

DRAFT

Education Initiative Review 3

Initiative: Convert two schools, preferably Fourth Street and Chase Street elementary schools, to new school models (charter, magnet, etc.) and develop them, with shared decision-making by the school district, parents, community leaders, and neighborhoods, by August 2008. Consider additional new model schools as well.

Review

1. The goal is to create two model schools. The group may work on one and then address the other. We will have one model on paper within 49-79 days.
2. Whatever models are developed, the community must be an equal partner in the decision-making process.
3. Whatever models are pursued, they would target students from diverse backgrounds. The new model school would keep the population of the community. We do not want to bring in outside, non-community students. In particular, we do not want to bring in other students simply to change the demographics.
4. All organizational options would stay on the table. The goal is to choose the organizational model that would best serve the students and the community.
5. Chase and Fourth Street were initially targeted as a result of parental and community discussion, as well as potential resources that could support the effort. It is not necessary that these models be located at these sites.
6. At least one of these schools would serve as a laboratory for teaching teachers and school leaders how to serve children in poverty. The University leadership for this could come from the College of Education—it could also come from other departments within the University.
7. At least one of these schools would work with the UGA education department to provide a high quality after school program.
8. At least one of these schools would provide an extended school year. Different extended school year options need to be explored.
9. It is recognized that schools cannot solve the problems of poverty by themselves. Other community resources must be coordinated in a cooperative way to serve school communities. At least one of these new model schools, in collaboration with community resources, will address the comprehensive needs of children, parents, and families in poverty. (This Resource Center component will be developed with the Family Engagement Initiative.)
10. The Community Resource Center would support this community/school development to engage employers, businesses, and churches in the overall implementation of this new school/community partnership.
11. Employers of parents would also become engaged to encourage parental and business involvement.
12. At least one of these models would focus on providing male teachers and mentors, with a focus on qualified African American and Latino teachers and mentors.
13. At least one of these new model schools would start at 3 years old.

14. This would be a Championship School—available to all kids in the community.
15. There would be high expectations related to values, respect, and character development. This school would be considered a great place to work and a great place for parents to send their kids to school. There would be rigor in the curriculum as well as enrichment during the school day.
16. This model community school could create its own rules in regard to hiring the best staff and maintaining a culture of high expectations and achievement. (Rules would not be created to limit enrollment based grades or academic achievement.)
17. This school would be owned by the community and the community would feel respected and wanted.