



When you consider how your office will respond to the president’s plan to “restore the promise of America’s public education,” will you ask the districts you serve to add more oars to the already turbulent water? Or will you provide them with a single, coherent framework so that all the oars already in the water can pull in the same direction?

President Barack Obama has issued an unprecedented challenge to American educators. His administration has set out a bold plan to “ensure that American children again lead the world in achievement, creativity and success.” That plan includes five specific goals for improving the current system:

1. Improving early childhood education
2. Increasing emphasis on standards and assessment
3. Recruiting, educating and rewarding teachers
4. Increasing the number of the country’s charter schools
5. Expanding lifelong learning opportunities

As you know, there is an overabundance of programs already in place that address these issues, and many more are available than could ever be adopted. The difficulty school systems at all levels face is not a lack of programming, but a lack of a single, coherent, unifying vision.

Student Aspirations provides a powerful organizing framework for all the efforts school personnel make to help students achieve academically and reach their fullest potential. Aspirations is a “whole child” approach that looks at the formative affects of 8 Conditions that Make a Difference® on the teaching and learning environment. Aspirations provides a common language able to address all the stakeholders in an educational system, from students and parents to teachers, administrators, and community members. Becoming fluent in Aspirations, from birth to graduation and beyond, can help all those invested in our nation’s educational system have a voice in its successful transformation.

In response to the president’s challenge, the Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations can provide school systems with the resources they need to meet the expectations laid out by President Obama’s administration. In the pages that follow, you will learn how the Aspirations framework can address and pull together all five points of the president’s plan.

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