

# Full-service Schools Roundtable Newslett



May/June 2010

Dear Colleagues,

As we end the school year and begin summer, I would like to update you with our latest news.

First, the Full-service Schools Roundtable, in partnership with the Boston Public Schools (BPS), has just conducted a survey of BPS principals and headmasters to learn about the range of partnerships in each of their buildings. This comprehensive survey asks how community partners are helping schools meet the range of students' needs, including mental health, physical health, out-of-school time, and family engagement. Our response rate so far is 87% (we are hoping to get the last few responses in the next couple of weeks)! We are so grateful to the school personnel for taking the time to complete the survey and to BPS for embarking on this project with us.

We expect the data will reveal system-level patterns that will help inform BPS' efforts to support students and access the many partners in our city. We intend to have aggregate-level results to share with you early in the fall, so please stay tuned.

We are also finalizing the Roundtable's strategic plan for the next several years - and are putting together some Roundtable meetings for the next school year that will be timely and relevant. In addition, we are excited to watch as the U.S. Department of Education rolls out grant opportunities that we hope will bring funding to Boston to increase access for children and families to a network of comprehensive, strategic, and sustained services.

On behalf of the Roundtable's Steering Committee, I wish you all a happy and healthy summer, and I look forward to reconnecting with you in September. Although our newsletter will be on hiatus for the summer, we will be hard at work - so please reach out to us!

Best regards,  
Abby R. Weiss

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The mission of the Full-service Schools Roundtable is to advance the healthy development and success of students in Boston through integrated school/community partnerships.

The Full-service Schools Roundtable is grateful for generous support from The Boston Foundation, Children's Hospital Boston and an anonymous foundation.

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**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**



**The Future of Children**

Children and youth need early and sustained supports from birth through early adulthood. As the transition to adulthood becomes longer, more complex and more varied, it is crucial that young people have access to effective supports throughout this transition phase. In the last few months, a range of reports focused on expanding supports for older youth have come across our desks. Results from several surveys offer a valuable lens into what supports are critical from their perspective. After summarizing what young people tell us, we turn to a flurry of proposals recently issued by researchers and policy advocates, including recommendations from the most recent edition of [The Future of Children](#). These recommendations are consistent with what young people themselves say is necessary.



**Can I Get a Little Advice Here?**

["Can I Get a Little Advice Here?"](#), a new poll by Public Agenda, surveyed young adults age 22 through 30 on their experience with high school guidance counselors. As young people approach high school graduation, they make critical decisions regarding their future. While families play a key role in such decisions, high school counselors can be at the forefront of supporting the transition to adulthood. Unfortunately, two-thirds of young people gave a "poor" or "fair" rating to guidance counselors in terms of helping with postsecondary education decisions, and 35 percent gave the lowest possible score of "poor." With regards to careers, counselors did not fare any better, with 62 percent young adults saying they did not receive adequate information. Students who felt their counselors did not perceive them as "college material" described their experiences as unhelpful and dispiriting. One in five of these young people delayed going to college and nearly three-quarters said getting advice on a range of school and job training programs would have been extremely helpful.



**BROADER PARTNERSHIPS: How can strong partnerships contribute to greater public will for effective citywide out-of-school time systems?**

Partnerships across multiple sectors are key to building quality out-of-school time (OST) programs. ["Strengthening Partnerships and Public Will for Out-of-School Time Programs,"](#) a new publication by the National League of Cities, explores strategies for building partnerships with various sectors such as business, higher education, local United Ways, municipal government, school districts, community based organizations, and faith-based organizations. It also highlights strategies for leveraging such partnerships to build public will for quality OST programs and features examples from several cities, including several that have used the Ready by 21 strategy or tools: Nashville, Grand Rapids and Providence.



**BETTER DATA: How can communities measure impact across multiple agencies?**

Data-driven planning is central to the Ready by 21 Approach. When leaders use accurate and comprehensive data, they are in a better position to develop powerful programs and policies for children and youth. A [new tool](#) by the Center for Law and Social Policy helps advocates and policymakers develop stronger agendas for infants and toddlers. The tool is designed to collect demographic information, participation rates, as well as information on the landscape and quality of early care.



The Out-of-School Time Resource Center (OSTRC) is delighted to announce its new online OST Document Library!

Visit it [here](#)! To date, the OSTRC has sorted over 200 reports, articles, studies, and other documents into 9 Staff Competencies (major headings) and 52 Content Areas (subheadings). The documents have been gathered from the fields of out-of-school time, afterschool, school-age care, positive youth development, formal education, staff development, nonprofit management, and many more.

The OSTRC Document Library is growing! Please send OST-related documents to the [OSTRC](#) as either Word Documents, PDF's, or links. If possible, documents should be no more than 5 years old and should be accessible to the public.



