How Can Mayors Help Reduce the Achievement Gap and Get Every Child a Great Education

Mayors Innovation Project Annual Meeting

Deborah McKoy | January 24, 2014
Goals

• CC+S Overview

• Today’s Context: Shifting from Achievement Gap to Opportunity Gap

• The Road Ahead = 7 Steps to Opportunity Rich Schools & Sustainable Communities
Mission

To promote high quality education as an essential component of urban and metropolitan vitality to create equitable, healthy, and sustainable communities for all.
CC+S conducts policy research at the intersection of cities, regions and schools:

• Housing
• Transportation
• School facilities & joint use innovation
• Sustainable community and regional planning
• Engaging young people and schools in city and regional planning
Two Main Strategies

PLUS Leadership Initiative is a regional learning network designed to prepare current and future educational, community, and civic leaders to develop collaborative, mutually beneficial policies and practices.

Y-PLAN (Youth-Plan, Learn, Act, Now) is an award-winning educational strategy that simultaneously informs local community development/urban planning processes and aligns to educational reform strategies.
Shift in Focus Nationally

Achievement Gap - Output

Opportunity Gap - Inputs

Closing the OPPORTUNITY Gap
What America Must Do to Give Every Child an Even Chance

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Achievement Gap in 2011 (NCES) Outputs = Testing

Over time Black and Hispanic students make significant strides on reading and math tests -- still major gap between white students.

- 20 point difference in test scores = about 2 grades.
Opportunity Gap in 2014

KEY POINTS:

• Importance of pre-school access
• Resources home and at school (expert teachers, curriculum, tech)
• Housing segregation produces unequal schools
• Meeting the needs of language minorities
• Economic costs of the gap
Opportunity-Rich Schools & Sustainable Communities:

Our shared opportunity today
Key Challenges

- Existing resource inequities
- Rigid Silos & Jurisdictional differences
- Limited capacity
- Historic, deeply rooted tensions
Seven Steps to Align High-Quality Education with Innovations in City and Metropolitan Planning Development

1. Know Your Educational Landscape
2. Engage School Leaders, Families, & Young People
3. Establish a Shared Vision and Metrics
4. Support the Whole Life of Learners
5. Align Bricks-and-Mortar Investments
6. Maximize Access to Opportunity through Transportation
7. Institutionalize What Works
Comprehensive Services & Amenities
Align Bricks and Mortar Investments: Housing, Schools and Neighborhoods
MXA Students’ Vision for the Future

1. **Safety**: Safe pathways, streets, and routes connecting home, park, and the school.

2. **Physical Challenges and Recreational Diversity**: Intergenerational green space; adventure playground, with a tree house!

3. **Community Connections**: Tech Center performance space; gathering places.

4. **Businesses and Economic Development**: Youth and locally owned businesses.
Maximize Access to Opportunity through Affordable Transportation Options

Childcare Centers at Transit Hubs

Yellow school Bus Alternatives
The survey asked, "What could the city do to improve AC Transit?" The people answered to add shelter/seats to the bus stops, garbage cans so people don't litter all over the place, maps/schedules, Safety, and Cleanliness.

How satisfied are you with personal safety?

- 20
- 15
- 10
- 5
- 0

Satellite images of the survey area with various elements highlighted, including bus stops, maps, and schedule signs.
Opportunity-Rich Schools & Sustainable Communities:

It takes a win-win strategy!
NEW Y-PLAN WEBSITE

Y-PLAN (Youth – Plan, Learn, Act, Now!) is the Center for Cities & Schools’ (CC&S) award-winning educational strategy and action research initiative that builds young peoples’ knowledge and skills for college, career, and citizenship while creating healthy, sustainable, and joyful communities.

Y-PLAN has engaged thousands of young people and dozens of schools, teachers, and civic partners across the nation and around the world. Today, Y-PLAN is happening in over 20 cities across the globe. To learn more about the Y-PLAN city partnership program, check out our Y-PLAN National and Global Partners!
Thank You!
citiesandschools.berkeley.edu