

Summary Points from YouthTruth Convening  
Thursday, May 23, 2013  
The Children's Trust Training Room

**WHAT IS YOUTHTRUTH?**

The YouthTruth survey gathers candid student feedback in a rigorous and confidential way. YouthTruth then analyzes the quantitative data and qualitative comments. School leaders receive actionable reports that compare their results to others in the district and across the country.

YouthTruth was developed in 2008 by The Center for Effective Philanthropy, in collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

**HISTORY WITH M-DCPS**

In 2009-10, Miami Beach SHS piloted the student survey and for the 2012-13 school year, there were 9 schools that participated. SLC funding has been used to fund this project.

Funded by SLC for the past 2 years: Booker T. Washington, Coral Gables, Miami Beach, Miami Jackson, Miami Lakes, North Miami Beach, and Robert Morgan (All schools except for American from Cohort 2008 schools participated). Cost to M-DCPS: \$1,500 per school

Funded by The Children's Trust: Miami Edison and Miami Northwestern

**RESULTS FOR 2012-13**

Students responded to questions related to the following themes:

- Engagement with school
- School culture
- Relationships with teachers
- Academic rigor
- College and career readiness

The report compares feedback from students that participated in the survey this year to feedback from students at all other high schools that have participated in the survey. There were approximately 33 school districts who participated from Washington, DC to California and from traditional, private, charter, etc. (Additional information is listed in the Appendix.)

M-DCPS added three categories: Health, Safety, and Student Leadership

Overall, M-DCPS showed improvement in 3 categories: Engagement with School, Academic Rigor, and College and Career Readiness. Two categories where M-DCPS scored lower than the typical YouthTruth school were: School Culture and Relationships with Teachers.

**NAF ACADEMIES**

Students in Miami-Dade schools received a question asking whether they belonged to one of the five NAF academies offered at Miami-Dade County Public Schools. At participating Miami-Dade schools, eighteen percent of students reported that they belonged to a NAF academy.

Overall, on all five major themes of the YouthTruth survey, students who belong to an NAF academy **rate slightly higher** than students who do not. More specifically, we observed the following differences by academy:

- Students in the **Academy of Finance rate significantly higher** than do other students on questions related to student engagement, relationships with teachers, school culture, and college and career readiness.
- Students in the **Academy of Engineering rate significantly higher** than do other students on questions related to student engagement and relationships with teachers. (Please note that Booker T. Washington is the only Miami-Dade school participating in YouthTruth this year offering this academy.)
- Students in the **Academy of Health Sciences rate significantly higher** than do other students on questions related to school culture, academic rigor, and college and career readiness. (Please note that Miami Lakes Educational Center is the only Miami-Dade school participating in YouthTruth this year offering this academy.)

### **CONVENING**

The purpose of the Convening is to allow schools the opportunity to share results, discuss best practices, and develop an action plan to target areas of concern.

All nine schools were represented at the meeting with six of the nine school Principals or Assistant Principals in attendance including, Mr. Arnold Montgomery and Dr. Tarek Chebbi along with the President of The Children's Trust and their research folks. (See attached attendance list.)

Two YouthTruth representatives conducted the presentation: Dr. Nathan Hutto and Jen Vorse Wilka.

All items on the attached agenda were completed. Mr. Montgomery committed to bringing back the data results to the district; all schools were in favor of continuing in this initiative; Youthtruth will look at the use of a mobile app for completion of the survey (two windows for participation in the survey are November and February). M-DCPS participates in November and results are sent in late February. YouthTruth will now be able to produce results by December; there was unanimous agreement that we should try to bring on all schools in M-DCPS to participate in YouthTruth but \$\$ are a huge factor.