EAG Guiding Statement: The EAG will support a culture of high expectations for all students, in and out of school, from early childhood through postsecondary education, leading to career success.

FPN Education Affinity Group Supports

✓ Advancement of early childhood education
  o Ready to learn initiatives (before K)
  o Grade level reading
  o Parental supports in role as first teachers

✓ Florida Standards implementation work in local school districts
  o Elevate rigor of classroom instruction utilizing standards-appropriate curricular materials

✓ Post-secondary access, persistence and success
  o Continued support of goal of 60% post-secondary attainment by 2025. Support policy changes to maximize opportunities for success.
  o Work to optimize private scholarship dollars
  o Maximize impact of state sponsored scholarships (via policy as opportunities present themselves)

Introduction

The Florida Philanthropic Network (FPN) recognizes that Florida’s future economic health is tied directly to an effective educational pipeline from birth through post-secondary achievement. A skilled workforce is the most critical factor and it begins with effective early learning, includes a rigorous K-12 education, and culminates with post-secondary attainment. The FPN Education Affinity Group (EAG) has long been a supporter of high K-12 standards and the value of post-secondary attainment as evidenced by adoption of its 2015 position paper on these issues. Recently it as recognized that educational success begins with effective early learning and has added support for early childhood education. As the EAG work has evolved so to has the need to set more aggressive goals in its work in each of these areas. The work anticipated in 2019 and outlined below reflects these beliefs.
Support for Early Childhood Education

FPN recognizes that effective early childhood education (ECE) is a critical component of a student’s later success scholastically and in their career. Numerous studies as reported on by McCoy, et al. document the positive medium and long-term impacts on educational outcomes, support ECE’s utility for reducing education-related expenditures and promote child well-being. FPN further recognizes that early learning successes are critical to future success at the K-12 and post-secondary levels which it also supports. The EAG will help with coordination of member philanthropy’s regional ECE efforts as well as provide a statewide voice on policy issues related to more effective ECE practices in Florida.

EAG 2019 Goals for Early Learning:

1. Complete an environmental scan on early learning in Florida including a policy audit, practice analysis and recommendations for EAG future engagement.
2. Develop and execute a shared learning agenda on the issues around early childhood education.

Support for Florida Standards Implementation

FPN supports high rigor for Florida K-12 students as reflected in the Florida Standards. To succeed in any post-secondary educational endeavor, a student first must graduate high school and be college and career ready. Unfortunately, Florida students' performance lags when measured against international benchmarks such as the Program for International Student Assessments (PISA). The most recent PISA assessment (2015) showed the United States finished 22nd in reading, 17th in science and 35th in math, placing the United States behind economic powerhouses such as China, Russia and Germany, as well as growing economies in Asia and Europe. According to an analysis of college entry tests by ACT, three-fourths of young men and women entering college “were not adequately prepared academically for first-year college courses.” Effective implementation of the Florida Standards is a critical component to prepare students to be successful in post-secondary education and their careers.

EAG 2019 Goals for Florida Standards Implementation:

1. Complete an environmental scan on the status of implementation of the Florida Standards including a policy audit, practice analysis and recommendations for EAG future engagement.
2. Continued shared learning on the issues around full implementation of the standards.

Support for Post-secondary Access, Persistence and Success

FPN believes that every student should have access to a quality post-secondary education of their choosing and be equipped to persist and be successful. Based on research by Georgetown University’s Center for Education and the Workforce and analysis by the Florida College Access Network, FPN has adopted a goal of 60% post-secondary attainment by 2025. Many FPN members are working as part of their local college access networks (LCANs) to attain similar goals regionally. The EAG supports state-wide policy initiatives which further this work. Additionally, FPN recognizes that affordability is a key
determinant for many students and supports optimizing the use of philanthropic scholarship dollars via its Innovative Scholarship Workgroup and CASI Learning Community. Historically, affordability has been augmented for many high school graduates by Florida’s Bright Futures Program, which includes the Florida Academic Scholars, the Florida Medallion Scholars, and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars awards. In recent years modifications to these programs have been informed by fiscal matters rather than best educational policy practices. FPN supports review of these programs with an eye towards maximizing educational outcomes in an equitable manner.

**EAG 2019 Goals for Post-secondary Access, Persistence and Success:**

1. Complete an environmental scan of Florida post-secondary access and success including a policy audit, practice analysis and recommendations for EAG future engagement.
2. Continued shared learning in this area including non-traditional scholarship designs.
3. Seek opportunities to join the policy conversations on state sponsored scholarships.

**About FPN**

The Florida Philanthropic Network is a statewide association of more than 115 grantmakers working to build philanthropy to build a better Florida. FPN’s members are private independent, corporate and family foundations, community foundations, public charity grantmakers and corporate giving programs - from Miami to Jacksonville; Naples to Pensacola - who hold over $6.5 billion in assets and invest over $430 million annually (excluding members located outside Florida) to improve the quality of life for our citizens. Our members share a commitment to promoting philanthropy, fostering collaboration and advancing public policy by Florida, in Florida.

FPN’s Education Funders Affinity Group (EAG) is comprised of FPN members who share an interest in supporting education issues, organizations and needs in Florida. The EAG offers Florida’s education funders a space to learn and share together on improving the state's education outcomes, and to be a voice for Florida philanthropy on key education policy issues. The views expressed in this paper do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of any individual member of Florida Philanthropic Network or its Education Funders Affinity Group.

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iii Recovery: Job Growth and Education Requirements through 2020, comprises an executive summary, a national report card and a state-level analysis. These are available online at [http://cew.georgetown.edu/recovery2020](http://cew.georgetown.edu/recovery2020).