

H. Education

This chapter details the Vision Statement, goal, and strategies developed by the Education Citizen Topic Group. They looked at three specific subtopics:

- Subtopic: Facilities
- Subtopic: Resource Allocation
- Subtopic: Quality Education/Curriculum and Programs

The Education Vision Statement is as follows:

“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.”

Facilities

Goal:
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.

Strategies and Action Plans

Strategy 1: Appoint a Community Educational Facilities Commission made up of representatives from the public and private sectors, for the purpose of inventorying public and private education buildings and grounds, assessing the public and private education facilities needs for the next 25 years, determining the costs of meeting those needs, examining and recommending options for generating necessary revenue, and exploring opportunities for the shared usage of their facilities.

Action Plan

Who should take the lead: City Council, City Manager, and Boone County Commission to appoint people to the Educational Facilities Commission	
Who else should be involved:	Potential roles:
Columbia Public Schools Chief Operating Officer	Provide inventory; studies of current and future needs, expertise with funding sources and state-of-the-art concepts in school facilities design and construction
City of Columbia (representatives of administration, Parks & Rec, Adult Education Services, etc.)	Provide inventories of city buildings, recreational facilities, public lands and liaison with Public Safety officials for consultation on security and fire prevention relating to educational facilities
Representative of Boone County government (a member of the County Commission or other)	Serve as a liaison between the Education Facilities Commission and the County; provide knowledge about existing infrastructure and public lands and about county planning
UMC Vice Chancellor for Facilities or other administrator	Provide inventory of facilities and projects of the University; advise on current and future needs of UMC students and visitors; assist and advise on joint community-university educational facilities programs and projects
Columbia and Stephens College facilities administrators	Provide inventory of facilities and projects of the colleges; advise on current and future needs of college students and visitors; assist and advise on joint community-college educational facilities programs and projects
Columbia Independent Schools / Interfaith Council representatives	Provide inventory of facilities and projects of local private schools; advise on current and future needs of private school students; assist and advise on joint public-private educational facilities programs and projects
Representative of the Green Building Council	Keep the Educational Facilities Commission advised on current practices for reducing the energy needs of school buildings
Representative(s) of private sports clubs and special interest organizations (i.e. youth organizations, senior citizens, arts groups, civic clubs)	Keep the Educational Facilities Commission advised on their programs and their needs
How to jumpstart implementation:	Other recommended action steps:
Administrators from the City of Columbia, Boone County, public, private and post-secondary schools should be invited to a regular meeting of the School Board or the City Council to discuss appointing the Educational Facilities Commission. Taking the lead in this effort — to contact these officials about	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Educational Facilities Commission by city and county administrators • Aggregate the various inventories of educational facilities available • List immediate facilities needs and determine whether existing facilities can be used to meet those needs • List projected intermediate and long-range needs, compare them to facilities inventories • Examine various methods of raising funds needed to meet current and projected needs and advocate where appropriate

<p>putting this topic on a meeting agenda — could be the Columbia School District Chief Operating Officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gather information about environmental practices being implemented around the country for making buildings more energy efficient, thereby reducing energy use and costs• Recommend policies for shared usage of public and private educational facilities• Form a strategy for educating the public about the current and projected educational facilities needs of the community
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Resource Allocation

Goal:
 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.

Strategies and Action Plans

Strategy 1: Ensure that resources are allocated so that students are supported and successful at every level of education from birth through adulthood.

