



Saint Paul Education Strategy

Overview

This budget also continues our commitment to change the way we approach education in this community. In partnership with the Saint Paul Public School District, the Parks and Recreation Department and Public Library will lead the City's efforts to provide high quality learning opportunities for children throughout the City. By doing our part to extend the learning day beyond the school doors, we will help our educators ensure youth are ready for life after graduation.

New Service Delivery with Innovative Promotion

Mayor Coleman's Second Shift Initiative has focused on extending the learning day. By working with community partners and across City departments, we have broken-down barriers to ensure our children receive valuable education outside the doors of school classroom. A number of new ways and key additions will shape the way the City addresses youth education:

- LinkUpSaintPaul.org – Launched this morning, this innovative website connects parents and youth with activities offered by the City and more than 50 community organizations, allowing residents to easily locate quality out-of-school-time programming in their neighborhood.
- Parks and Recreation will bring programs and staff to the community – Partnering with the SPPS, City after-school programs will be taken into schools and other non-Parks and Recreation facilities to ensure we are reaching youth in the community. We will also invest in additional staff and hours to expand programming and increase outreach for programs such as our North End Teen Center, No School Days and Summer Blast programs.
- We are investing more in the Youth Job Corps Program so youth will end their time in Job Corps with more than just work experience. Working off the successful model developed in the Saint Paul Public Library, youth will receive training in computer skills, resume writing, interview preparation, financial literacy, developing a career path, and college access information. We will expand to include older youth not eligible for the Youth Job Corp Program but who are already involved in teen programs within our recreation system such as anti-gang programs, diversion programs, programs intended to keep kids in school and teen leadership groups.

Connecting Residents to Workforce Skills and Education

In Saint Paul we are not only helping our residents look for jobs, we are educating them on how to better land the job when they find one. Public Libraries and Parks and Recreation will continue to provide job-seeking assistance and computer classes in our facilities as well as numerous new initiatives in 2011.

- Our Libraries will expand bilingual services and workforce development as they offer more digital literacy classes for the community. The library provides residents with access to 365 computers and job-seeking assistance for a total of 690 hours every week. In comparison the Saint Paul workforce center only offers residents access to 22 computers for a total of 42 and a half hours every week.
- With funding from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the library recently launched the Mobile WORKplace initiative, bringing laptops out into the community and providing classes on computer literacy. Many of the students in these classes had never touched a computer or used a word processing program, which is often a requirement for twenty-first century jobs. By offering ten classes a week in languages such as Somali, Spanish and Hmong and English, we are educating residents who are otherwise unable to come into a library for a class.