POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS: Creating Community Coalitions for District Reform

FREE WEBINAR: Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2011
2 to 3 p.m. ET
Powerful Partnerships: Creating Community Coalitions for District Reform

Expert Presenters:

Mary Anne Schmitt-Carey, president, Say Yes to Education Inc.

Sharon L. Contreras, superintendent, Syracuse City School District, N.Y.
An on-demand archive of this webinar will be available at www.edweek.org/go/webinar in less than 24 hrs.
Powerful Partnerships: Creating Community Coalitions for District Reform

Speakers
Mary-Anne Schmitt-Carey
President, Say Yes To Education, Inc.

Sharon Contreras
Superintendent, Syracuse City School District
College and Career Readiness at Scale: Building on Unique Talents of Every Child

Say Yes provides scholarship incentives and comprehensive supports that address key barriers to student success.

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More than 20 Years of Success

Results from Say Yes  (1987 – Present)
Hartford, Cambridge, Philadelphia

Students in Say Yes Chapters have demonstrated significantly better high school graduation rates than the national average for students from comparable demographics.

- More than 75 percent graduated from high school
- Additionally, over 50 percent of all participating students achieved a postsecondary degree at 140 different higher education institutions

When students begin to receive supports in 3rd grade (Cambridge), the results are even more remarkable.

- More than 72 percent of the cohort completed a postsecondary degree program
- Half these students receiving a four-year bachelors (BA or BS) degree
What typically passes as comprehensive approach to service delivery and district improvement is often piecemeal.

Teacher Accountability
Large Group Professional Development
Targeted Interventions
Most Common Missing Pieces:

University partnership
Educator voice in decision-making
Community mobilization
Comprehensive supports for every child
Cross-government and sector collaboration and governance
Collective Impact

“Collective impact initiatives differ from other types of collaborative ventures in that they involve a centralized infrastructure, a dedicated staff, and a structured process that leads to a common agenda, shared measurement, continuous communication, and mutually reinforcing activities among all participants.”


* In Syracuse, Say Yes’ Collective Impact initiative is housed and supported by key leadership at Syracuse University
SAY YES THEORY OF CHANGE
Leveraging Collective Impact for City-Wide Transformation

SCHOLARSHIP INCENTIVE
HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

SAY YES CITY-WIDE NON-NEGOTIABLES
1. College for all
2. Higher-ed partner
3. Collaborative governance
4. Transparent accountability
5. Sustainable funding

CITY-WIDE PARTNERS
- Comprehensive supports (financial/academic/social/health)
- Evidence-based programming
- Community-asset integration
- Cross-sector governance

SCHOOL DISTRICT
- Effective resource allocation
- Site based accountability/earned autonomy
- Quality professional development
- Rigorous curriculum
- Data-driven decision making
- Effective teachers/leaders

SCHOOLS
- Monitor individual student progress
- Shared ownership of reform
- Individualized support
- Extended learning time
- Evidence-based improvement

STUDENT/SCHOOL LEVEL OUTCOMES
- Graduation
- College enrollment
- Attendance (student/teacher)
- Achievement
- College graduation
- Reduce drop-out rate

CITY-WIDE OUTCOMES
- District enrollment
- Housing prices
- Parent engagement
- Employment
- Crime reduction

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT / FACILITATION / CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT CYCLE
What Scale Looks Like:
More than 100 Colleges Provide Tuition Guarantees

Institutions mentioned:
- The Cooper Union
- Columbia University
- Fordham University
- The University of New York
- CUNY
- New York University
- University of Rochester
- Say Yes to Education
What Tuition Supports Mean to Young People

The Promise
- Belief that college is possible for all
- Incentive to do well in school
- Reduced financial burden on families
- Opportunity to go to 2-year or 4-year institutions

The Results
- Over $11 million in private and public scholarships supports were awarded to the graduating classes of 2009 and 2010
- Students are now attending over 60 different Say Yes Higher Education Compact institutions
What Say Yes Means to Communities

Preliminary Results

• In 2010, enrollment in SCSD has increased (for the first time in a decade) by 300 students, which equates to about $4 million in increased state aid

• Home values have risen in Syracuse by 3.5%

• City, County, and Regional Officials are marketing Syracuse as the “First Say Yes City In America”

• Over $32 million dollars has been raised, during the worst economic downturn of a generation, to support this comprehensive and unprecedented effort
Syracuse has said yes to Say Yes to Education for its 21,000 students. We know this city-wide approach is needed in other communities.

