This tool was produced while at ORS Impact.



The Alignment Index

September 12, 2014 – Getting to Impact Convening

What is the Alignment Index?

Strengthened alignment is one of four catalytic outcomes that the Education Pathways team expects to be a key driver for creating opportunities for all children to succeed in Washington State. ORS Impact, Juan Sanchez and the Education Pathways team created an evaluation tool for measuring alignment across a wide variety of collaborative efforts. This tool is referred to as the Alignment Index and is administered as part of an online survey.

How was it developed?

The Alignment Index was created through a participatory process involving three stages: index development, pilot implementation, and full implementation. The development stage (September 2012-August 2013), consisting of work-group meetings and reviews, allowed determination of face validity of the model. The pilot implementation stage (September-November 2013) consisted of administering the survey to four collaborative efforts in order to enhance the validity and reliability of the index.

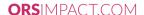
The full implementation (March–May 2014) provided an opportunity to do extended analysis that further enhanced the statistical robustness of the Alignment Index. This third stage also created baseline data from which the foundation can gauge progress in subsequent administrations of the survey containing the Alignment Index.

The final version of this index includes five sub-indices: common language, common understanding of readiness terms, collaborative frameworks and practices, data sharing and changes in culture. Statistical testing ensures that each of these sub-indices are valid and reliable, and can be looked upon independently or combined together to serve as an overall index.

How can it be used?

This Alignment Index informs the Education Pathways team as they consider the degree to which alignment exists, areas in which alignment is particularly strong, and areas in which alignment is more warranted. Individual data provided to the foundation's grantees also provides clarity around lessons learned, that help guide the direction of their strategies and actions.

The Education Pathways team intends to administer this survey annually to provide data in realtime which can be used by both the foundation team and its grantees.





What are the benefits?

The Alignment Index is intended to be a valuable learning tool that has many potential benefits, including the following:

- Calling attention to specific areas where collaborative efforts have particular traction in strengthening alignment
- Shedding light on varied perspectives of involved actors
- Tracking, in a consistent manner, the pace of progress or lack thereof
- Providing lessons from examples of progress that can be practically applied elsewhere,
- Providing critical data about a catalytic outcome, which informs the Education Pathways team about the strength of its theory of change
- Adding to the field of civic engagement and collaboration work by providing a statistical tool that can be applied in a variety of settings
- Informing Education Pathways' current and future investments

For further questions contact ORS Impact developers Jane Reisman <u>ireisman@orsimpact.com</u> and Jenn Beyers <u>ibeyers@orsimpact.com</u>. The handbook for implementing, analyzing, and reporting the Alignment Index is downloadable on our website.

Appendices:

See Appendix A to view the descriptive statistics report from the Alignment Index Survey.

See Appendix B to view the statistical significance report from the Alignment Index Survey.



Measurement Index for Strengthened Alignments

Survey Introduction

ORS Impact has been commissioned by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to administer a survey about strengthening alignment in P-16 education. You are being asked to complete this survey because you have an active engagement in a relevant effort to The Pacific Northwest Team's Education Pathway work at the foundation (e.g. promoting high quality early learning, high quality K-12 education, and the Road Map Project).

Please respond to these questions based on your body of work so that we can see the extent of agreement that exists among a variety of collaborators. We have provided space for brief comment to explain your ratings if you desire. This will help the Gates Foundation guide decisions and actions that promote strengthened alignment in the education pathway across P-16.

Your individual responses will be not be linked to any personal identifiers in resulting reports. The summary results will be made available to all survey participants and other partners. Please be candid in your responses.

Measurement Index for Strengthened Alignments

Basic Information

≭1. Select the response that best matches your body of work within your organization.
Please select only one response
Statewide focus: programs, practices and policies for the entire state.
Local or regional focus: programs, practices and policies relevant to my community or region
BOTH statewide and local focus
*2. Is education your organization's PRIMARY FOCUS?
Yes
○ No
*3. Please indicate the description that best illustrates your ORGANIZATIONAL ROLE.
Please select all that apply.
Program Manager
Data Lead
Senior Leader
Direct Service Provider
Partnership/Coalition Developer
Advocate
st4. What part of the P-16 education continuum do you work in? Please select all that
apply.
Early Learning
P-3
K-12
Post Secondary
Other (please specify)

Measurement Index for Strengthened Alignments 5. Sectors are service or business area that shares common characteristics. For purposes of Education Pathways, sectors refer to the different fields and organizational groupings. What sector do you PRIMARILY work in? K-12 Post-Secondary Early Learning Youth Development Public Health Housing **Private Corporation** Philanthropy Local or State Government **Advocacy Organization** Civic Organization Parent Groups Other (please specify)

Measurement Index for Strengthened Alignments							
Common Language							
6. I see my partners who advocate for strengthening P-16 education policies using language in the same way.							
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to be "kindergar	ten ready."						
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Measurement Index for Strengthened Alignments **Data Sharing** 18. Widely shared indicators (data used to measure progress towards a goal) have been developed. Neither Agree or Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree Don't know Disagree 19. Data managers from different sectors frequently communicate. Neither Agree or Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree Don't know Disagree 20. My partners in the P-16 education continuum regularly share data with each other. Neither Agree or Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree Don't know Disagree 21. There is consistency AMONG similar educational entities in a sector in the ways that data are measured. Neither Agree or Strongly Disagree Disagree Strongly Agree Don't know Agree Disagree 22. There is consistency in the ways that data are measured ACROSS sectors. Neither Agree or Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree Don't know Disagree 23. Data sharing agreements between my partners are in place. Neither Agree or Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree Not Applicable Don't know Disagree 24. Comments on Data Sharing:

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Shifts in Praction	ces				
31. There is regu	ılar communi	ication among my	partners in t	he P-16 education	ı continuum.
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32. My partners	share credit v	when we make pro	gress towar	ds our education	al goals.
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33. Collaboration	n occurs regu	ularly across secto	ors for impro	vement in P-16 ed	lucation.
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34. My partners	readily share	resources to mak	e progress t	owards our educa	itional goals.
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Measurement Index for Strengthened Alignments **Survey Follow-Up** The following questions ask you to reflect on your experience taking this survey. Your answers will be extremely helpful to inform the process of refining of the survey. 36. The questions in this survey were clear. Neither Agree or Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree Don't know Disagree 37. This felt like a quick survey to take. Neither Agree or Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Don't know Strongly Agree Disagree 38. I would be interested in the results of this survey. Neither Agree or Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree Don't know Disagree 39. Other comments on the survey: