



Building a Thriving Community in Providence A Partnership with the Harvard Education Redesign Lab

Since taking office in 2015, Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza has outlined three big goals for the city: Excellence in Education, Jobs and Economic Opportunity, and building a Thriving Community. Strengthening the city's public schools has consistently been a cornerstone of his administration's work. In just two years, he has made significant investments in the system and brought on a new leadership team to support his goals for the city's students. Already, more students than ever before participated in the city's 2016 summer learning program, technology investments have been made to increase access to Chromebooks in the classroom, and chronic absenteeism has decreased through a partnership with the White House's My Brother's Keeper initiative.

PROVIDENCE'S LONG-TERM VISION FOR CHILDREN

In 2016, the school district adopted a new strategic plan, establishing goals focused on academic readiness, maximizing learning time, building a strong workforce, and improving the level of service and strategic allocation of resources. Providence's *By All Means* initiatives are directly aligned with these goals:

- Utilize technology and innovative learning models to ensure

that all students have access to individualized academic supports.

- Strengthen and expand Providence's summer learning program to curb the summer slide by providing more students with a high quality academic experience.
- Assess, evaluate, and expand services to meet the social-emotional needs of students through improved contracting and better system integration.

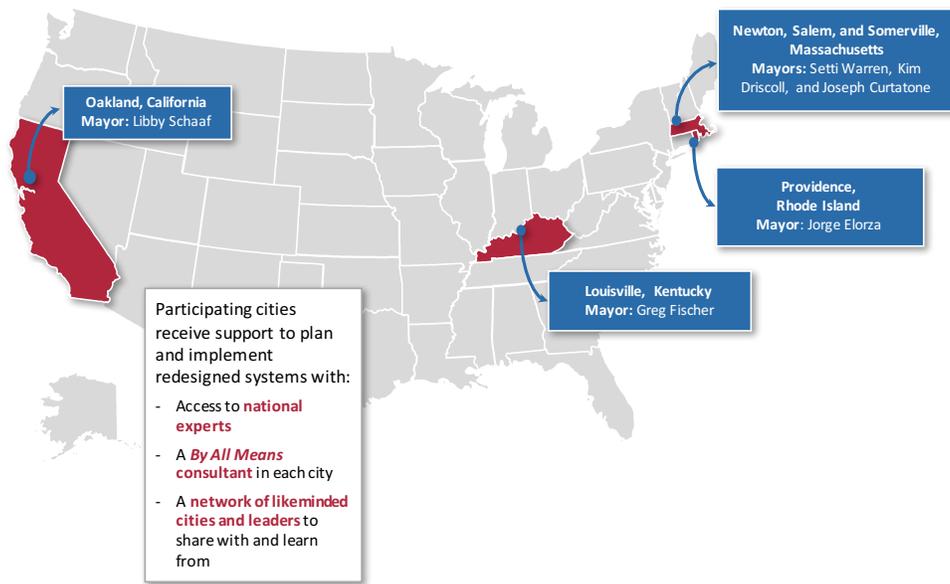
INITIAL FOCUS AREAS FOR BY ALL MEANS

Over the next two years, the Children's Cabinet will focus on: establishing new and replicating nationally recognized personalized learning models (e.g. Summit Schools) throughout all district schools by providing increased professional development for teachers and a 1:1 ratio of computers to students; increasing the number of quality summer learning "slots" by 30% for the summer of 2017; and increasing the number of social-emotional learning supports and opportunities for students across all district schools by 2021.

Providence hosted a citywide education summit in April 2017 as a way to kick off this effort, build support for emerging programs, and bolster support and partnerships for the district. The summit and the community engagement work that follows is being supported by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation.



Mayor Jorge Elorza



By All Means
is redesigning
education to
restore social
mobility

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ABOUT BY ALL MEANS

The *By All Means* initiative is addressing the iron law correlation between socioeconomic status and education outcomes by partnering with visionary mayors and superintendents from Louisville, KY; Oakland, CA; Providence, RI; and Salem, Somerville, and Newton, MA. Each city has created a Children’s Cabinet—a cross-sector team made up of mayors, superintendents, health and human services directors, and community and civic leaders—to embark on a redesign process that is focused on creating integrated systems of opportunity and support from early childhood through higher education. These cities are laboratories for the construction of advanced, integrated systems which will make it possible for all children to succeed.

With support from the Education Redesign Lab, each cabinet has designed its own ambitious agenda with system-transforming initiatives that are inclusive, build on prior successes, and chart new territory in providing comprehensive wrap-around supports and a full range of learning opportunities to all students. These plans include components of the Lab’s three initial design elements: creating personalized systems of education and child development that offer student-centered, customized learning experiences; integrating social, emotional, and health services with education; and providing greater access to high quality expanded learning and enrichment experiences. To accelerate this work, the Harvard Graduate School of Education hosts the cabinets for five 2-3 day retreats over 2.5 years, bringing leaders to Cambridge to learn from national experts, Harvard faculty, and from each other.

ABOUT THE EDUCATION REDESIGN LAB

In order to overcome widespread inequity in education and child development opportunities and outcomes, the Education Redesign Lab was created to advance a new educational design—one that creates the systems of opportunity and support necessary for all students to be prepared for success in college and careers. This 21st century design will align and integrate systems of education and child/youth development to personalize supports, services, and opportunities for disadvantaged children beginning in early childhood and proceeding through higher education.

The Lab’s plan for action has four primary components: advocacy, field building, field work, and research. Advocacy involves partnering with national civic and policy leaders and grassroots organizations in communities to build a field committed to this new vision of education, while also identifying policy barriers and opportunities to implementing a more comprehensive system of supports for children in communities across the country. Our field work focuses on working with communities where top leaders have embraced a broader definition of education and are committed to realizing a system where all children thrive. Research on promising practices and barriers to success plays a critical role in this work: it guides our thinking, shapes our ongoing theory of action, and provides the basis for our programs, policy, and advocacy work.

The Lab was founded by Paul Reville, Professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and former Massachusetts Secretary of Education.