

Vision Commission Report on Topic 8. Education

June 2014

The Vision Commission began in January 2009 with the charge to track, measure and report on progress of vision implementation to the community. Beginning November of 2013, the Commission will deliver reports on one of the thirteen Vision Topics using at least three ways to track and measure progress on the Vision:

1. Report the scope of **Implementation Efforts** taken to address strategies and objectives in the Vision document.
2. Recognize **Significant Events** that could have an impact on one or more of the 13 Visions.
3. Develop a set of **Progress Indicators** that will help the community see whether the 13 Visions and their related goals are being fulfilled.

Vision Statement: Excellent education programs and facilities are available to students of all ages in a variety of programs that both support each individual's goals and address the diverse social, economic, and environmental needs of the community.

8.1 Goal: Facilities - Educational facilities in Columbia will benefit and meet the current and long range needs of the entire community through plans for shared usage and focused attention to technology, the environment, and energy efficiency.

8.2 Goal: Resource Allocation -The community and all its public and private entities will work together to ensure that resources for education are allocated effectively through all life stages.

8.3 Goal: Quality - Columbia will provide a continuum of high quality educational opportunities that enable students of all ages and abilities to achieve individualized learning and training goals that ultimately improve quality of life.

Implementation Efforts

8.1 Facilities	8.1.1 City, County and Board of Education create a Community Educational Facilities Commission to inventory existing resources, plan for 25 years, estimate costs, examine fundraising options, id opportunities for shared use, encourage energy efficiency.	Community passed a ¼ cent county-wide sales tax to fund activities overseen by the Boone County Childrens Services Board. The county commission awarded a contract to the Truman School to inventory resources, guide the board in investment of resources and other deliverables - http://www.showmeboone.com/clerk/MinutesPDF/2014/20140109.pdf The Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau has created a facilities committee to review needs in the community. Linda Quinley, CPS chief operations officer, and Bruce Whitesides, district athletic director are participating – Michelle Baumstark, CPS Sport facilities are highly sought after in the Columbia community and the schools are often loaded with a full reservation calendar – Christine King, CPS Board President
	8.1.2. Columbia Public Schools representatives with appropriate authority actively participate with City and County planning agencies.	<i>Representatives are in place; too soon to assess collaboration</i> CPS representatives serve on numerous city and county planning groups, some of which include: Columbia Housing Authority, City Substance Abuse Advisory Commission, Boone County Board of Health, Youth Advisory (in process of establishment) and joint meetings of city, county and school district leadership – Michelle Baumstark, CPS Communication between city and schools could be improved in regard to city projects and bussing route changes
	8.1.3. P&Z representatives with appropriate authority actively participate on the Facilities Committee of the Columbia Public Schools.	<i>Representatives in place; too soon to assess collaboration</i> Representatives from the city, county and school district meet regularly. Representatives from the city and the county serve on the school district's long-range facilities committee – Michelle Baumstark, CPS
8.2 Resource Allocation	8.2.1 The agencies look for synergies and expand their collaboration	Columbia Public Schools held "World Cafes" in 2010 and 2011 to bring the community together to address the achievement gap World Cafe events have been held multiple times every year since 2009. An offshoot of the World Cafe process has been the establishment of the Cradle to Career initiative, which includes representatives from across the community with a goal of addressing the achievement gap and career readiness – Michelle Baumstark, CPS
	8.2.2 City, County create a coordinator (of educational resources) to inventory existing resources, convene providers once a week, identify overlaps and gaps, and determine public perceptions	Community passed a ¼ cent county-wide sales tax to fund activities overseen by the Boone County Childrens Services Board. The county commission awarded a contract to the Truman School to inventory resources, guide the board in investment of resources and other deliverables - http://www.showmeboone.com/clerk/MinutesPDF/2014/20140109.pdf

