

## **CREATING A P-16 EDUCATION SYSTEM FOR EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

1. **WHEREAS**, there is a need for a comprehensive education process in this nation that begins with making sure our youngest children are prepared to attend school and ends with a postsecondary education that educates, provides experiences and opportunities, instills an interest in life-long learning and continuous skill development, and educates and trains our youth with the necessary skills to be employable in a global market economy; and
2. **WHEREAS**, if this nation and its individual communities, especially cities where the largest number of at-risk children reside, does not begin to address the needs of children ages 0-5 years to ensure that they have the appropriate nourishment, emotional and physical stimulation, and challenging intellectual activity including preparing to learn how to read, count and know other basics to be ready for kindergarten, these children will begin school already far behind in their skills development; and
3. **WHEREAS**, our current education and workforce training systems are not coordinated nor has it been a priority to ensure that students:
  - are prepared for school academically, physically and emotionally when they enter kindergarten,
  - continuously evaluated and assessed to make sure they are making timely progress in the attainment of core or fundamental education skills,
  - are made aware of and provided the information to choose the appropriate educational courses, requirements, experiences and opportunities during the middle and high school grades that enable them to graduate high school in a timely fashion and attend a postsecondary education,
  - informed as to what skills and competencies are required for the variety of work they may be interested in pursuing, and
  - instilled with an understanding of the importance and belief in the need for continuous life-long learning; and

4. **WHEREAS**, it is critical that mayors, who are the chief locally elected officials, begin to take a leadership role in facilitating the conversation on a local level in order to create the opportunity for establishing a comprehensive seamless education process and system; and
5. **WHEREAS**, without at least a P-16 system in our cities and across the nation, the United States will find itself short-changed in a very competitive global market economy given that other nations with which we compete are developing and supporting such a system,
6. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges mayors to initiate a civic discussion within their cities concerning P-16 education in an effort to begin to build an understanding of the need and support for such a systematic approach as has occurred in Austin, Denver, Portland and Columbus, and this includes mayors creating a local P-16 council that helps facilitate that discussion, policy development, priority setting and expanded involvement in education from early childhood through postsecondary; and
7. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to lead the introduction of and raise this issue within their states requesting governors and state legislatures join mayors in establishing policies and funding of programs to enable the creation of a P-16 education process and system in their state as well as mayors requesting that they be included for membership on statewide P-16 councils; and
8. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors who are establishing P-16 efforts and councils to include yearly reporting of disaggregated data collection in those efforts, not only on high school completion and drop outs, but also on postsecondary completion and drop outs because both are important data in building accountability for a P-16 system; and
9. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges mayors to work with school systems to establish a better linkage or connection between

education and related social services so children are ready for school, schools are ready for the children, alternatives and options are available to all youth to continue their learning in different settings, and there is a comprehensive support system to enable children, students and youth to be successful as long as they continue to attain the necessary skills to progress in a timely fashion toward a goal of a high school diploma and further postsecondary education either in a 2- or 4-year school or technical certification program; and

10. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors suggests mayors build comprehensive partnerships with higher education, business, not-for-profit organizations, other governmental entities, faith-based groups, and other education stakeholders from across their cities to sustain and continuously improve the P-16 system to provide the necessary array of services, programs, experiences and opportunities needed to ensure that all children are successful, no child is left behind and all youth have access to postsecondary education opportunities; and
11. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors understands that through the leadership of mayors, schools can become centers of community and joint use facilities for teaching and learning, pre-school, life long learning, workforce skills development and training, social services, sports and recreation, out-of-school time, arts and culture, and pre-school, elementary, secondary and postsecondary education as well as other activities all related to constructing a functioning P-16 and beyond education process and system.

Projected Cost: Unknown