

Commitment to Quality Benchmarks for Building Cradle to Career Civic Infrastructure

For decades, communities have worked to improve educational achievement through piecemeal reforms and investments in siloed systems and programs with little success. Recognizing the need for a new and innovative approach to improving student outcomes and drawing upon lessons learned from cross-sector partnership work across the country, StriveTogether has developed a framework for building the civic infrastructure needed to support the success of every child, every step of the way, cradle to career as well as a continuum of quality benchmarks called the Theory of Action to as a guide to implementing the framework with quality and rigor.

Communities who build cradle to career civic infrastructure embody the idea of “shared accountability and differentiated responsibility,” in which each partner has a defined role in achieving a shared vision of improved outcomes for children. These communities allow data to drive their decisions about where resources flow, which interventions are scaled and upon which target populations to focus. To more effectively and expeditiously address the challenges that inevitably emerge when engaging in this transformative work, these communities are convened as the Cradle to Career Network to share lessons learned, ideas, and innovations.

Membership in the Cradle to Career Network is open to community efforts who commit to [1] establishing and working toward quality benchmarks for building cradle to career civic infrastructure, [2] actively participating in a community of learning and practice and, [3] building shared value to advance the field of cradle to career collective impact.

To support the launch of the Quality Benchmarks, Network members are being asked to sign the following commitment.

..... Commitment to Quality

We engage with the Cradle to Career Network in the “Commitment to Quality” to:

- Assess and share the progress of our partnership using the Theory of Action as a way to provide common understanding of our individual and collective progress toward building the cradle to career civic infrastructure that will lead to collective impact.
- Work in partnership with the StriveTogether staff and our peers in other communities across the country and globe to refine the quality benchmarks so we can collectively own them for framing our work starting in January 2014.
- Build the necessary local data management infrastructure to collect, analyze, and report data at the community and practitioner levels to enable us to understand, in concrete terms, the impact of building civic infrastructure.
- Model a commitment to continuous improvement by sharing successes and failures related to how the partnership has applied learning in operations and implementation.

Partnership Director Signature _____

Leadership Table Chair Signature _____

Name of Partnership _____

Date _____