		<p>The Cradle to Career initiative has been established to help coordinate efforts between the many community agencies, business community, city, county etc.</p> <p>http://www.columbiatribune.com/commentary/op-ed/cradle-to-career-program-works/article_ed4d55c7-61a5-57fe-a943-e874fc761fa0.html</p> <p>http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/cradle-to-career-turns-to-columbia-business-community-to-help/article_35a5b4e8-09a5-5bd1-8f61-2de31fdfd2d4.html – Michelle Baumstark, CPS</p>
	8.2.3 The community creates programs to fill educational gaps.	<p>United Way restructured its giving to focus on community impact, including children entering school ready to succeed, reading proficiently by 3rd grade and making a successful transition in and out of middle school - http://www.uwheartmo.org/community-impact-strategic-investments</p> <p>In addition to the establishment of the Cradle to Career initiative, which works in tandem with the new United Way funding structure, the school district has expanded many new partnerships including Boys and Girls Club school-based programs, Fun City as a school-based program, AVID, expansion of MAC Scholars, ACE in-school suspension center housed at Boys and Girls Club, Douglass High School community grant to expand internships etc. for students – Michelle Baumstark, CPS</p>
8.3 Curriculum & Programs	8.3.1 CPS assesses school readiness of kindergartners, including subgroups	<p>Kids are screened in development, language, hearing and vision and referred to the special education program if needs are identified. CPS Special Needs program has plan for finding and assisting children with needs -</p> <p>http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/speced/specialed/index.html</p> <p>Last year was the first year the school district altered its school calendar to have kindergarten students start the school year two days later than grades 1-12. This allows kindergarten teachers to conduct readiness assessments and determine what supports incoming kindergarten students will need – Michelle Baumstark, CPS</p>
	8.3.2 City creates a "front door" to early education and better coordination of services	<p>CPS has a description and contact information for its early childhood education center, but no other information. United Way has a 2-1-1 number where people can get info on childcare, among other things CPS has many programs in place to support early childhood education including Parents As Teachers and Title I Preschool. Additionally, the district operates two early childhood special education facilities. The school district is also in the process of designing an early childhood preschool facility on the Lange Middle School property in order to expand the program to more students in need. The district also has many partnerships with community organizations that support early childhood education including First Chance for Children, United Way etc. – Michelle Baumstark, CPS Community as a whole needs more Early Childhood opportunities and especially third shift opportunities</p>
	8.3.3 There is a needs assessment of at-risk kids and their access to high quality programs	<p>CPS has an assessment plan in place that aims to identify needs to guide teaching and to evaluate progress -</p> <p>http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/misc/AssessmentPlan.pdf</p>
	8.3.4 There are more high-quality early education providers, programs for parent education, and capacity for special needs kids	<p>State funding for Parents as Teachers cut in 2010, cuts have not been made up</p> <p>CPS has continued to support the Parents as Teachers program regardless of state funding cuts. The school district is also building an additional early childhood center in order to be able to serve more preschool students – Michelle Baumstark, CPS</p>
	8.3.5 There is publicly funded voluntary pre-K.	<p><i>Title I added 7 temporary classrooms in 2011</i></p> <p>CPS currently serves more than 600 students in 27 classrooms across the school district through its Title I preschool program. An additional 1,840 children are served through Parents as Teachers.</p>
	8.3.6 There is a task force to review and support adoption of research-based curriculum and methods aligned with grade level standards across all learning communities	<p>CPS developed a district assessment plan in 2013 to help with evaluating program effectiveness, efficient allocation of resources and professional development – Michelle Baumstark, CPS</p>
	8.3.7 There is a coordinating coalition organized by City's Volunteer Coordinator that organizes an annual conference for all educators to share information	<p>In 2014, CPS had 17,845 volunteers in its buildings – Michelle Baumstark, CPS</p>
	8.3.7a Shared professional development increases and also opportunities for teacher to share knowledge	<p><i>CPS now hosts twice yearly meetings with private schools to discuss PD</i></p> <p>The school district has partnerships with MU, Columbia College and William Woods. Education students participate in internships, fellowships and hands-on learning experiences in our classrooms. Additionally, the school district has positive relationships with the private and parochial schools in the community. In fact, many private and parochial students are dually enrolled and make take special electives, fine arts or participate in athletics at the public school, but take their core course work at the private or parochial school –</p>

		Michelle Baumstark, CPS
	8.3.8 Coordinating coalition creates additional volunteer opportunities	In 2014, CPS had 17,845 volunteers in its buildings. The CPS Board of Education has policy and procedures in place that govern volunteer participation and placement in our school buildings, including background checks, appropriate placement etc. in order to maintain a safe learning environment for students – Michelle Baumstark, CPS
	8.3.9 CPS makes volunteering or service learning mandatory	<i>There is no district-wide mandate, however, volunteering is encouraged</i> There are several programs that require volunteering, hands-on learning and/or service-learning. Requirements are program and course specific. The Board of Education has a policy on school volunteers: http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/policies/IICC-C.pdf – Michelle Baumstark, CPS

