

Meriden Family Zone Planning Process: Working for Family and Student Success

Planning Process Facilitated by Meriden Children First

www.meridenchildrenfirst.org

MFZ Results We Seek:

- Children enter kindergarten ready to learn
- Students are proficient in core academic subjects
- Students successfully transition from middle to high school
- Youth graduate from high school
- High School graduates obtain a postsecondary degree, certif. or credential
- Students are healthy
- Students feel safe at school and in their community
- Families and community members support learning in MFZ schools
- Students live in stable communities
- Students have access to 21st century learning tools/learning in MFZ schools



We will work with a broad partnership of providers to offer coordinated, effective services from “Cradle to Career.”

Pre-natal Care

Quality Infant Toddler Care

Quality Preschool

Pre-K to K Transition Initiative

Excellent K-8 Schools (see reform plans)

Transition to High School Initiative

High School reform

Post-Secondary/Career

Career Development Initiative

Our Preliminary Continuum of Solutions

Early Childhood

- Quality early care and education (infant toddler/preschool, center-based & home-based)
- Family engagement
- Kindergarten transition

Education

- School reform and instructional improvement
- Focus on school climate and the whole student
- Addressing the non-academic needs of students
- Support for Transitions to College and Careers

Positive Youth Development

- School and community opportunities for positive out-of-school-time engagement and activities
- College and career planning
- Development of workplace foundation skills

Health Care

- Medical Home (AAP Definition) with Care Coordination
- Access to Health Insurance / Prenatal Care / Specialty Care

- Medical Home integration of Behavioral Health Care
- Community-based and School-based Prevention Interventions

Effective Family Supports

- MFZ Family Partnership Initiative – Identification of Individual Needs / Facilitate Access to Services
- Address Basic Needs (shelter, food, diapers)
- Supports for family economic success

Family & Community Engagement

- Community Leadership, Capacity Building, & Engagement of Parents and Supporters Across All Areas
- Parent & Community Engagement with Children and in Schools
- Building Community Connection and Safety

Neighborhoods and Housing

- Ensure safe, healthy and well maintained housing
- Create opportunities for recreation in attractive, accessible and safe parks and public areas
- Ensure access to affordable, healthy food

We will work through Community Committees -- Each group will follow a logical process:

1. Gather quantitative and qualitative information on key indicators for MFZ goals.
2. Survey and meet with residents to identify trends, patterns, and the “story behind the indicators”
3. Understand roles of all stakeholders, current research and lessons learned by current efforts
4. Identify specific strategies to address the issues within the target neighborhood and organizations to implement these strategies
5. Produce a component of the Implementation Plan with identified performance measures for the three program level questions posed in RBA – how much did we do, how well did we do it, and is anyone better off.

MFZ Committees: 🔄 Continuum of Solutions (Early Childhood, School Improvement, Family Partnership Initiative, Youth Development/Careers) 🔄 Housing & Neighborhoods 🔄 Data, Reporting and Evaluation 🔄 Resource Development 🔄 Advocacy & Communication