The Current Reality: Student Success in the Itasca Area

**OUR POSITIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES IN THE ITASCA AREA (1950s-2000s)**

- high-school project-read
- community teachers
- students family
- reading school
- principal community-members
- in-the-woods

**OBSERVATIONS OF STUDENT SUCCESS: REALIZED AND IN NEED (TODAY)**

- math coaches
- reading ICC home
- upward-bound after-school-program
- teachers mentoring
- parents

**ASSETS: WHAT WE ARE PROUD OF**

- community strong-education-system
- encouragement early-childhood-programming
- extracurriculars

**CHALLENGES: WHAT HINDERS US**

- transportation school-funding
- juggling-demands not-familiar-with-the-system
- low-family-income lack-of-role-models

**WHAT GIVES US HOPE**

- listening communication collaboration
- thinking-outside-the-box

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**Student success realized:**
How, where, & by whom is help being given?

**Student success in need:**
what would you give if you could?

These "word clouds" summarize the most repeated responses to each question. The more a word was repeated, the larger it is.

*"Student Success" Community Conversation, February 23, 2010*
Reflection 1: Recall a specific positive learning experience you have had in the Itasca area.

Who was involved? What did you learn? Where did the learning happen?

These “word clouds” summarize 25 of the most repeated responses to each question. The more a word was repeated, the larger it is.

“Student Success” Community Conversation, February 23, 2010.
Reflection 2: Think of a situation you know about in which a student in the Itasca area is being helped to succeed.

How are they being helped? What person/group/activity is making the positive impact on their life? Where does it take place?

These “word clouds” summarize 25 of the most repeated responses to each question. The more a word was repeated, the larger it is.

“Student Success” Community Conversation, February 23, 2010.
Reflection 3: Think of one student in our area who you wish was being better helped to succeed.

How old is the student? **What** one opportunity would you give this student if you could? If you could connect this student with one person or group in the Itasca area, who would it be?

These “word clouds” summarize 25 of the most repeated responses to each question. The more a word was repeated, the larger it is.

“Student Success” Community Conversation, February 23, 2010.
Reflections 4 & 5: What are Families proud of? What hinders them?

Families are proud of...

- engagement-in-school-related-activity
- extracurricular-activities
- involved-in-child’s-education
- pride-in-schools

Families are hindered by...

- school-funding
- transportation
- low-family-income
- juggling-demands
- not-familiar-with-the-system
- lack-of-role-models

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Reflections 4 & 5: What are School proud of? What hinders them?

Schools are proud of...

- academic-programs
- collaboration
- advanced-placement
- quality-teachers
- school-choice

Schools are hindered by...

- devaluing-of-education
- high-stakes-testing
- constructive-parental-involvement
- school-politics
- funding
Reflections 4 & 5: What are Employers proud of? What hinders them?

Employers are proud of...

- on-the-job-training
- sponsoring-activities
- opportunities
- ceos-in-the-classroom
- scholarships
- paying-taxes

Employers are hindered by...

- global-competition
- lack-of-reliable-students
- unsure-how-to-engage
- belief-that-everything-is-ok
- lack-of-time

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Reflections 4 & 5: What are Communities proud of? What hinders them?

Communities are proud of...

- commitment
- diverse-activities
- early-childhood
- volunteers
- tradition
- school-support
- collaboration

Communities are hindered by...

- barriers-between-districts
- poverty
- parent-school-communication
- funding
- economy
- mandates-vs-needs

“Student Success” Community Conversation, February 23, 2010.
Closing Reflection: “What gives you hope?”