Significant Events in the past year

2013

March

Disability award from governor STEP program

CPS faces budget uncertainty - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/columbia-public-schools-faces-budget-uncertainty/article_dd7e7930-8b3f-11e2-9bc9-10604b9f6eda.html – potential \$489,00 loss due to sequestration

April

Future Problem Solving Team wins state competition

3M awards Jeff Junior \$10,000 for innovative design

May

June

July

August

Battle by the Numbers (new H.S. opens) http://www.columbiatribune.com/special_sections/did-you-know-battle-by-the-numbers/article_5f1fa96e-feb3-11e2-8f43-10604b9f6eda.html

September

Learning to help kids in crisis - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/learning-to-help-kids-in-crisis/article_ddc3fccc-2152-11e3-9697-10604b9f6eda.html

CPS's nature school could open as soon as next year - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/columbia-public-schools-nature-school-could-open-as-soon-as/article_de362496-2152-11e3-96df-10604b9f6eda.html – MO State Parks has signed on as a partner with Rock Bridge Memorial State Park as the location

Columbia schools look for solutions to overcrowding - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/columbia-schools-look-for-solutions-to-overcrowding/article_0a38177a-2220-11e3-9650-10604b9f6eda.html – district head count at 17,288, previous year 16,960

October

District pushes back plans for nature school - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/district-pushes-back-plans-for-nature-school/article_60fc02ea-31d6-11e3-882d-10604b9f7e7c.html

CPS plans series of bond issues through 2020 - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/columbia-public-schools-plans-series-of-bond-issues-through/article_91ca4e24-3044-11e3-96d0-10604b9f6eda.html - %50 million bond issue in April with \$40 million bond proposals every two years

November

School board committee considers projects for April ballot - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/school-board-committee-considers-projects-for-april-ballot-issue/article_4054454e-464d-11e3-ad5a-10604b9f7e7c.html

December

Council approves 17th joint Parks and Recreation and Columbia Public Schools playground project. https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/Parks_and_Facilities/annual_city_school.php#thirteen

Columbia nature school concept piques interest at open house - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/columbia-nature-school-concept-piques-interest-at-open-house/article_742bee8a-642a-11e3-8031-10604b9f6eda.html

Columbia Public Schools promotes diversity training - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/columbia-public-schools-promotes-diversity-training/article_289ea426-6f7e-11e3-aebf-10604b9f6eda.html

CPS officials address anti-violence task force - 2014 http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/crime/columbia-public-schools-officials-address-anti-violence-task-force/article_d6dd9498-5ddb-11e3-9ae5-10604b9f6eda.html – poverty a major factor in high school graduation

2014

January

Belcher to retire from CPS, take MU job - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/belcher-to-retire-from-columbia-public-schools-take-mu-job/article_734384e4-78a5-11e3-a9ac-001a4bcf6878.html – will start in August at MU

February

Columbia Public Schools explores new truancy policy - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/columbia-public-schools-explores-new-truancy-policy/article_b0c6ba04-9c48-11e3-a05c-10604b9f6eda.html – a policy that holds parents accountable when their kids miss school

March

Columbia public schools tap Stiepleman for superintendent - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/columbia-public-schools-tap-stiepleman-for-superintendent/article_773fbbf4-ab99-11e3-9ea7-0017a43b2370.html

April

Dr. Ben Tilley named Asst. Superintendent for Elementary Education - <http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/Releases/Tilley.pdf>

Columbia Board of Education earned 2014 Missouri School Boards Association Governance Team Award - <http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/misc/Governance%20Team%202014.pdf>

May

Achievement gap, funding named biggest future challenges for Columbia Public Schools - <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/174406/achievement-gap-funding-named-biggest-future-challenges-for-columbia-public-schools/>

Columbia Public Schools' English Language Learners program continues to grow -
<http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/148431/columbia-public-schools-english-language-learners-program-continues-to-grow/>

June

Stiepleman: Columbia Public Schools will need more city funds -
<http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/175723/stiepleman-columbia-public-schools-will-need-more-city-funds/>

