

## **Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren**

### **College and Career Pathways Leadership Team: Draft Recommendations**

**Revised: October 8, 2017**

The following are recommendations of the Detroit Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren's College and Career Pathways Leadership Team to increase college and career opportunities for Detroit youth. In order to ensure an economically viable future, students need to be prepared to continue their education beyond high school, and currently, not enough Detroit students are successfully completing any kind of education beyond high school. All Detroit students should leave high school fully prepared to pursue the post-secondary option of their choice. The implementation of recommendations will be greatly enhanced by the creation or designation of a convening body to establish citywide objectives for career and college preparedness. The convening body will facilitate high-level collaboration and serve as an opportunity for education, business, labor, philanthropy, community, family, and city and state government partners to build relationships and collaborate around common goals. Additional key roles will include:

- Leverage existing initiatives and coordinate between working groups
- Provide direct link between education and industry
- Coordinate collection and regular sharing of data and progress towards goals
- Influence policy, procedure, practice, funding, systems transformation
- Formalize career pathways, recognizing education, work experience, and soft skills
- Identify gaps in ecosystem and explore proven models from other cities to meet needs

The following recommendations focus on career readiness, in-school preparation, and college access and persistence:

#### **Career Readiness**

##### **1. Strengthen and connect career-focused supports and increase workplace exposure for students and teachers in and out of school**

- Ensure students have awareness and make informed decisions about career pathways and opportunity across core academics, CTE, and post-secondary
- Identify strategic investments to encourage career awareness, exposure opportunities, and mobilize a broader base of support in middle school and 9th grade
- Support and expand co-ops, internships, and other development opportunities, inside and outside of school, throughout middle and high school
- Encourage teacher exposure to industry including externships and worksite visits

- Support ecosystem of year-round and summer employment opportunities for students
- Increase access to career counselors in schools and reduce counselor-to-student ratios
- Support a central depository of youth development resources to increase awareness and remove barriers for students, families, schools, and partners

## **In-School Preparation**

### **2. Strengthen CTE systems by removing system wide barriers to CTE enrollment**

- Increase and expand CTE centers and programs, with a focus on high-growth industries and access across different school systems
  - Engage business, union training entities, and skilled trades in support of innovative models to increase relevance and rigor of instruction and expand teaching pool
  - Increase awareness and exposure by mapping CTE pathways, incorporating academic credits, and removing barriers
  - Eliminate or minimize financial and operational barriers to CTE enrollment
  - Explore models for stable local financing for equitable access to CTE

## **College Access and Persistence**

### **3. Endorse Higher Education Compact**

- Develop a “higher education compact” with the goal of removing barriers and improving college readiness, college access, and college success, to foster collaboration between K-12 and higher education institutions serving Detroit students
- This compact will set annual benchmarks on such metrics such as FAFSA completion, college enrollment, first to second year persistence, etc.

### **4. Expanded Counseling**

- Create and expand capacity to provide counseling of Detroit students pursuing postsecondary credentials, including:
  - Draw on proven existing models such as college advisors and campus success coaches;
  - Create a “summer institute” for high school graduates entering college to address remediation and summer melt challenges