



AUBURN GRESHAM GOLD

A Community-Driven Education Plan

Executive Summary – September 2012

Created by the
Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation
and its community partners
for LISC Chicago's Testing The Model program

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Our intended outcomes are:

1. More students are ready to learn when entering kindergarten and more students are on track for reading by 3rd grade.
2. The community as a whole is reading more.
3. Students are healthier and school attendance rates improve.
4. Parents and community members increase their involvement in the education life of the community.
5. Local schools improve their academic performance and reputation in the community.
6. More students from the community are prepared to attend schools of their choice.

Our target schools in Phase 1 are:

- Barton Elementary, 630 students, 7650 S. Wolcott Ave.
- Joplin Elementary, 575 students, 7931 S. Honore St.
- Oglesby Elementary, 521 students, 7646 S. Green St.
- Westcott Elementary, 532 students, 409 W. 80th St.
- Perspectives Calumet Middle Academy (charter), 390 students, 8131 S. May St.

Our interventions and Year 1 projects are:

1. Increase literacy in core subjects of math, reading and science, with an emphasis on reading.

- 1.1 Develop programs to provide tutoring and mentoring and to recognize achievement at school and in out-of-school programs.
- 1.2 Increase enrollment in state-certified early education programs through community outreach and promotion about the value of such programming.
- 1.3 Develop and promote incentive-driven strategies to attract participation of students and families to new academic programming.
- 1.4 Design community campaign to promote reading.

1.5 Design and implement a summer-reading program, family reading nights, and other programs that encourage students and families to spend time together on academic subjects.

2. Enhance health services, healthy lifestyle education and access to fresh foods for students and families.

2.1 Maintain Auburn Gresham health center at Perspectives Calumet campus and expand use of other community health services by daycare and school children and their families.

2.2 Design, deliver and leverage programs around healthy eating, nutrition, fitness and exercise to reduce obesity and related health issues.

2.3 Advocate for improved access to fresh foods and reduced consumption of junk foods, especially by schoolchildren.

2.4 Develop programming to pro-actively address mental-health issues and decrease discipline incidents and substance abuse.

2.5 Develop more opportunities for youth to become involved in leadership development, program design and policy efforts.

3. Increase community and family engagement to strengthen education.

3.1 Develop “gold-level” parent involvement.

3.2 Attract more outside partners and volunteers into pre-schools and schools to provide programming, and extend that programming into community settings such as the 79th Street Renaissance Festival and the proposed Academic Fairs.

3.3 Recruit partners and volunteers to organize “walking school buses” to create safe and healthy journeys to local schools.

3.4 Expand the existing Freshman Connection program.

4. Develop the brand of “Auburn Gresham Gold” to promote local schools, increase coordination of community resources, reduce duplication and improve results.

4.1 Develop the Auburn Gresham Gold coalition of schools and other institutions.

4.2 Showcase Gold talent at schools and at 79th Street Renaissance Festival.

4.3 Create Step Up program to improve high school transition.