Action Plan

Who should take the lead: New coordinator position created by the city/county governments.	
Who else should be involved:	Potential roles:
Public and private school administrators who oversee specialized educational programs (e.g. at-risk programs, transition programs, etc.)	Look for possible synergies, and ways to ensure that there are no gaps. Eliminate duplication, redirect those resources
Local social service agencies and charities	Look for ways to expand current collaboration and support families to ensure more security and opportunities for children
Parents as Teachers, Parent Link, Head Start, Early Head Start, Stork’s Nest, First Chance for Children, Central Missouri Resource and Referral	Look for ways to expand collaboration, supporting mothers and young children in both parenting and educational matters
City of Columbia/ Boone County governing bodies	Provide a position and an office, through which this information and these services are coordinated and disseminated
Post secondary admission counselors and student support services representatives	Support students’ transition into post secondary education
Adult career counselors (e.g. Job Point)	Support adult education and job-retraining opportunities
How to jumpstart implementation:	Other recommended action steps:
A space should be provided where participating agencies can gather and arrange services for patrons (at least one afternoon per week). This should be done by the City of Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify available, applicable and effective resources within the community to provide a database • Promote collaboration between various social service agencies in the city/county, by providing a space (e.g. one afternoon per week) and a coordinator. This would be a public/not for profit partnership. This position would be responsible for inviting agencies to the table and coordinating the days and times of the multi—agency gatherings. This position would also distribute information to the schools and the public • Disseminate resource information throughout the schools- guidance counselors, teachers and students

Quality Education /
Curriculum and Programs

Goal:
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.

Strategies and Action Plans

Strategy 1: Increase the quantity and quality of early childhood (birth to 5 years) educational opportunities so that children are prepared for kindergarten.

Action Plan

Who should take the lead: The lead role in implementing this strategy should be taken by the city and county government representatives that serve on the coordinating board: Columbia City Manager and Boone County Presiding Commissioner	
Who else should be involved:	Potential roles:
Members of the Boone County Coordinating Board for Early Childhood Education and its Advisory Committee who represent a wide spectrum of government, business, and education leaders	Implement the Action Steps to accomplish the strategy
How to jumpstart implementation:	Other recommended action steps:
In order to jumpstart implementation efforts, administrative and budgetary steps need to be taken by the City of Columbia and Boone County so that the above steps can be addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve our recruitment and retention of high risk families into high quality early childhood programs and parenting education programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insure that the currently available resources are reaching the intended families. Determine the extent of unmet need • Ameliorate the harm done by high student mobility through stronger coordination among the early childhood programs within Boone County school districts and among early education organizations • Strengthen the quality of all licensed providers by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rating each program with the Missouri Quality Rating System (QRS) Working with existing agencies/organizations in such ways as business coaching, new teacher training, and centralizing a bank of substitute teachers • Provide means for the coordination of the services currently available • Increase public awareness of the importance of school readiness and the community-wide benefits of leaving no child behind • Enlist more community organizations and leaders, including churches and businesses, in promoting high quality programming for children from 0-5 • Draft a plan for offering a year of universal pre K, utilizing both public schools and private providers and employing a sliding fee scale • Work with the Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood to promote statewide agenda by influencing both the legislative and administrative branches of government • Establish a "front door" to the early education system, so that new parents know where to go to get information about and access to the wide array of services available in the city and county • Establish a plan for collecting relevant data for analysis including an assessment of needs and an evaluation of progress in meeting those needs

Strategy 2: Organize to ensure that world-class curriculum, programs, and instructional techniques are provided by every educational entity, based on research findings.

