

# Massachusetts is Reaching Higher

*Monday, October 27, 2014  
MASSAA, Franklin MA*



# Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Overview of Reach Higher initiative nationally
  - *Review of Harvard convening and overview of San Diego*
- Who else should be at this table?
- Establishing work groups
  - *#1 School counselor and non-profit organization pre-service training and ongoing professional development*
  - *#2 – Higher education, admission & financial aid strategies*
  - *#3 – Statewide and local policy review and development*
- Break
- Work Group discussions
- Conclusion and summary

# Welcome & Introductions

- Who is here?
  - State name & affiliation
  - Share why are you here





# Goals of this meeting

- Understand the Reach Higher initiative and desired outcomes nationally and locally
- Discuss need for school counselor training, policy review and systemic change
- Break into three smaller work groups and create action plan to accomplish goals of Reach Higher
- Participate in conversation and discussion

# Why we are here



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xR139nDUxo&feature=youtu.be>



# Reach Higher – What is it?

- The Reach Higher initiative is the First Lady's effort to inspire every student in America to take charge of their future by completing their education past high school, whether at a professional training program, a community college, or a four-year college or university.
- In today's economy, a high school diploma just isn't enough. Students have to reach higher, which is why the First Lady is working to rally the country around the President's "North Star" goal — that by 2020, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world.

# Reach Higher – What is it? *(continued)*

- **Expanding Opportunity**
  - *The Reach Higher initiative will help make sure all students understand what they need to complete their education, including:*
    - *Exposing students to college and career opportunities*
    - *Understanding financial aid eligibility that can make college affordability a reality*
    - *Encouraging academic planning and summer learning opportunities*
    - *Supporting high school counselors who can help more kids get into college*



# College Opportunity Agenda

- January 2014 – Over 100 colleges & universities and 40 non-profit organizations were invited to the White House to recognize their pledges to help more students attend college
- May 2014 – school counselor leaders attended a White House meeting to discuss how school counselors can assist more students reach post secondary education
- July 2014 – First Lady speaks at ASCA
- July 28, 2014 – White House/ HGSE Convening
- November 17-18, 2014 – White House/ San Diego Convening
- December 4, 2014 – Summit on College Opportunity





# College Opportunity Agenda: Strengthening School Counseling and College Advising

- Convening held at Harvard Graduate School of Education July 2014
- Over 120 people representing non-profits, higher education, K-12, business, policy makers and philanthropic organizations attended
- Focused on three themes
  - *Professional development & training*
  - *Innovative programing and research*
  - *College counseling tools*
- Designed to inspire *new* action planning and moving forward



# San Diego State University convening – November 17 & 18

- 20+ Universities, 20+ Districts & 20+ Partnerships Supporting Presidents 2020+ Goal
- Focused on bringing state or district teams together to plan steps to achieve the goals
- Teams invited and given preference in attendance
- Objective: Create and implement **measurable action plans** for improving school counseling preparation, programs, and practices with the goal of increasing college access for all students.



# Partnering organizations

- *MA Secondary School Principals*
- *MA School Superintendents*
- *MA School Counselors*
- *MA Student Financial Aid Administrators*
- *MA Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education*
- *MA Department of Higher Education*
- *MA Business Education Alliance & Future Ready*
- *School counselor educators*
- *MA legislature Joint Committee on Education*
- *uAspire*
- *Jobs For the Future*
- *NE Association for College Admission Counseling*
- *ACT*
- *College Board*

# Other invited organizations

- *MA Executive Office of Education*
- *Elementary School Principals Association*
- *MA Educational Opportunities Association*
- *MA Association of School Committees*
- *MA Teachers Association*
- *AFT- MA*
- *Rennie Center*



# Who is missing

- Who else should be involved with this initiative?
  - *Groups/organizations*
    1. \_\_\_\_\_
    2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - *Individuals*
    1. \_\_\_\_\_
    2. \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you willing to invite them to participate?

# Work groups

- We will create subgroups to drill down, study, discuss and work to secure commitments from the following 3 broad topics
- #1 – School counselor and non-profit organization pre-service training and ongoing professional development
- #2 – Higher education, admission & financial aid strategies
- #3 – Statewide and local policy review and development

# School counselor/non-profit pre-service training and ongoing PD

- Suggested group composition
  - *School counselors*
  - *School counselor educators*
  - *Non-profit organization representatives*
  - *District K-12 staff*
  - *Educational associations*
- Who should make a commitment?
  - *School districts*
  - *Higher education*
  - *Educational associations*
  - *Policy makers*

# Higher education, admission & financial aid strategies

- Suggested group composition
  - *Admission counselors*
  - *Financial aid administrators*
  - *Non-profit organization representatives*
  - *K-12 district staff*
  - *Standardized testing representatives*
- Who should make a commitment?
  - *Higher education officials*
  - *Educational associations*
  - *Policy makers*



# Statewide and local policy review and development

- Suggested group composition
  - *State agency representatives*
  - *Policy makers*
  - *Legislative members*
  - *Non-profit representatives*
- Who should make a commitment?
  - *State agencies*
  - *Higher education*
  - *Educational associations*
  - *Policy makers*

**Break**

15 minute break



# What is a commitment

- Must be new and different than previous activities
- Can be large or small scale
- Should be research based
- Should include measurement of assessment – did it work?
- Can it be replicated
- Consider partnering with others – schools, higher education, non-profits



# Commitment examples

- Large scale
  - *To mandate all high school graduates have an individual learning/career plan*
  - *School district adopts policy to no longer hire new school counselors with no college admission counseling training*
- Small scale
  - *Local school counselor association will provide free full-day college admission information access and financial aid training workshops to 100 counselors in fall and spring PD workshops*
  - *School district pledges to offer PSAT testing for free to all juniors*

# How to make a pledge?

- [goo.gl/d3SB9C](http://goo.gl/d3SB9C)
- Currently being house at the San Diego State University website
- Will be then uploaded to a Pledge database which can be sorted by topic, state, impact, etc.

# Sub Group tasks

- Assign a facilitator and recorder
- Determine capacity – how far and wide can this scope of work go
- Determine action items
  - *Who else needs to be in your group?*
  - *How do you share information about needs and commitment submissions*
- What else do you need to move forward?
- What timeline can this work be completed?

# Work Group discussion time



# Wrap up & next steps

- What worked for you today?
- What could be better?
- What do you need that you don't have?
- What are the next steps?
- What are you willing to do after leaving today to help achieve the mission of Reach Higher?

