



HISTORY:

Three years ago, the EDGM (formerly the Metropolitan Milwaukee Area Deans of Education) with the support of a Faye McBeath Foundation planning grant and a white paper on best practices in school leadership, conducted focus groups with school leaders. An annual event celebrating teachers and teaching was launched as a springboard to expand and deepen its ongoing mission. The EDGM is a unique and successful partnership model that allows nine diverse public and private higher education institutions to come together as equal partners under one umbrella with eleven community organization leaders to focus on a shared vision of pursuing strategies that meet the greater good of what works for all children regardless of community and socio-economic status.

MISSION:

- Support continuous improvement of PK-12 education in the M7 region by leveraging assets of its 9 institutions with other education stakeholders
- Through collective impact, address widespread under-achievement in Milwaukee area district, charter and choice schools
- Serve as a dynamic catalyst for reflective educational practice utilizing specific strategies that address Leadership, Efficacy, Advocacy, Reflection and Networking (Project LEARN)
- Grow EDGM as a solutions-oriented enterprise and connector to human and material resources
- Serve as a support system and resource for educators in the field with professional development tools to close gaps in student achievement and help build high-performing schools

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- A commitment to honest communication
- To speak with one voice where we have a common position and a common need
- To view issues from multiple perspectives
- To respect differences, distinctive programs and needs of individual institutions/organizations while appreciating that our mutual work is broad and offers greater impact than any individual effort
- To serve metropolitan Milwaukee learners of all types and ages
- To use a team approach to problem solving and decisions about initiatives or public statements
- To use our shared knowledge, investment and accountability practices to drive positive outcomes in PK-12 schooling, drawing on and enhancing the strengths of each institution
- To recognize that all members of EDGM and partners bring issues that are relevant to the entire group in that they may be the impetus for new public statements or initiatives

2016 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

- Inspire community understanding of teaching as a valued profession and serve as a catalyst to expanding and enhancing the teacher pipeline for district, charter and choice schools through high quality teacher preparation programs
- Use our collective voice to address federal/state public policy shifts that undermine and/or detract from performance and improvements in teacher preparation and expertise; pedagogy; instructional best practices, school leadership; and classroom management issues
- Create strategic dialogues and public forums on urban school leadership issues and public policy solutions to capitalize on the expertise within EDGM and partner organizations
- Support urban school leaders and administrators in improving PK-12 education via problem-solving forums and professional development coaching in collaboration with partner organizations
- Use EDGM as a clearinghouse for ideas and as a ‘knowledge repository’ accessible to school leaders and educators
- Identify and utilize quantitative and qualitative data to support knowledge sharing and ‘lessons learned’ between EDGM and its partner organizations

The EDGM is committed to a collaborative impact model that focuses on new strategic opportunities to improve educational leadership, teacher preparation, the development of positive school culture and environments, and developing and orchestrating a system of instructional guidance that builds capacity within our entire educational system(s). The ability to network through knowledge sharing, communication and cooperation, a sense of joint ownership, collective expertise, and consensus to act on mutual priorities will be key to improving teacher recruitment and retention, school culture and environments, and positive outcomes for student achievement.