

# NEW DREAMER SCHOOL MODEL



Dreamer School goals are consistent with "I Have a Dream" Oregon's long-term mission to help low-income children achieve success in school, college and career. This innovative, highly collaborative model will result in **greater sustained impact** in school and community.

## ALDER ELEMENTARY: THE FIRST DREAMER SCHOOL

In July 2010, "I Have a Dream" Oregon selected Alder Elementary School in east Multnomah County as the nation's first Dreamer School. Alder has one of the highest poverty rates in the state, making it an ideal location to implement this comprehensive effort.

Partnering with Reynolds School District, "I Have a Dream" Oregon will cultivate services at the Dreamer School to help improve student statewide benchmark test scores and ensure that at least 80% of students move on to finish a post-secondary degree or certificate.

## ALDER AT-A-GLANCE

- 580 students enrolled in the 2011 – 2012 school year.
- 94% of students live in poverty and 24% are experiencing homelessness.
- 27 languages are represented in the student body.
- Over 70% of Alder students enter kindergarten with little or no English language skills.

## WHAT WE DO

1. Deliver our proven combination of core services: long-term relationships with caring adults; academic/social support services, and create a "culture of college and career" at Alder Elementary and within Dreamer families.
2. Attend to the entire cradle-to-career continuum, using the research-based STRIVE model to guide our efforts.
3. As a strategic partner, developer and convener, we have greatly expanded collaboration with other education and nonprofit partners, including a comprehensive and highly strategic Dreamer School planning process.

## Dreamer School Partners

- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Columbia Northwest
- Chalkboard Project
- Children's Book Bank
- Children's Institute
- Concordia University
- ECONorthwest
- Family of Friends
- Friends of the Children
- Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber
- Lewis & Clark College
- Linfield College
- Metropolitan Family Services
- Mt. Hood Community College
- NELA Center for Student Success
- NW Children's Theater
- OASIS Intergenerational Tutoring
- Oregon College Access Network
- Oregon independent Colleges Association
- Oregon Mentors
- Portland Children's Museum
- Portland Community College
- Portland Housing Center
- Portland Reading Foundation
- Portland State University
- Reynolds School District
- Saturday Academy
- Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN)
- Start Making a Reader Today (SMART)
- Volunteers of America – Oregon
- Young Musicians & Artists



"I HAVE A DREAM"  
FOUNDATION  
OREGON



# DREAMER SCHOOL PLANNING PROCESS

## IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES – 2011/2012

### *Academic Intervention*

Portland Reading Foundation – Intensive reading intervention, currently serving over 60 first and second graders.

SMART – Inspiring love of reading for 25 kindergarteners with more to be matched in February.

### *Mentoring*

Big Brothers Big Sisters – Initially providing 5 students with caring adult mentors.

Family of Friends – Named “Best Mentoring Program” in Oregon in 2011 - Currently recruiting mentors.

Friends of the Children – Will observe the Kindergarten classes for six weeks to select eight students with the highest need for a mentor. The data from this observation will be shared with Family of Friends and Big Brothers Big Sisters to match an additional 15 students with mentors.

OASIS – Writing assistance for 10 fourth and fifth graders with more to be matched later this year.

### *Evaluation and Assessment*

ECONorthwest and Portland State University's Regional Research Institute – These two expert teams will be assessing our progress as we move through implementation.

### *Culture of College & Career*

College Adoptions – Each of our K – 5 grade levels have been adopted by an Oregon college or university, with more colleges being recruited.

### *Mobility*

Housing – This is a year-three implementation area that we have moved, because of its urgency, to the 2011 – 2012 year. We are seeing many of our Dreamers move from the Alder neighborhood because of housing issues (landlord/tenant issues, availability of affordable rentals, homelessness) so we have made it a priority to address immediately. We are in conversation with a variety of public, private and nonprofit housing leaders to begin addressing the housing barriers for our Dreamers.

## YEARS TWO AND THREE STRATEGIC AREAS

*Pre-K/Early Childhood Education*  
*After School and Summer Enrichment Activities*  
*Teacher Effectiveness*  
*Neighborhood (housing, jobs and transportation)*  
*Middle and High School Programming*  
*Family and Wellness Programs*  
*Replicability in Other Schools Strategy*

