

Research Partnership for New York City Schools  
Data Workgroup Meeting  
Monday July 17, 2006  
3:30-5:00PM

Participants: David Crook (CUNY); Paul Gazzerro (Standard and Poor's); Keith Goldfeld (Princeton); Jennifer Hogan (DoE); Gabby Kreisler Sheely (DoE); Dorothy Shipp (Baruch); Tony Shorris (Princeton); Adira Siman (IBO)

Items Discussed

#### I. Project Update and One Year Targets

- Funding - grants received (W.T. Grant, Robert Sterling Clark, and the Pyewacket Fund) ; multiple grant proposals in process
- Update on counterpart work groups
  - Research Priorities - DoE Outline of Research Priorities
  - Finance and Administration - Research Advisory Board, RFP
- Update on next steps
  - Contacted State Representative David Abrams but no reply yet

#### II. Selection of Foundational Data - Review of Data Fields Document

- Data Collection Conceptualized - three possible options presented (yet also needs to be driven by priorities developed by Research Priorities Group)
  - Opportunistic - looks at who already has collected data and start by using those fields
  - Best Practices/ Modeling/ Replication - talk to Chicago Consortium → model their practices in terms of data fields and supplement with NYC specific data
  - Big Picture - look at all major data sources that already exist (eg. ATS, Special Ed, etc.) and build data fields list by compiling from these various sources
  -
- Challenges:
  - Many large datasets already exist → but need insider at each place to help make sense of the data
  - Need for systematic (anticipatory) planning in order to avoid going back to data sources multiple times
  - Question of how to link data from multiple sources in a meaningful way (is this possible or even desirable?)
  - Question of what year to start collecting data from for the NYC Research Partnership (needs to be driven by research priorities work group).
  - Need to examine quality of existing data sources.
- Next Steps
  - Determine fields routinely collected by Chicago Consortium.
  - Build out from this initial set of data fields to determine what other data fields are routinely collected by the DoE and/or used by NYC researchers.

### III. Immediate Tasks

- Circulate draft of questions to be asked at meeting with the Chicago Consortium next week. Request feedback from Data Work Group members.
- Recommend discussion with DoE Data Warehouse Group.
- Recommend discussion with researchers who are highly knowledgeable about other key existing datasets.

IV. Next Meeting: Mid August, 2006