Action Plan

Who should take the lead: A coalition of leaders from the university/colleges/school districts (Chancellor, Presidents, Superintendents) should take the lead in implementing this strategy	
Who else should be involved:	Potential roles:
Chancellors, Presidents (or designated personnel) of local university and colleges	Implement the Action Steps to accomplish the strategy
Curriculum and Instruction Specialists of local public and private school districts	
How to jumpstart implementation:	Other recommended action steps:
Formation of a task force to prepare for implementation of Action Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the literature to determine research-based curriculum, programs and instructional techniques appropriate for targeted educational entities. • Ensure curriculum alignment with relevant standards [such as Show Me Standards, Grade Level Expectations, National Standards per academic discipline or Advanced Placement standards; • Determine the level of utilization of research-based curriculum by individual educational entities; • Act as a resource to assist educational institutions in acquiring adequate curricular information • Programs: ensure the presence of personalized climates, professional learning communities, adequate student support and flexible learning opportunities where appropriate • Ensure that educational entities offer relevant, comprehensive programs such as the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Parents As Teachers: Birth to 3 yrs old population * Health and safety education * Diversity education * Title One Preschool: 3 to 5 yrs old population (income-based) * Early Childhood Special Education: 3 to 5 yrs old, special-needs population * K-12 Comprehensive Educational Programs: Public and Private Schools, address special needs populations as well * English Language Learners * Gifted Education * Career Center: career and vocational offerings including satellite vocational training programs * Academic Enhancement/Support Programs: Underrepresented student populations requiring additional support to function at expected/potential academic levels of performance (e.g., MAC Scholars Program) * Post-Secondary Educational Institutions: Degree granting * Continuing Education Courses * Communiversities Courses: classes for entertainment, enrichment and high-interest activities (i.e., arts and crafts, swimming, various hobbies, etc.) • Provide recommendations for acquiring adequate programming for educational organizations lacking this information • Assess each educational institutions' use of research-based instructional strategies • Act as a resource to assist educational institutions in acquiring adequate instructional techniques information

Strategy 3: Develop programs for all educational providers within the Columbia community to network, share educational strategies and techniques, and encourage professional development.

Action Plan

Who should take the lead: DESE has a Leadership Academy in place that would serve as an excellent model. One resource person from each area (pre-K, K-12, home school, higher education, etc.) should coordinate to accomplish the strategy. It is ideal that the lead change each year to reflect an emphasis on each area of education	
Who else should be involved:	Potential roles:
MSTA	This would help get the word out to all MO educators if we wanted to go outside the Columbia community
MO Home Schoolers - mohomeschoolers.org	Would bring in the home school educators
Missouri Art Education Association	Has a good model that we can use
Columbia Public Schools	Would be able to get the word to the Columbia community, K-12
Higher Education Institutions	Would be able to get the word to the college faculty and pre-service educators
All Pre-K providers	Would bring in the Pre-K educators
DESE	Provides an excellent model for this opportunity with their Leadership Academy
How to jumpstart implementation:	Other recommended action steps:
Begin planning the opportunity well in advance. Set goals of when certain elements need to be planned (location, invitees, date, time, etc.). Strategize how to meet the needs of each level (pre-K, K-12, etc.) and how to make the opportunity an annual occurrence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borrow ideas from the DESE Leadership Academy. Get someone from that program on board to help plan this program • Establish connections at each level (listed above) • Work to plan an opportunity similar to the Leadership Academy that includes all areas of education. This could be for just the Columbia community or Columbia and surrounding communities

Strategy 4: Emphasize quality education as a community value by fostering volunteer service-related/hands-on learning projects for students and assisting residents in identifying volunteer opportunities in the educational community.

Action Plan

Who should take the lead: City of Columbia Volunteer Coordinator	
Who else should be involved:	Potential roles:
Institutions of Higher Education	Encourage student participation in service learning opportunities
Columbia Career Center	Encourage student participation in service learning opportunities
Chamber of Commerce	Promote service learning to local businesses - networking
Partners in Education – Columbia Public Schools	Encourage or mandate student participation
Private schools	Encourage or mandate student participation
Community Volunteer Organizations	Share volunteer opportunities
Voluntary Action Center	Share volunteer opportunities
City of Columbia – Volunteer Department	Coordination
How to jumpstart implementation:	Other recommended action steps:
Coordinate communication efforts amongst constituents and organize meetings of all involved parties to discuss details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Columbia Public Schools and private schools should implement a mandatory requirement for volunteer/service learning opportunities • Institutions of Higher Education in the Columbia community should implement or enhance volunteer/service learning opportunities • Increase communication among pre-K, K-12, institutions of higher education, and volunteer organizations, to discuss available opportunities • Develop ongoing database of opportunities for students to select the appropriate agency or project • Recruit volunteers into the schools.