

June 2008

Education's Next Horizon HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome to our newsletter. Please take this opportunity to visit our website. Click on pictures below to take you to more information on specific subjects! Thank you for your interest in Education's Next Horizon.

Stakeholder Council Launches 2008 Study Effort

The Stakeholder Council of Education's Next Horizon is a statewide group of business, education, and government leaders who are committed to education improvement. The Council gathers to analyze information, debate solutions, and build consensus on public education policies and strategies.

On January 30, 2008, the Stakeholder Council launched its 2008 study initiative on key areas of education reform. Three workgroups were formed: (1) Bridging the Skills Gap, (2) Early Childhood Education, and (3) Preparing Students to Graduate. The workgroups have been meeting to identify strategies for meaningful education improvements in Louisiana. Study highlights thus far include.

Bridging the Skills Gap

- Reviewed "current state" of Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Louisiana and CTE models of other states
- Drafting a policy recommendation on marketing CTE and expanding career guidance and education
- Drafting a policy recommendation on enhancing "relevance" in curriculum design

Early Childhood Education

- Reviewed state models of "school readiness" definition and standards
- Approved framework for a Louisiana definition of school readiness

Preparing Students to Graduate

- Reviewed dropout trends data and student performance data
- Reviewed Dropout Early Warning System Pilot Program
- Identified information and data management as key issue



The recommendations of the Stakeholder Council will be strategic and policy in nature, but transformational-identifying constraints and barriers to policy implementation, exploring ways to overcome change barriers, and developing comprehensive action agendas to transform policies into results at the district and school levels.

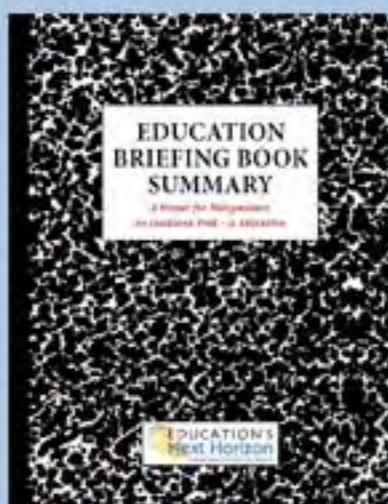
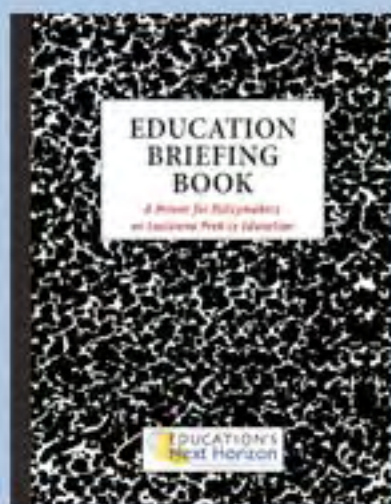
To join a Stakeholder Council Workgroup, call our office at (225) 383-3844 or email us at jsmith@lanexthorizon.org.

A Primer for Policymakers on Louisiana PreK-12 Education

Education's Next Horizon recently published an *Education Briefing Book*. The document is available as a 17-page summary and as 118-page primer. The *Education Briefing Book* tells the story of public education in Louisiana - history, present status, and future possibilities. The document is written for all citizens but is especially designed to assist policymakers and administrators in state government and in school districts across the state. The book provides the context for the next horizon of school improvement in Louisiana and identifies the key priority issues for meaningful school reform.

The Briefing Books have been distributed to the Governor and State Legislature. Personal presentations are being made to school district leaders across the state. We are grateful to the following organizations for generously underwriting the project: The Booth-Bricker Fund, Cox Communications, Greater New Orleans Education Foundation, Reily Foundation, Alliance for Education, Patrick F. Taylor Foundation, Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation.

The *Education Briefing Book* is available at www.ednexthorizon.org. Click on the desired picture below to link to a downloadable copy.



Louisiana's Promise: Increasing the Graduation Rate

Dropout Prevention Summit: October 28, 2008



Education's Next Horizon will hold a statewide summit on dropout prevention in the fall of 2008. The objective is to bring community leaders from across the state together as a force to tackle the dropout issue in Louisiana. The conference will be held in partnership with General Colin Powell's America's Promise Alliance, which is dedicated to developing solutions to the dropout problem nationwide. We are also fortunate to have the support of Governor Bobby Jindal and State Superintendent Paul Pastorek in this initiative.

What will make Louisiana unique among states dedicated to carrying out America's Promise is our commitment to following up the original event with a series of regional summits across our state. These local meetings will be dedicated to better organizing and preparing local community leaders to have an impact.

[More Information on the Dropout Prevention Summit](#)

Meet Our Board of Directors

New Orleans Region:

Phyllis Taylor
Bob Reilly
Brian Reidlinger, Ph.D.
Sarah Usdin
Alice Thomas, M.Ed.

Baton Rouge Region:

Jennifer Eplett Reilly
Christel Slaughter, Ph.D.
Gwen Hamilton
Robert Burgess
Sharon Kleinpeter
Stephen Moret
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Southwest Louisiana Region:

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Robbie Bush
Billy Stokes, Ed.D.

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Phillip A. Rozeman, M.D.
Scott Hughes
Randy Ewing

Visit Our Website: www.ednexthorizon.org

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Education's Next Horizon website. At the top, the URL www.ednexthorizon.edu is displayed. The navigation bar includes links for HOME, MEDIA/NEWS, CONTACT US, BRIEFING BOOK, and E-NEWSLETTER SIGNUP. The main header features the organization's logo and a "Subscribe Here!" button. A sidebar on the left lists menu items: ABOUT EDUCATION'S NEXT HORIZON, GOALS, OUR MISSION, NEWS / MEDIA / LIBRARY, GIVING, and BOARD MEMBERS / STAFF. The central content area is titled "EDUCATION'S NEXT HORIZON" and features a photograph of a diverse group of people. Below the photo, the mission statement reads: "Our mission is to connect Louisiana's leadership - education, government, business and community - as a force supporting school improvement." At the bottom, there are three highlighted sections: "CURRENT EVENTS" with details for a summit on October 28, 2008; "Education's Next Horizon" with the title "DEFINING THE NEED FOR EDUCATION REFORM - LOUISIANA'S PIPELINE"; and "EDUCATION BRIEFING BOOK" and "EDUCATION BRIEFING BOOK SUMMARY" with a note that they are a primer for policymakers on Louisiana public education.

Contact Information
email address:

Join our mailing list!

Louisiana's Promise DROPOUT PREVENTION SUMMIT

OCTOBER 28, 2008 8AM - 2PM · Baton Rouge, River Center · BROCHURE: [Click here](#)