

NCSL Opportunities for Working Families Meeting State Action Plans

Alabama

Years of Participation: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

2014 ACTION PLAN

Team Members

Rep. Laura Hall

Rep. Jim Patterson

Rep. Randall Shedd

Facilitator: Jocelyn Durkay

Priority Issue

Goal 1: Establish a Working Families Caucus

Goal 2: Develop school programs for workforce preparation, including soft and jobs skills and financial education.

Goal 3: Help high school dropouts return to school (target age 16-20)

Specific Action Item(s), Next Steps and Timeline

Goal 1: Establish a Working Families Caucus

- Establish caucus by Labor Day 2014
- Prefile legislation by the end of January 2015
 - Contact the Speaker's Office (*All three members*)
 - Prefile a resolution to get staff member and funding (*Rep. Shedd*)
 - Have NCSL help with language of resolution on the definition of "working families"
 - Use legislative reference staff if needed
 - Outreach to Democratic members for balance in caucus (*Rep. Hall*)
 - Have Caucus seek input from working families on the challenges they face, preferably start before March when sessions begin (*Caucus*)

Goal 2: Develop school programs for workforce preparation, including soft and jobs skills and financial education.

- Share resources and info about an existing program in Rep. Shedd's district at first Caucus meeting (*Rep. Shedd*)
- Develop curriculum for financial literacy program with a focus on working families by the end of 2014 (*Rep. Patterson*)
- The Caucus will identify program teachers (individual organizations, businesses, credit unions) between June and the end of next session
- The Caucus will conduct outreach (K-12, community colleges, churches/faith communities) between June and the end of next session

Goal 3: Help high school dropouts return to school (target age 16-20)

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- Research what programs are in place in Alabama, what systems are in place, what needs to be done, determine if it needs to be standardized, get numbers on Alabama dropouts, how many have GEDs, etc. to be done between now and September. (*Rep. Hall*)
- Meet with the chancellor for community colleges and state superintendent, Dr. Brice, to get buy-in and get info.
 - Rep. Hall will arrange a meeting and the Caucus, or at least 3 representatives, will attend.
 - Aim to have this completed in September.

Responsibilities

Goal 1: Rep. Patterson

Goal 2: Rep. Shedd

Goal 3: Rep. Hall

Information and Services

- Use KIDS COUNT data book
- Information gathered by Caucus on the state of working families
- Use Matt Fellowes from HelloWallet as a resource (matt@hellowallet.com)
- Gateway to College website (<http://www.gatewaytocollege.org/>)
- Learn about similar programs like Gateway to College in other states

NCSL Contacts

Goal 1: Rep. Patterson (jimpattersonhd21@gmail.com)

Goal 2: Rep. Shedd (randall.shedd@alhouse.gov)

Goal 3: Rep. Hall (annahall19@gmail.com)