

ALLIANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS & PRIORITIES, 2010-2011

A Sharpened Focus

In January, 2011, the Alliance Board of Directors approved a new strategic plan that sharpened the organization's strategic focus. This plan commits us to three core investment priorities: **leadership development, effective teaching and academic rigor** in Seattle Public Schools. Of the many levers to pull in pursuit of improved educational outcomes for children, we believe these are the highest-return investments we can make.

2010 Accomplishments

2010 was an exhilarating year. We enhanced our financial health and stability, took risks and succeeded in the advocacy arena as never before, expanded our Board of Directors, and nurtured relationships with community partners large and small.

Our signature accomplishment was leading a successful public campaign to reform the 2010-2013 SPS teacher contract. In doing so, we united 35 diverse community groups and civic leaders (forming the *Our Schools Coalition*) to support excellence in education. The new contract, which introduced increased accountability and support mechanisms – as well as new career and compensation opportunities – for teachers, has been hailed as a national model and is being looked to across Washington State and the country. Now in Year 1 of implementation, we know anecdotally the contract is already having significant and positive impacts on teaching practice and student achievement.

2011 Initiatives

Our work ahead will be focused around our limited set of core priorities:

Leadership Development: Supporting and developing strong, effective leaders within the system, including the School Board, Superintendent and principal corps.

Effective Teaching: Promoting greater accountability and opportunity within the teaching corps through contract reform, and developing a robust pipeline of talented, well-trained teachers equipped for long-term success in the classroom through the Seattle Urban Teacher Residency.

Academic Rigor: Investing in specific curricula that set a high bar for students and make “college-ready” a reality. This includes Readers-Writers Workshop, expanded Advanced Placement offerings and the Seattle College Access Network.

Across our efforts, we will continue our role as convener, bringing together disparate voices across the education continuum. The Alliance has a strong heritage here, and we are committed to furthering productive civic discourse around education issues.

Finally, we will continue to serve as “the bank” for more than 200 PTAs, booster clubs and school foundations. Our extensive fiscal services, which we provide at no cost to schools, offer stability and accountability to groups with an ever-changing volunteer management structure.

Our Profile

Our profile has and will remain as a “critical friend” to the District. Acting supportively but independently, we will push and challenge Seattle Public Schools to be the best it can be. In that way, we will remain an influential voice and effective actor on behalf of public school students across Seattle.