

Student Success in the Itasca Area: Vision, Obstacles and Opportunities

FAMILIES

SCHOOLS

EMPLOYERS

COMMUNITIES

It's 2015, and we've had 5 successful years of progress toward helping all students succeed. What is different?

What is blocking us from moving toward our vision?

What promising opportunities could help move us from where we are to where we want to go?

Families are secure enough to help their kids
Parent/school co-operation
Families see education as a priority

Maximize advantages of technology in education
One school, central admin in Itasca
Excellent teachers, small classes; individual progress of students
Expanded early childhood programs available for children & parents

Employer-School partnerships
Streamlining resources for success
Student-business engagement to prepare for real world

Breaking the cycle (of brain drain & poverty)
Schools at the center of community
Embrace new technology for student involvement

Effective communication
Lack of engagement
Moral development
Products of environment (Lack of parental involvement, etc)
Stressed families, low wages, mental health issues, substance abuse
Unaware of support systems between schools & communities

Parent/School cooperation communication
Tenure is outdated
Flexibility
Agrarian calendar school year
Tax structures & state law do not support early childhood education
Territorialism
Non-educational duties interfere with individualized student education

No entity to facilitate communication
Time constraints (school days and years)
Students focused on social needs, not academics, due to lack of support at home
Schools have not been open to other voices

Generational cycle of poverty
Employment opportunities and acquiring basic skills
Public apathy
Keeping up with emerging technology
Expense of technology

Giving parents skills to have successful students
Family-friendly K-12 schools
Instill & model a positive work ethic
Community structures to demand bold action by IASC
Mentoring programs (more & better)
Hear from the achievement gap population
Greater access to support systems
Increase in early childhood programs
More access (transportation, career options, technology)
Tapping into parents' desires to see students succeed
Leaning more about early life brain development
Better linking families to schools through broadband
Help families to help each other (Circles of Support on steroids)

Expand Invest Early
'Support Council' for School Board
IASC (visionary superintendents)
Environmental education: use the richness we have in our region
Change of school calendar (European model)
Broaden the START program
Podcasts vs ITV and/or experimental/classroom/online learning
Parent/student/teacher awareness/involvement to improve schools in ALL ways

Encourage employees to mentor kids
Create internships
Employees in the classroom
Student involvement in decision making
Promote & award life-long learning in students
Boys and Girls Club
Educational paradigm shift: K-14
Educational & business partnerships
Closer Chamber/IASC relations
After school programs
Win-win scholarships & internships (clearing house)

Diversity, second languages, honoring cultures
Jobs through new industry
New ideas to work with existing resources
Communication Campaign
County-wide Broadband
Capitalize on strong support structures already in place
Capitalize on inherent belief in education
IASC and Blandin Foundation
Growing awareness of interdependence
Strong support structures
Mechanism of community accountability & coordination for student success
Budget shortfalls