The First Lady's Forum on Increasing the Graduation Rate through Focus on Middle Schools

THE PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE
HARRISBURG
June 20, 2012

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. **Registration**

9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. **Welcome**

Susan Corbett, First Lady, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Carolyn Dumaresq, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. **The Importance of Identifying Students in Middle School who are at Risk of Dropping Out**

As a nation, it is imperative that we address the problem that too many of our youth do not realize their full potential, economically or socially, because they drop out of high school. For most dropouts, doors close to further education and opportunity forever. The challenge is how to increase the number of students who graduate. Studies have shown that the students most likely to dropout can be identified in middle school through collection of data that reveal early warning signs. Once students are identified through use of an Early Warning System, appropriate interventions can increase the likelihood that at-risk students will stay in school.

Robert Balfanz, Director, Everyone Graduates Center, Johns Hopkins University

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. **The Use of Early Warning Systems in Pennsylvania**

Some schools and districts in Pennsylvania already collect data to identify middle school students at risk of dropping out when they reach high school. During this

facilitated panel discussion, hear about the implementation, successes and challenges of these Early Warning Systems.

Facilitator: Robert Balfanz, Director, Everyone Graduates Center, Johns Hopkins University

Darletta Berry-Johnson, Program Director, Morrisville School District 21st CCLC; Executive Director, The Ivins Outreach Center

Liza Herzog, J.D., Ph.D., Director of Research, Philadelphia Education Fund

Jeanne Miller, Director of Carbon and Schuylkill County Educational Services at Lehigh Carbon Community College

Mike Reid, Principal, Feltonville School of Arts and Sciences

10:45 a.m. - 10:55 a.m. **Break**

10:55 a.m. - 11:05 a.m. **One Student's Story**

Elizabeth Ruiz, Seventh Grade, Hannah Penn Middle School, School District of the City of York

11:05 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. **Small Group Discussions**

This facilitated discussion with others at your table will address Early Warning Systems and how they are being or can be used in to better serve students.

11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Report by Small Groups**

12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Lunch**

12:30 p.m. - 12:40 p.m. **Remarks**

Ron Tomalis, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Education

12:40 p.m. - 1:10 p.m. **The Economic Impact of the Dropout Crisis and the Success of Intervention Strategies**

As states continue to confront a challenging fiscal environment, the long term prospects for strong economic growth are hampered by an immense underlying problem: the high school dropout crisis. Dropouts are less likely than others to be employed, more likely to receive public assistance, and much more likely to be incarcerated. In the aggregate, dropouts cost the United States more than $300 billion per year. This session will provide a summary of the economic impact of dropping out on students and the state, and discuss how schools, districts and states are working to intervene early with students that fall off-track to graduation.

Ryan Reyna, Program Director, Education Division
National Governors Association Center for Best Practices

1:10 p.m. - 2:10 p.m.	**Interventions to Keep Identified At-risk Students on Track to Graduate**
	This facilitated panel discussion will address several approaches to engaging at-risk students in middle school.
	Facilitator: Ryan Reyna, Program Director, Education Division National Governors Association Center for Best Practices
	Mark Claypool, President/CEO, Educational Services of America
	Leigh Dalton, Director of the York County Truancy Prevention Initiative, United Way of York County
	Michael Mahon, Superintendent, Abington Heights Schools District
	Nathan Mains, President and State Director, Communities in Schools of Pennsylvania
	Lyn Skillington, Project Director for the Bedford County 21st Century Community Learning Center Consortium; Executive Director of Unified Family Services Systems
2:10 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	**Small Group Discussions/ Closing Activity**
	This facilitated discussion with others at your table will address interventions and, in the closing activity, how you would like to see the Opening Doors initiative evolve in Pennsylvania.
3:00 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.	**Report by Small Groups /Q & A**
3:20 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	**Closing remarks**
	Carolyn Dumaresq, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education
	Susan Corbett, First Lady, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Thank you to the sponsor of today's forum

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