



EPAN NEXT STEPS

**2005 SUMMER MEETING
MAYORS' EDUCATION POLICY ADVISORS
NETWORK
(EPAN)**

**JULY 17-19, 2005
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**A PEER NETWORK OF THE INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH, EDUCATION, AND
FAMILIES
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES**



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Next Steps for the Education Policy Advisors' Network

During the final session of the summer 2005 EPAN meeting, participants were asked to brainstorm content areas that members would like additional information through audioconferences, future EPAN meetings, additional resources, and additional networking opportunities.

Topics of interest to EPAN members:

- Workforce investment and workforce investment funds, such as WIA;
- High school reform;
- Teacher and principal preparation and training;
- Linkages and access to innovative funding streams;
- Sharing with other members significant mayoral initiatives around education (such as the 5 x 5 initiative in Denver);
- Role of the education advisor or department as related to the overall city management;
- What education policies should occur at the central level versus the decentralized level;
- Lessons learned and best practices around municipal involvement in education (both positive and negative lessons);
- How to engage with teacher unions in productive ways;
- Sharing of education issues and challenges; how cities can respond or have responded;
- American Diploma project – how it works and why it matters;
- Graduation rates and dropout calculations;
- Disconnected youth, especially those that are part of the juvenile justice or foster systems;
- Education best practices;
- Alternative high schools;
- Data – what do you need and how do you use it; and
- Public relations and communication strategies – how to work with the media to get the municipal message out.

When EPAN members discussed additional networking opportunities, members felt that topical audio conferences and continued use of the listserv would best serve networking between EPAN meetings. All participants felt that organizing regionally or by size would be a challenge. Most, if not all networks, would have to be topical because each city has too many unique rules and regulations to create significant streamlining of approaches.

How NLC could better serve the EPAN group members:

- Networking aligned with the Congress of Cities conference;
- Information and resources distributed in advance of meetings or more use of online resources through the listserv and email;
- Additional use of online information such as web seminars and bulletin boards; and
- Continued access to national priorities, especially federal policy.