



EXAMPLE TALKING POINTS

Draft Talking Points for sustaining child development and prevention initiatives in schools and communities could look something like these:

- **Overarching Message:** We are enlisting the support of the community as we reexamine and readdress how we serve our children and families, particularly the ways schools can strengthen child development so children are healthy and ready to learn.
- Research shows that schools are the most effective place to help children develop social and emotional skills and capacities, as well as for providing resources for children and their families when problems occur.
- We are committed to implementing prevention and intervention programs in our schools in a way that shares responsibility between schools and community organizations.
- We recognize that effective school-community partnerships will take time to develop.
- We know from research that it will take some time to see outcomes for individual children, but we have started and are making good progress in changing the school climate and on implementing what are called “evidence-based programs,” that is, programs that change the trajectory for children. (A few outcomes we do have already are: x, y, z.)
- To build the next level of infrastructure and programs, it is important that we be part of numerous policy and financing conversations that are now taking place at the state, county, or local level.
- We are asking for your help to do that. Specifically, we need:
 - Your guidance about what is happening in education and health/mental health financing and how we might fit in to state (or local) funding priorities
 - Introductions to the right people and invitations to key meetings. We would like you to help us join the table in weighing in on key decisions, for example, task forces at the State Education Department or committees addressing revisions in how school-based health care will be delivered.
- We'd like to keep you informed of what we are doing. What information would you like to receive from us and what are the best methods for sharing that information on an ongoing basis?