



To: Multnomah County Commissioners and Staff
From: Successful Families 2020
Date: Fall 2018

The purpose of this memo is to provide a concise overview of the progress and products delivered by the SF2020 partnership because of investment and partnership from Multnomah County.

1. Academic Results:

For two years, SF2020 partners have delivered coordinated services to students in the Reynolds and David Douglas School districts. Evaluators are tracking attendance, behavioral referrals, and credit attainment/graduation rates for SF2020 students (and comparing SF2020 student performance with that of the larger district student population). These data show that in the majority of cases:

- **SF2020 students are performing better or on par w/ students of color at their schools in attendance and graduation rates;**
- SF2020 students have higher graduation rates than the respective district graduation rates (note: the sample size of SF2020 seniors is small);
- Between 16-17 and 17-18, SF2020 students demonstrated gains in discipline, GPA, and freshman on track to graduate in both school districts, and SF2020 students in Reynolds showed an increase in graduation rates.
- At the same time, attendance has decreased slightly for SF2020 students in both districts.

At the December Commissioner Briefing, SF2020's Data Team will do a full presentation on academic results and findings.

2. School Climate Study:

SF2020 is working to improve the systems in which kids and families of color engage. During school-year 2016-17, United Way staff and evaluators surveyed over 1,000 students, parents, school faculty, and school-based non-profit staff seeking insights across multiple domains (focused on inclusion, identity, & race/culture/ethnicity). ***Findings reveal many assets but also highlight consistent negative experiences by students/families of color that reduce engagement:***

- Students feel high levels of self-efficacy, value equity, and have good teacher relationships;
- Teachers report strong attention to diversity and inclusion, yet ***students consistently report their school experience does not reflect or embrace their race, ethnicity, or culture;***
- Students report high levels of racism and discrimination;
- ***Parents feel school environments are not welcoming or reflective of their race/culture/ethnicity.***

SF2020 partners presented the findings to school staff, giving teachers the chance to engage with the data and discuss how they could use the information to improve school climate. In the months/years ahead, SF2020 and school staff will work collaboratively to address implicit bias and make school climate more inclusive. Through follow-up surveys, we hope to see increased positive experiences of inclusion among students/parents of color, and correlate that with increased attendance, decreased disproportionate behavioral referrals, and increased graduation rates.

3. Delphi/Consumer Voice Project:

The Delphi/Consumer Voice Project is a significant piece of research aimed to identify the assets and attributes of high-quality culturally-specific organizations that enables them to deliver consistently strong outcomes for their communities. The study identified 12 organizational features and 24 staffing assets that make SF2020 partners uniquely effective. Through a parallel case study, the Delphi/CV study also identified assets of effective culturally-responsive practice. ***These findings are being applied by county partners in the SUN Service System, and may have application across other county divisions as they seek to ensure investments that will yield highest ROI in communities of color.***

United Way plans to ***share this research regionally with funders, government, and non-profit providers to help apply empirical metrics to inform investment and programming for/in communities of color.*** This work is co-branded to reflect Multnomah County as a lead investor.

4. “SF Tool”:

The SF Tool was developed out of the Delphi/Consumer Voice project and is intended as an organizational effectiveness assessment. Across 87 questions, organizations assess their rigor (as culturally-specific or culturally-responsive) and identify areas to strengthen. ***United Way is working with County staff so as to use the tool with partner organizations.***

5. Results Based Accountability:

Thanks to funding from Meyer Memorial Trust, ***SF2020 partners are applying Clear Impact’s Results Based Accountability (RBA) model as the data-driven rubric to support shared accountability around progress and outcomes.*** Through RBA, SF2020 and school teams participate in Professional Development Learning Communities (PDLCs) that use data to measure progress and implement targeted interventions to help students achieve success in the classroom.