**OUR GOAL:**
Establish 2 More Say Yes Cities by 2014
A National Strategy for College and Career Success

It offers:

• A catalytic approach to educational and economic success that transforms the way government agencies work together and creates a role for every sector in driving college and career success.

• A unique public-private partnership that begins with a lead “anchor” higher education institution and then includes many other higher education institutions to leverage additional private resources and expand the pipeline of receptive and supportive institutions for first generation college enrollees.

• A systematic approach to improvement that can be scaled up city by city.

• A coherent urban action agenda focused on building a strong workforce, combating poverty, and investing in people.
The Syracuse Landscape

City Demographics

- 145,170 Residents
- 56% White
- 29.5% Black
- 8.3% Hispanic
- 5.1% more than one race
- 5.5% Asian
- 2.7% Other

High Poverty Rates

- 31% Citywide (2005)
- 48% Black
- 19% White

SCSD Demographics

- 21,070 Students
- 32 Schools
- 28% White
- 53% Black
- 12% Hispanic
- 6% Asian
- 1% Native American/Alaskan
- 84% Free and Reduced Lunch
- 21% Special Needs
- 12% ELL
What Scale Looks Like

Service Integration and Coordination
In the 2011-2012 Academic Year

• Service coordinators in every elementary and K-8 school (Syracuse University Employees)
• Launched program of student assessment, individual growth planning, and service coordination
• Trained and mobilized 360 volunteers as tutors and mentors
• Implemented school-district-to-county data exchange to improve health and social service supports
• Family services partnership created as community resource link
What Scale Looks Like

SCSD Transformation Initiative

• Four High Impact Levers:
  I. Curriculum and Instructional Programs
  II. High Quality Teaching and Leadership
  III. Innovation and District Structure
  IV. Standards of Service and Support

• Say Yes to Education Support
  • Comprehensive school and district reviews
  • Development and implementation of comprehensive student monitoring system
  • Longitudinal evaluation of progress
What Scale Looks Like

Service Integration and Coordination
In the 2011-2012 Academic Year

• Reviewed over 40 CBOs and developed long-term partnerships with 10 approved youth service providers
• Established eight legal clinics in schools offering pro-bono advice, service, and referrals
• Changed ratio of social workers to students from 1:550 to 1:200 and provided county-supported professional development
• Launched city-wide door-to-door campaign and public mobilization strategy
What Scale Looks Like

College and Career Readiness

• Research-based academic and talent development programming across all schools (K-6) in both after-school and summer programming
• Delivered hands-on learning experiences culminating in student demonstrations of work at well-attended, public events
• Universal access to scholarships at 100 campuses, including 25 private institutions
• City-wide structured mentoring and internship program
• Restructured college access counseling systems
What Scale Looks Like

Support Provided in the 2011-2012 Academic Year

Extended Learning Time
• Expanded Say Yes afterschool programs has now been scaled up to 18 schools, serving 4,113 students (61% of those eligible were enrolled)
• Summer camps offered at 18 schools, serving 2,100 students (38% of those eligible were enrolled)

Supplementary Instruction
• Launched “Say Yes Generation” Tutoring Supports
  – 120 tutors in high schools
  – 220 tutors in elementary schools
What Scale Looks Like

Positive Academic Indicators

• The number of 9th grade students who dropped out or otherwise left the school district decreased by 44% between 2009 and 2010
• Improved attendance at the 9th grade level
• Teachers perceive improvement in the academic supports at their schools
• Say Yes Summer Success Academy Scholars at OCC passed developmental courses at a higher rate than their peers, a promising indicator for college retention
  – MAT (math) 68.4% passed vs. 56.1% college passing rate
  – ENG (writing) 88% passed vs. 73.6% college passing rate
  – RDG (reading) 88% passed vs. 78.3% college passing rate
• 9th Grade Algebra Regents Exam Passing Rate up by over 30 percent
The Cost of Say Yes

- Average of $3,200/student
- Broad range of public and private investors
- Reallocation of funding from county/city/school agencies serving the same students and families
- Private colleges invest with civic support for last-dollar scholarships
- Say Yes provides upfront resources that leads to long-term sustainability in community

Investment in Syracuse Initiative

- Over $32 million in support for initiative brought to Syracuse, including $7 million raised toward an endowment to pay for public colleges
- Long-term reallocation of district funding to support programming at scale
Q&A
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