

# Supporting Youth Success

The Promise of Expanded Learning Opportunities

## Vision, Goal, Initiative Outcome and Operating Assumptions Revised 02/01/10

### Vision

Minnesota's youth thrive because they engage in opportunities to grow, learn, and lead in their communities, schools and families.

### Overarching Goal

All communities across the state will create, coordinate and support comprehensive learning systems. This coordinated system will provide access to a broad array of high-quality learning opportunities through formal and non-formal education.

### Initiative Outcome

The primary purpose of this initiative is to develop a framework that identifies strategies and action steps that will lead toward the development of comprehensive learning systems across Minnesota. The framework will include recommendations related to policies, resources and best practices in formal education systems and intentional non-formal learning opportunities.

# Operating Assumptions

1. The working title for Minnesota's effort is Supporting Youth Success, rather than Supporting Student Success, because we believe this better embodies the reality that young people learn and develop throughout the day, the year, and across settings.
2. The framework will build on quality innovation in educational and youth development policy and practice in Minnesota. The "framework" aims to scale up successful models and strategies.
3. We will use a common set of definitions to guide our work in developing the framework.
  - a. *Informal learning*: Learning in everyday life. Opportunities may or may not be intentional.
  - b. *Non-formal learning*: Structured and intentional learning opportunities where participation by the learner is generally voluntary and personal development is emphasized.
  - c. *Formal education*: Intentional instruction in a structured environment intended to produce academic development and result in a diploma, degree or some form of certification where participation by the learner is generally compulsory.
4. Quality formal and non-formal learning opportunities are essential for all youth.
5. This framework will focus on formal and non-formal learning supports for youth across Minnesota between the ages of 5 and 21.
6. Youth will be consulted in the development of this framework, its recommendations and action steps.
7. The intended audiences for this framework are decision makers and influencers of state, local and organizational policy.

*This framework will be available online in a flexible format to allow policymakers at the local and state levels, and leaders of non-formal learning and formal education systems or institutions easy and equal access.*