching proficiency in all of the students in the district. The program does not use traditional grade levels to place students into courses, but instead, places students according to their abilities and knowledge. Students must demonstrate proficiency before moving up to the next level of instruction.

#### **4:40 p.m. - Discussion with Department of Higher Education**

Matt Gianneschi, Deputy Executive Director, Department of Higher Education, discussed some of the education initiatives that are currently underway at the Department of Higher Education.

Dr. Gianneschi responded to questions from members of the task force.

## Educational Success Task Force

Date: September 12, 2011

<u>Name</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Sen. Bob Bacon	x	
Rep. Rhonda Fields	x	
Rep. Chris Holbert	x	
Sen. Evie Hudak	x	
Sen. Keith King	x	
Rep. Tom Massey		x
<b>Public Committee Members</b>		
Geri Anderson	x	
Mark Bell	x	
Charlotte Brantley		x
Judi Diaz Bonacquisti	x	
Perla Delgado	participated electronically	
Tamara Durbin	participated electronically	
Steven Grasmick		x
Carrie Heaney	x	
Daniel Jablonsky	x	
Sharon Kallus	participated electronically	
Kim Knous Dolan	x	
Samantha Long	x	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Ryan McCoy	participated electronically	
Scott Mendelsberg	x	
Michelle Pearson		x
Martina Romero	x	
Deanna Sands		x
Susan Scheibel	x	
Bruce Siegel		x
Kevin Simpson	x	
Judy Skupa	x	
John Sutton	x	
Jane Szucs	x	
Tracy Thompson	x	
Jeff Wilhite	x	
Lise Youngblood	participated electronically	

Katey McGettrick  
 Staff Signature