



EducationWorks Hosts Forum on Successful School Partnerships in Philadelphia

Abt Associates' Sarah Costelloe presented her recent report "Partnering for Student Success" to an audience of educational providers

PHILADELPHIA (January 18, 2017) – EducationWorks, Philadelphia's premier organization for providing academic support, career readiness, and enrichment programming to children and young adults, hosted more than 20 educational support providers to discuss a recent report that highlights best practices for schools, districts, and vendors in delivering high-quality enrichment programming to students, both during and outside of the traditional school day. Entitled "[Partnering for Student Success: A Practical Guide to Building Effective School-Based Partnerships](#)," the report, funded by the William Penn Foundation and produced by Abt Associates, details six steps for successful partnership integration, providing readers with suggested roles and responsibilities, sample conversation topics to facilitate discussions, case studies from Philadelphia schools, and a downloadable toolbox of resources.

"As a partner with more than 30 schools in the Greater Philadelphia region, we thought it important to support this conversation and get our partners involved," said EducationWorks COO Tanya Ruley-Mayo. "We want to use this research to guide the way in which we work with our programming partners and our schools."

Sarah Costelloe of Abt Associates, who conducted research and developed the report, led the discussion, highlighting a wide range of different types of programs and the importance of engagement from multiple stakeholders. Working alongside several Philadelphia-based education organizations, including staff from the School District of Philadelphia's (SDP) Office of Strategic Partnerships, the Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development, the Southeast Philadelphia Collaborative, several SDP principals and local organizations, Costelloe and her team studied existing partnerships efforts in Philadelphia during the 2014-2015 school year.

"They can vary in duration, intensity, focus; they can be short-term or long-term, or can take place out-of-school time or during the school day. There is no one size fits all program," said Costelloe. "What we did find was that there are several systems and processes that districts, schools, and partner organizations can adopt to establish, support, and manage partnerships and programming in a way that maximizes their impact on student success."

"We've got a strong network of external partners, programs, and schools to help us in our mission to engage and reengage children and young adults, but we have to maintain and nurture that network to make sure that each stakeholder, including the students, are being best served by the program," said Ruley-Mayo.

Working in Philadelphia and Camden, NJ, EducationWorks provides in-school support and out of school time (OST) and summer programs for K-12 students to more than 17,000 youth annually.



EducationWorks offers a number of unique programs, but also works with a number of local organizations and providers to meet the needs of partnering schools.

About EducationWorks

EducationWorks provides high quality educational programs that make the school day whole and re-engages disconnected young adults to education and career readiness. EducationWorks is a nonprofit organization that provides academic support, career readiness, and enrichment programming for children and young people throughout Greater Philadelphia. By focusing on topics like literacy, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM), and social emotional learning, EducationWorks equips approximately 17,000 students annually with the tools needed to be successful in school and life. Additionally, through experiential, on-the-job training, shadowing, and career exploration, EducationWorks creates Opportunities for Learning and Skills for Life. Learn more about EducationWorks at educationworks.org.

###