

To: Miguel Del Valle, Chair, P-20 Council

From: Kathy Ryg, President, Voices for Illinois Children
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CC: Julie Smith, Deputy Chief of Staff

Re: Proposal for Committee of Illinois P-20 Council

Date: March 19, 2010

As members of the P-20 Council we would like to propose a committee to inform the work of the Council. Given:

The *vision* of the P-20 Council is to align educational opportunity and build an integrated high-quality education system to meet 21st century skills for lifelong success.

The *mission* of the P-20 Council is to deliberate and make recommendations to Illinois policymakers to achieve a seamless and sustainable statewide system of quality education and support (birth to adulthood) that maximizes student attainment and opportunities for success.

The *stakeholders* in this work include, but are not limited to: children and youth, families and caregivers, educators, policymakers, business and community leaders.

In providing a framework for the work of the P-20 Council, the Chair has called for the formation of committees to inform deliberations.

To increase the involvement of all stakeholders in the P-20 Council's deliberations, we propose formation of a Family, Youth and Community Engagement Committee.

Family, Youth and Community Engagement Committee

Purpose: To raise awareness about issues and proposed recommendations of the P-20 Council, provide opportunities for youth, families, and communities to have a voice in the deliberations, and make recommendations to the P-20 Council about the integration of youth and family and community involvement in education at all levels, including out of school time.

Structure: Co-chaired by two representatives of statewide child, parent and community advocacy organizations

Membership: Members will include but not be limited to representatives of organizations and providers in the areas of:

- Child advocacy
- Parent involvement
- Community-based services
- Early childhood education
- Afterschool/out-of-school time
- Youth development
- Special needs
- Youth employment/workforce development
- Business/employer

We look forward to discussing this further with you and are excited to be engaging in this work. We welcome your thoughts as we define a scope of work and start outreach efforts to stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your leadership of the Council and around issues important to children and families.