July

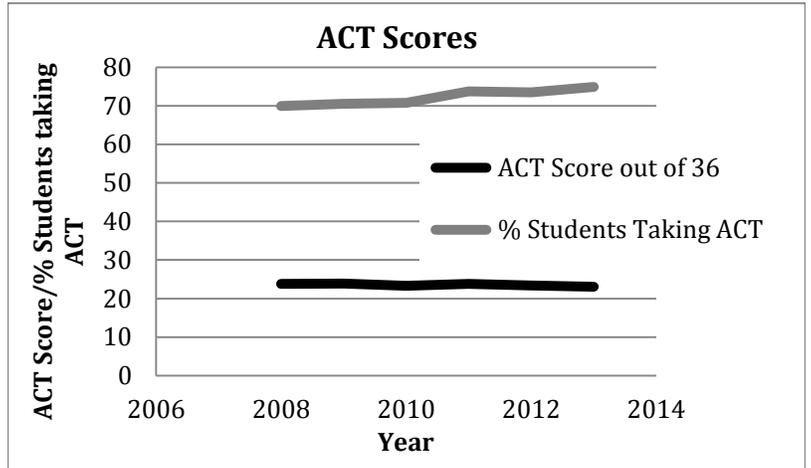
District reaches milestone in plan to remove trailers - http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/district-reaches-milestone-in-plan-to-remove-trailers/article_1bec13e1-b9ac-5e3b-adfa-32f837b83faf.html

Progress Indicators

High Quality Educational Opportunities



CPS Students compete in Siemens Science Competition. Image: CPS “What are You Doing Video”



Rationale – If Columbia is effective in providing high quality educational opportunities, then scores on standardized evaluations should increase, even as the percentage of graduating students taking the test increases.

Data Explanation – Composite ACT scores test high school student achievement and are widely used in Missouri for entry into public colleges and universities

Data Source – Department of Elementary and Secondary Education school data website - <http://mcde.dese.mo.gov>

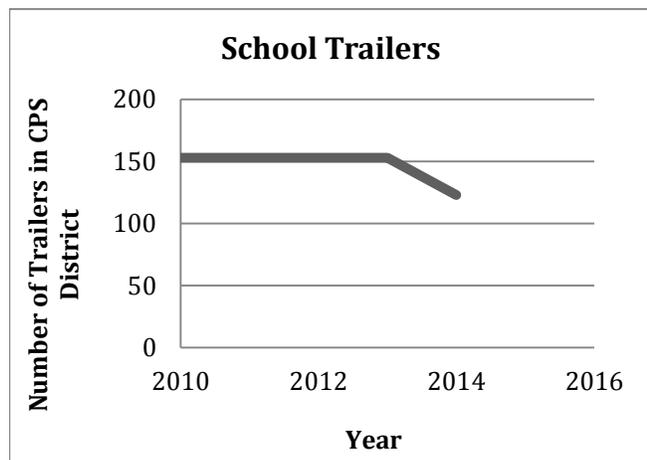
Cautions – ACT scores only capture achievement by students who believe themselves college-bound. A good measure would also capture achievement by students considering the armed services or a trade.

Facilities

Ultimate Goal:



Image from CPS power point on the bond issue



Rationale – If Columbia is supportive of high quality facilities for students and youth, then the number of trailers the public school system has to rely on for classroom space should go down

Data Explanation – The number of trailers being used as classrooms in the school system

Data Source – The data were gleaned from news stories in the Columbia Daily Tribune

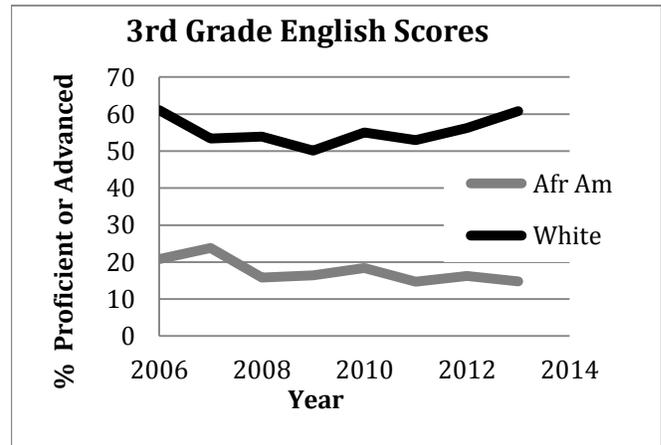
Cautions – This captures only part of what the community was concerned about in terms of facilities. Another measure might be the number of basketball courts, or public meeting spaces for youth groups

Resource Allocation

3rd Grade Communication Arts Scores



Literacy Night at Benton Elementary. Image: Benton Elementary Website



Rationale – To be successful in later grades students need to be successful in earlier grades. Currently 3rd grade is the earliest grade at which Columbia students are assessed.