**Newsletter Notes Federal Initiatives That Boost Indicators & Evidence**

Several new federal initiatives give a strong role to measurement--both performance measures and well-being indicators--as a means for identifying needs and documenting improvement. The [Spring 2010 issue](#) of The Child Indicator summarizes these initiatives--Race to the Top, the Investing in Innovation Fund, Promise Neighborhoods, and the Social Innovation Fund. The newsletter also highlights recently released reports on indicators of child well-being, including:

- KIDS COUNT report on early reading proficiency
- Young America's Future: Latino Child Well-Being in Numbers and Trends
- Reports related to the transition to adulthood
- Recently released data on medical care for young adults, infant and teen mortality, demographic characteristics of U.S. mothers, and more



### A New Framework and Principles for Revising School Improvement Grants

Can the Debate Over the Reauthorization of ESEA Help End the Marginalization of Student/Learning Supports? A member of the U.S. House committee on Education and Labor (Rep. Judy Chu) has produced a report called Save our Schools which offers "a new framework and principles for revising School Improvement Grants." That framework focuses on

- Promoting flexibility and collaboration
- Removing barriers to student success

By highlighting barriers to student success, she moves these concerns out of the marginalized status they have had in school improvement policy and practice. Read the [full report](#).

The Chu report has stirred up a vigorous discussion among a variety of experts and, within that discussion, there is an emerging focus on the need to understand what's been missing in school improvement policy and practice with specific reference to removing barriers to student success (including mental and physical health concerns and much more). For example, the National Journal Education [blog](#) is providing a broad range of invited experts to comment on ideas in Representative Chu's report. The blog focused on the turnaround models, and they have been trying to turn more of the discussion toward concerns about addressing barriers to learning and teaching and re-engaging disconnected students.

## UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Best Buy @15 Community Grants

Through the @15 Community Grants Program, Best Buy teams across the United States select non-profit organizations that provide positive experiences to help teens to excel in school, engage in their communities, and develop leadership skills. This year, Best Buy Children's Foundation will give \$2 million through the Community Grants Program.

Best Buy seeks applications from organizations that have current 501(c)(3) tax status and are serving a diverse population of young teens in the areas of learning, life skills, leadership or relationship development. Special consideration will be given to programs that:

- Serve a diverse population in local or regional communities
- Build social, academic, leadership and/or life skills in early adolescents (primarily ages 13-18)
- Show positive results against a demonstrated community need
- Reach at-risk children in working families

For more information, visit [Best Buy @15 Community Grants](#).

**DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 2010**

### Attorney General's Children Exposed to Violence Demonstration

This program will develop and support comprehensive community-based strategic planning to prevent and reduce the impact of children's exposure to violence in their homes, schools, and communities.

Lead applicants must join in partnership with a collaborative body that includes a full range of entities and must involve: victim services providers; tribal nonprofit organizations, or community-based organizations with a documented history of effective work concerning children or youth exposed to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including programs that provide culturally specific services; Head Start; childcare; faith-based organizations; afterschool programs; and health and mental health providers, as well as organizations that address child maltreatment, community violence, and school violence.

Eight grants will be awarded, ranging in size from \$10,000 to \$500,000. For more information, visit [Children Exposed to Violence Demonstration](#).

**DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2010**

#### **American Legion Child Welfare Foundation**

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation annually accepts proposals from nonprofit organizations for projects that meet one of the foundation's two basic purposes:

1. to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children through the dissemination of knowledge about new and innovative organizations and their programs designed to benefit youth; and
2. to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children through the dissemination of knowledge already possessed by well-established organizations, to the end that such information can be more adequately used by society.

Approximately twenty awards will be available, ranging in size from \$7,000 to \$60,000. For more information, visit [Child Welfare Foundation](#).

**DEADLINE: JULY 15, 2010**

#### **Toshiba America Foundation (TAF) Grants for Grades 6 - 12**

TAF grants fund the projects, ideas, and materials teachers need to innovate in their math and science classrooms. TAF believes science and mathematics are exciting fields in which all students can succeed with the proper tools and instruction. The foundation grants support public and nonprofit private schools throughout the United States.

TAF is currently accepting applications from teachers who are passionate about making science and mathematics more engaging for their students. Do you teach 6-12 science or math? Do you have a wish list of instructional equipment that will make learning more exciting for your students? If the answer is yes to these questions, Toshiba America Foundation would like to hear from you.

Grade 6-12 applications for \$5,000 or less are accepted on a rolling basis, throughout the calendar year. Grants requests of more than \$5,000 are reviewed twice a year. For more information, visit [TAF Grants](#).

