

Education Committee Recommendations

Family Engagement

1. In order to promote the academic achievement of all students, we recommend the establishment of Family Engagement and Resource Centers in every Clarke County school. These centers would support the participation of parents and families in every facet of children's education and development from birth to adulthood, recognizing that parents and families are the primary influence in children's lives.
2. Provide parenting opportunities that focus on providing resources and support to parents.
3. Implement comprehensive Fatherhood Programs.

Early Childhood

1. Develop strategies to increase access to high quality early care and learning programs for children living in poverty and near poverty.
2. Develop strategies for increasing the supply of programs that are effective in developing parenting skills and behaviors that promote healthy early child development in all developmental areas to facilitate children's success in school and life.
3. Develop strategies for increasing the supply of programs that are effective in developing parenting skills and behaviors that promote healthy early child development in all developmental areas to facilitate children's success in school and life.
4. Development of a Family Mentoring Program with emphasis on supporting parents from birth.
5. Ask UGA and Athens Tech to find faculty and graduate students willing to volunteer free professional development for child care settings serving low income children. This could be assistance with the development of family literacy programs or in professional development of the staff.
6. Develop an annual agenda for early childhood development in the Athens area. This agenda could include:
 - a. Legislation and/or school policies that need to be addressed
 - b. Funding needs and where the funding can come from
 - c. Invite elected officials to events at early childhood sites and share our agenda with them and ask for their support
 - d. Maintain ongoing contact with our elected officials to help assure their ongoing support

New Models

1. .To create a 3 yrs. to first grade community school that would grow through fifth grade. The school would focus on developing language and would be operated as a community charter school.
2. Develop a Boarding School to serve students who are at-risk of dropping out of school.
3. Provide education programs and counseling to prison/jail inmates.

4. Develop incentives to recruit and retain high quality teachers in Athens Clarke County.
5. To implement a Charter School Forum to introduce the charter school concept to the Athens community.
6. Implement a comprehensive remedial reading program, with comprehensive teacher training, for all students beginning in fourth grade who do not meet CRCT expectations. Recommended comprehensive programs include Corrective Reading, Wilson, and Language!
7. To study the reasons why UGA education graduates choose to stay in Athens or go elsewhere.
8. Investigate charter schools as a possible tool for improving public education in Athens.
9. Athens Clarke County School System and the University of Georgia pursue an Early College Program.
10. Incorporate Green Principles as new schools are built in Athens.
11. Athens Clarke County School System develop a K-8 Neighborhood School Model at Chase Street School.

Career Development

1. Provide ACC students with broader exposure to career and college choices at an earlier (i.e. elementary school) age.
2. Ensure all ACC students have access to post secondary education.
3. Develop a comprehensive vo-tech, life skills, career development program for all students starting at an early age. An emphasis would be placed on the Chamber playing a proactive role and empowering employers to develop programs to address real workforce needs.

K-12

1. (1) Increase assistance for students under the current Five Graduation Test Requirement, and (2) Work to level the playing field between Georgia and other states.
2. All school students of Athens Clarke County School System wear uniforms consisting of khaki slacks or skirts and knit shirts with collars in white or yellow or blue.
3. Develop a broader scope of positive leisure activities for children (i.e. chess, checkers, tennis, golf, photography, bee-keeping, woodworking, cooking, shop, etc.)
4. Provide a Meta-Learning Center to help families achieve life-long learning opportunities.
5. Provide professional learning that promotes reflective practice and cultural proficiency to help educators connect diverse students and families to learning.
6. Partners for a Prosperous Athens consider setting up Plaza Comunitaria's in several locations in Athens, in addition to the one now functioning in Pinewood.

7. Secure permanent funding to support after-school and summer programs so parents don't have to pay the \$6/per day/per child fee, which prohibits many struggling students from getting the extra instructional time they need.
8. Develop a partnership between the Clarke County School District and UGA's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication to create "catch-up and keep-up" curricula that will bridge one school year with the next. These programs would be shown on Channel 16 during summers.
9. Develop a nurturing environment in Clarke County for young children and their families.

Adult Education/Cont. Ed.

1. Conduct a Needs Assessment to determine the Continuing Education needs in Athens-Clarke County.
2. Adult Educ., GED, and ESOL should be offered at times and locations that meet the needs of local residents.
3. We will do a needs assessment of the learning needs of adults in Athens.

Mentoring

1. Pursue a Family Mentoring Program to Address the Holistic Needs of a Family.
2. Develop a Volunteer Center to provide support for quality training, coordination, recruitment, and communication for mentoring and other volunteer agencies in Athens and surrounding areas.