Data Explanation – The data are percent students scoring proficient or advanced in 3rd Grade Communication Arts (reading and writing) on the state test, sorted by race, African American and White

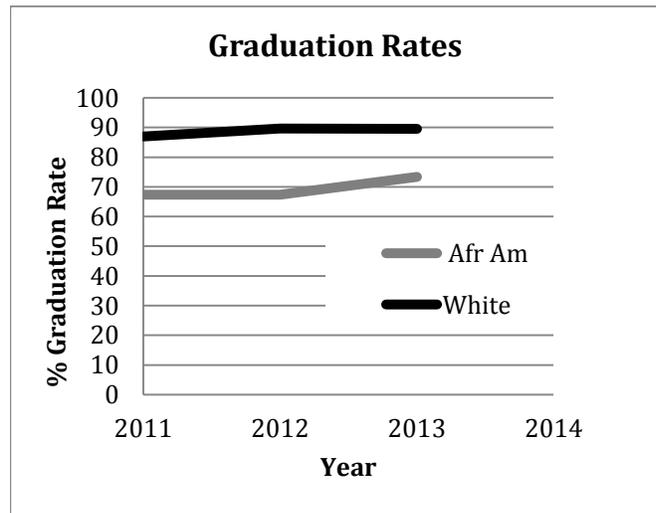
Data Source – Department of Elementary and Secondary Education school data website - <http://mcds.dese.mo.gov>

Cautions – While the data are from the school system, they reflect community issues. Only some of these issues can be directly addressed by schools, and then only with community support. Other issues like poverty, affordable housing and health care are community, state and national factors.

Minority Graduation Rate



Hickman H.S. Graduation. Image: Columbia Public Schools



Rationale – If Columbia is succeeding in meeting the needs of all students than there should be no significant difference between graduation rates for students in different racial categories, and not because white graduation rates went down.

Data Explanation – % graduation rate for African American and White students from the Columbia Public School District

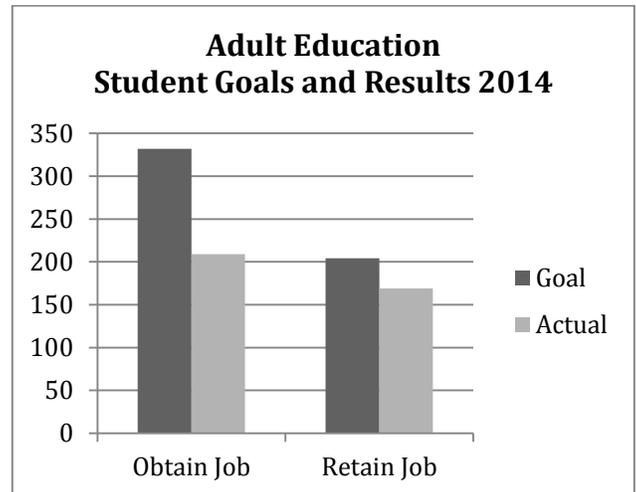
Data Source – Department of Elementary and Secondary Education school data website - <http://mcds.dese.mo.gov>

Cautions – While the data are from the school system, they reflect community issues. Only some of these issues can be directly addressed by schools, and then only with community support. Other issues like poverty, affordable housing and health care are community, state and national factors.

Adult Education (Columbia Area Career Center-Columbia Public Schools)



Adult Education Students at CACC Culinary Academy



Rationale – If the Columbia community is to fill educational gaps, then adult education must be recognized as a necessary and valuable institution in the community.

Data Explanation – Those adults seeking continuing education after high school often do so for the purpose of getting or retaining a job. The data shows that a majority of the adults using this program are looking to obtain a job over retaining a job, but that those seeking to retain are more often able to do so.

Data Source – Ms. Barbie Banks, Coordinator of the Adult Learning Center (Columbia Area Career Center)

Cautions – The Columbia Area Career Center is not the only institution that provides Adult Education. These figures are not an exhaustive list of adult education efforts in the community. ****The Commission cautions that these figures are not representative of trends over time and are not complete. The Commission recommends that the topic of Adult Education be further explored and reported on in future reports.****

Commission Recommendations to City Council

Based on comments given at a public forum held regarding the Education Vision Report and the data in this report, the Vision Commission makes the following recommendations to City Council:

1. Improve communications about construction projects and facilities changes
2. Explore potential to build more sporting facilities/coordinate with Parks and Rec to create an exhaustive list of venues for the city to maintain
3. Explore potential for more early childhood education centers, especially those that cater to infants and third shift parents
4. Work with local grocers to place the United Way 2-1-1 resource phone number on grocery sacks so that families might be able to see it easier
5. Work to create more resources, opportunities, and activities for children during the summer months.