



## Schools

### **Goal statement:**

- **As a Strategic Alliance, we will engage all public and private school districts in the Wichita MSA in establishing formal mentoring partnerships.**
- **Elements of this goal include:**
  - **Establish formal mentoring partnerships**
  - **Educate ourselves about mentoring programs**
  - **Educate school districts about successful mentoring partnership/opportunities and how these programs promote best practice through partnerships and the tracking and reporting of data**
  - **Include both public and private focus**

### Opportunities:

- VIA-software tracking system
  - Have school districts participate in training and use of software
  - Look 1<sup>st</sup> at what is currently working and the benefits to growth and grow from there
- Educate school districts about tracking benefits
- Use VIA as a concrete concept to promote
  - best practices
  - screening/risk management
  - education on success stories/lessons learned
  - reward and maintain partners
- School districts own their own data
- Demonstrate the need to increase the need for mentoring as school district numbers go up and funding to schools increases (to help cover resource costs)
- Demonstrate the connection between the increase in people and resources in schools and academic performance
- Link to governor's promotion of best practices
- Identify decision makers and decision points for school districts and how strategic alliance can influence decisions made regarding tracking and reporting

### Challenges:

- VIA – software tracking system
  - cost
  - dedicating staff to manage
  - competing software programs (especially those already in place)
  - making tracking of volunteers a priority
- May not be perceived as an urgent need
- Time
- Strategic alliance members are not decision-makers (they are currently not at the alliance table) and decision points are not always defined
- School districts understanding “best practices” concept

#### Possibilities:

- Identify decision-makers/influencers and promote education on why formal partnerships, best practices and tracking and reporting important
- Develop list of how strategic alliance can benefit school districts
  - Assess how what's currently working and how to grow from there through the first bullet point directly above under "Possibilities"
- Find "connectors" within school districts who can identify key decision makers/influencers and implementers
- Recruit key representatives to attend strategic alliance meetings.

#### Next Steps/More Info:

- Is VIA still an opportunity for us to promote?
  - Leila with YouthFriends will follow up and report on next time

#### Champions:

- To be determined (though Andy Solter was identified as an example of a "connector" above in bullet point under "Possibilities")