

# Oakland Unified School District

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# Background

- The Youth Data Archive (YDA) is a data collaboration effort to use data across city, county and district agencies to understand, analyze and address youth needs, emphasizing a focus on the whole child.
- In the works for many years with different county and city agencies and now will be governed by Oakland Joint Powers Authority.
- Will be working with SPHERE and the John Gardner Center as the third party database/research provider.

# Question Driving Policy

- How can we use data across districts, county, and city agencies to serve our students most effectively and efficiently?

# What does this mean for student achievement?

- Agencies will be better able to identify challenge areas and target student populations facing such challenges
- Type of Data Collected:
  - Student identifiers and demographic information
  - School enrollment
  - School attendance
  - Academic achievement
  - Student services participation
  - Disciplinary data
- With other needs being met, students will be better able to achieve academically in school

# What does this mean for student achievement? (continued)

- Types of Services that SPHERE will provide:
  - Training to JPA members and other key personnel to engage in data-driven inquiry.
  - Provide further analysis beyond initial data query that may involve:
    - Tracking cohorts over time and across schools;
    - Predicting the impact of school closures on adjacent schools
    - Using regression analysis to test the effectiveness of specific interventions or instructional programs controlling for student characteristics.

# Accomplishments 2007

- Oct 07 – Interviewed other districts and agencies re: best practices and common challenges (San Diego, Redwood City, Multnomah County)
- Nov 07 - Oakland Unified leadership met with legal and IT teams to finalize MOU
- Dec 07 - The JPA convened

# Accomplishments 2008

- Jan 08 – OUSD refined individual data-sharing protocols and reached out to agencies regarding individual data needs
- Feb 08 - Safe Passages/Youth Ventures hosted a meeting with various partner agencies and the district to discuss YDA partnership and next steps
- March 08 – JPA members agreed to create Core Teams at their agencies to focus on YDA work, to develop an MOU with SPHERE, and to participate in data pilot
- April 9, 2008 – OUSD-SPHERE MOU approved by OUSD State Administrator/Board of Education

# Challenges

- Multiple agencies => coordination difficulties, time commitment from core teams, identifying who is in charge of moving this forward (Youth Ventures JPA? OUSD? SPHERE?)
- Lack of timelines, accountability by agencies
- Previous history => Hesitation about reality of moving forward
- Need to build trust in 3<sup>rd</sup> party research organization
- Youth Ventures JPA, as a new governing body, needs to set up the systems and structures to support project needs
- Different needs => Various agencies face different legal restrictions, motivations for participating



# Other Districts

- San Diego
  - County training for district employees on Foster Youth Services (FYS) data system
  - MOU pending approval for cross-agency data-sharing
  - Technology challenges to figure out levels of district access for FYS
- Redwood City
  - Many city, county agencies are on board with district
  - Much smaller than OUSD
  - Less stringent privacy protocols for data sharing
- Multnomah County (Portland)
  - Collaboration between CBOs, city/county agencies and schools
  - Web based, easy to use
  - Each agency has one person that has access

None of the districts we contacted have the layer of data analysis and reporting that the Youth Data Archive will provide.

# Recommendations/Next Steps

- Establish a timeline for task completion, get agencies to commit to timelines
- Clarify/define roles of Youth Ventures JPA and all partner agencies
- Determine topic of pilot data report and expected impact of data on student outcomes
- Youth Ventures JPA retreat to establish the infrastructure needed to support YDA project
- Create a long term strategic plan for how to use data to improve student outcomes



# Respondents

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