**DEADLINE: AUGUST 2, 2010** (For grant requests of more than \$5,000.)

#### **Women Helping Others Foundation: Grants to Support Women, Children, and Families**

The WHO (Women Helping Others) Foundation supports community-focused charities that serve the overlooked needs of women, children, and families in the United States and Puerto Rico. The foundation will consider funding for organizations that have been incorporated for at least three years and have total organizational budgets of \$3 million or less. Preference will be given to organizations with an operating budget of \$3 million or less, those not dependent upon government grants, and those with greater organizational program costs than personnel costs.

Grants range in size from \$1,000 to \$40,000. For more information, visit [WHO Foundation](#).  
DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 7, 2010

## CONFERENCE/TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Keeping our YOUTH OUT OF HARM'S WAY Summer 2010 EVENT**  
**Monday, June 28th from 2:00 - 6:00 PM**  
**Lilla G. Frederick Middle School**

The Boston Police Department's Community Services Office and the Boston Public Schools Department of Extended Learning Time Afterschool and Services (DELTA) is sponsoring an afternoon of indoor and outdoor activities along with an information session facilitated by Boston Police on "Gang Identification and Keeping our Kids Safe this Summer" for youth and families across Boston.

We look to the community to provide safe places for youth to work, to play and to receive positive adult role modeling this summer as a way to prevent further injury to the youth of Boston. We invite youth and families to celebrate together and kick off the summer in style at the Lilla G. Frederick Middle School on Columbia Road.

Outdoor and indoor games, activities face painting, food and beverages will be on hand. As well we will be sponsoring an information session for families focused on Preventing Youth Gang Involvement from 5:00 - 6:00 PM that afternoon.

For further information about "Keeping our Youth Out of Harm's Way" Summer Kick off Event 2010, please contact DELTA Main office at 617.635.1578.

**Gubernatorial Forum on Energy and the Environment**  
**Tuesday, June 29th, 6:00 to 8:00 PM**  
**Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington Street, Boston**

The outcome of this November's gubernatorial election may have profound effects on the Massachusetts environment, due to the obvious importance of the state environmental agencies under the governor's control. ELM and other environmental organizations are planning a gubernatorial forum for June 29th to ask the candidates about their views on environmental issues. Governor Patrick and Green party candidate Jill Stein have already confirmed, and we are in communications with the other candidates. This will be a fascinating event in an historic setting. Will you join us?

This is a free event, but seating is limited so [RSVP](#) to reserve your space today!

Sponsored by (partial list): Environmental League of Massachusetts, Mass Audubon, Conservation Law Foundation, Charles River Watershed Association, Appalachian Mountain Club, Clean Water Action, Mass League of Environmental Voters, Environmental Business Council, The Trustees of Reservations.



**NIOST Summer Seminars**

Features four two-day intensive seminars for educators across the country to learn more about managing, evaluating, and improving afterschool program quality.

**July 12th - 15th, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

**John Hancock Conference Center, Boston**

Don't miss out! Click [here](#) and register today. Registration closes July 6th!

July 12th - 13th

Seminar A: Professional Development Systems

Seminar B: Afterschool Program Assessment System (APAS)

July 14th - 15th

Seminar C: Effective Management

Seminar D: Quality Advisor Train

One seminar: \$600 (group rate: \$575)

Multiple seminars: \$1175 (group rate: \$1150)

The group rate applies when 3 or more people from the same organization attend.



**GoGirlGo! Curriculum Training**

**Interested in leading a girls program?**

**Or adding a GoGirlGo! component to your existing program?**

Sign up for a special GoGirlGo! Curriculum Training on  
**Thursday, July 15th from 2:00 - 2:50 PM in the UMass Boston's Campus Center Ballroom 3350A**  
and receive FREE curriculum for up to 50 girls!

FREE Women's Sports Foundation Pedometers will accompany first 1,000 curricula!

Supplies are LIMITED and registration is first come first served!!

To register, please email your name, program, and contact information  
to: [gogirlgo.communications@gmail.com](mailto:gogirlgo.communications@gmail.com)

**Immediately after the training, attend the GoGirlGo! Boston and GoKids Open House  
to learn how to Get Active and Eat Right this summer!**

Thursday, July 15th from 3:00 - 5:30 PM at UMass Boston's Campus Center Ballroom 3350A

The event will include:  
Nutrition and Culture Discussion Panel  
Zumba Dance Class  
Cultural Nutrition Tips from local kids  
Nutritious Recipe Ideas and Samples  
Special Guest: City Councilor Ayanna Pressley  
Special Guest: Member of the Boston Celtics

For more information about this event, please visit: [gogirlgoboston.com](http://gogirlgoboston.com)  
Limited space available, so [SIGN UP NOW!!](#)

## ROUNDTABLE STEERING COMMITTEE & ADVISORY BOARD

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