

## Education Task Force

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Updated: January 15, 2007

### Mission of the Greenville Forward Education Task Force

*Promote Continuous Education*

### Our Visions for Education

- **Education is a top priority for all citizens** and the foundation for the community's strength.
  - Greenville is **internationally recognized as an intellectually vibrant** community for all ages.
  - **Every student achieves his/her greatest potential** regardless of gender, ethnicity, race, economic circumstances, or geography.
  - Greenville's **educational opportunities reflect cultural diversity** and global influences.
  - Greenville **citizens are life-long learners** who know how to learn.
  - Greenville County has a **variety of accessible and alternative educational programs** and delivery systems to meet the diverse learning styles and needs of the population.
  - **Teaching is one of the most highly valued professions** in the Greenville community.
  - Greenville's **education system is seamless** from pre-K to 16 and into the workforce.
  - Greenville's **political, community and business and industry leaders collaborate** with educational leaders in creating quality education that contributes to economic development and enhances the quality of life.
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## **Visions, Measures & Strategies**

**Education is a top priority for all citizens and the foundation for the community's strength.**

**Measures:**

- (1) Survey of the value of education.
- (2) Graduation rates from high schools.
- (3) Number of students completing higher education.
- (4) Number of working adults with bachelor's degrees.

**Strategies:**

- (1) Educate the Greenville community on the need to increase the number of citizens with a bachelor's degree and what that means to them.
- (2) Partner with Graduate Greenville to conduct a public education campaign on the importance of high school graduation and the need for community involvement to increase high school success.
- (3) Partner with Graduate Greenville to conduct community outreach to populations at risk for dropping out.
- (4) Increase in public school 4-Year Old Kindergarten classrooms

**Greenville is internationally recognized as an intellectually vibrant community for all ages.**

**Measures:**

- (1) Mathematical and scientific thinking are emphasized in schools.
- (2) Knowledge-based companies locate in Greenville.
- (3) People from other parts of the country come to Greenville to learn about innovative and creative educational programs that work.
- (4) Greenville is recognized globally as a technological leader in every area of education.
- (5) Quality rating system is in place for Child Care Programs.

**Every student achieves his/her greatest potential regardless of gender, ethnicity, race, economic circumstances, or geography.**

**Measures:**

- (1) There are no gaps in academic performance of Hispanic, African-American, Asian, and white students.
  - (2) Students from families living in poverty perform at the same level as students from high income families.
  - (3) Programs are available for working adults to return to secondary or post-secondary education.
  - (4) Greenville County produces leaders in education, government, arts, business, industry, and public service.
  - (5) Quality early care and education is available for all young children
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**Strategies:**

- (1) Increase knowledge of education opportunities in traditionally underserved areas of our communities.
- (2) Educate first generation college students and others about the process of enrolling and about financial support available in educational institutions.
- (3) Conduct community outreach programs to populations at risk for dropping out.
- (4) Encourage higher education institutions in Greenville to offer more flexible and accessible degree programs for working adults, such as evening, weekend, and Internet degree programs.

**Greenville's educational opportunities reflect cultural diversity and global influences.**

**Measures:**

- (1) Minority educators mirror the minority population.
- (2) There are opportunities for students and teachers preK-12 to interact with and learn from students and other instructors across the globe.
- (4) All students and educators have access to multi-cultural experiences, foreign language instruction, and teacher and student international exchange programs.

**Strategies :**

- (1) Working with the Vision 2025 Diversity Task Force, encourage participation in English as a Second Language programs to help remove the language barriers encountered by the international population.
- (2) Working with the Vision 2025 Diversity Task Force, assess the educational needs of the minority populations in Greenville, including the "invisible" immigrants and professionals from other countries.

**Greenville citizens are life-long learners who know how to learn.**

**Measures:**

- (1) Continuing education opportunities are expanding over a broad spectrum.
- (2) Continuing education program enrollments are increasing each year.
- (3) Informal learning events are attended by a diverse population.

**Greenville County has a variety of accessible and alternative educational programs and delivery systems to meet the diverse learning styles and needs of the population.**

**Measures:**

- (1) Non-traditional options are available for high school students to complete school.
  - (2) Education is available without barriers via many sources, at any time, and anywhere.
  - (3) Knowledge transfer and knowledge sharing takes place in all organizations.
  - (4) Doctoral programs are available in Greenville in many different fields, including, but not limited to, engineering and education.
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**Strategies:**

- (1) Partner with the United Way Success By 6/Nurturing Young Children's Impact Council, and First Steps to establish a quality rating system and for providers.
- (2) Promote participation in adult literacy programs as a way to enhance one's success in the workplace and encourage individuals to become volunteer tutors and instructors.

**Teaching is one of the most highly valued professions in the Greenville community.**

**Measures:**

- (1) High school graduates select teaching as a career in greater numbers than 10 years ago.
- (2) Students choose mathematics and science teaching as a career.
- (3) Teacher education graduates choose teacher as a career.
- (4) New teachers are supported extensively in their first three years of teaching; therefore, retention of teachers has improved significantly.
- (5) Teacher and faculty salaries are comparable to similar areas in the nation.
- (6) Teachers are honored frequently in special ways.

**Strategies :**

- (1) Market teaching as a worthy and rewarding professional choice.
- (2) Communicate to K-12 students that the profession of teaching is a worthy career.

**Greenville's education system is seamless from preK-16 and into the workforce.**

**Measures:**

- (1) Knowledge transfers from schools to the workplace.
- (2) Two-year college degrees articulate seamlessly with bachelor's degrees.

**Strategies:**

- (1) Facilitate dialogue among learning opportunity providers to increase awareness and understanding of their services, resources and target audiences.
- (2) Identify overlapping services that could be eliminated or redefined to reduce unnecessary redundancies.

**Greenville's political, community and business and industry leaders collaborate with educational leaders in creating quality education that contributes to economic development and enhances the quality of life.**

**Measures:**

- (1) Productive partnerships between businesses and industry and education have increased significantly.
  - (2) Internships and co-op programs are evident not only at the college level, but also in high schools.
  - (3) Business and industry leaders participate in implementation of the EEDA.
  - (4) Legislators enhance education through legislation.
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**Strategies:**

- (1) Highlight businesses and industries that provide tuition reimbursement for adult students to earn degrees.
  - (2) Establish a link between quality early learning experiences and the workplace.
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