



All youth ready for college, work & life.

Ready by 21 Webinar: Defining Readiness

In June, 2010, the Forum for Youth Investment hosted a webinar on the topic of “Defining Readiness.” The session, part of the Ready by 21 Webinar series, offered the opportunity to hear from Forum Founder and President Karen Pittman, and allowed participants to further explore Karen’s recent article on the topic of readiness that appeared in the American Association of School Administrators journal

(<http://forumfyi.org/files/Karen%27s%20School%20Administrator%20Article%206.2010%20--%20FINAL.pdf>). The

webinar explored the foundational concepts of readiness and varying definitions, which was summarized in a chart covering the frameworks and standards of a number of organizations such as Corporate Voices for Working Families, Search Institute, Gallup and the Partnership for 21st Century Skills

(<http://forumfyi.org/files/Readiness%20Standards%20Chart.pdf>.)

The session went on to explore the free Gallup Student Poll as well as the upcoming enhanced Gallup Student Poll developed by Gallup and the Ready by 21 National Partnership. The Gallup Student Poll is a free instrument available to school districts across the country which measures hope, wellbeing and engagement- three factors that drive student grades, achievement, retention and future employment. The Enhanced Gallup Student Poll will allow communities and schools to take a deeper look at the levels of hope, engagement, and wellbeing inside and outside the school. This community-wide data system provides a measure of how prepared individual kids are for the future. The Enhanced Poll differs from the standard Gallup Student Poll because it can track individual progress, be tailored to fit the specific needs of a community, and be administered outside of the school setting in community-based organizations. The Enhanced Poll also comes packaged with community leadership and engagement strategies from the Ready by 21 National Partnership. These strategies will help communities make use of and translate the data into actionable plans.

Q & A

1- Where can we find the research from Gambone and Connell

The original study, Finding Out What Matters for Youth, is available here- <http://www.ydsi.org/ydsi/pdf/WhatMatters.pdf>.

2- Kelley Holiday: How do you define and measure a supportive relationship? What are best practices?

Supportive relationships and what types of supportive relationships have particular impact are explored in the ‘Finding Out What Matters for Youth’ study from page 30-34 and in Appendix C. The study is available at

<http://www.ydsi.org/ydsi/pdf/WhatMatters.pdf>.

3- What readiness assessment tools exist (and are considered best practice) for measuring social and emotional outcomes at the different ages and stages?

The group which is at the forefront of this work is CASEL- the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning. Casel's website is <http://www.casel.org/>.

4- Is it possible to see the survey instrument used in the Gallup Student Poll? Where can we see the battery used by the Gallup Student Poll? How they are defining hope...etc

Download the Administrators' Manual for the Gallup Student Poll, which provides a thorough overview of hope, engagement, and wellbeing and explains the purpose and process for employing this noncognitive psychometric assessment in schools. It also lists the core question items used in the Gallup Student Poll. You may download the manual from the homepage at www.gallupstudentpoll.com.

5- I have 20k kids across the state that are in our community based program. If we wanted to assess how youth in our program are doing as part of program evaluation, could we use the Gallup Student Poll?

The Enhanced Gallup Student Poll can be used to provide validation for program impact and effectiveness by employing a research design that involves pre- and post-testing of students prior to and following the intervention.

6- There was discussion on the call of an enhanced version of the Gallup Student Poll. Can you tell us a little about that?

The GSPi is an enhanced version of the Gallup Student Poll. GSPi's unique technology allows communities and schools to take a deeper look at the levels of hope, engagement, and wellbeing inside and outside the school. This community-wide data system provides a measure of how prepared individual kids are for the future. The GSPi differs from the standard Gallup Student Poll because it can track individual progress, be tailored to fit the specific needs of a community, and be administered outside of the school setting in community-based organizations. Gallup and Ready by 21 will work with communities to determine which package of options is most useful and feasible. The GSPi also comes packaged with community leadership and engagement strategies from the Ready by 21 National Partnership. These strategies will help communities make use of and translate the data into actionable plans.

7- Can you provide a ballpark figure on the cost for the enhanced Gallup Student Poll?

While there is no cost for schools and districts to participate in the standard Gallup Student Poll (see www.gallupstudentpoll.com) that fields annually in the fall, there is a cost to use the Enhanced Gallup Student Poll. The collection and tracking of student data via the uploading of individual identifiers to the database allows for sophisticated tracking of hope, engagement, and wellbeing and the ability for Gallup to provide robust and specific reporting and analysis to schools and communities.

Pricing will be conducted on a per-project basis and is dependent upon the extent of the consulting services provided and the number of students and locations polled. Typical engagements will range in cost from \$100,000 to \$200,000 for the polling of 25,000 to 100,000 students. Gallup will contract the GSPi for a minimum of two administrations to ensure ability to trend data.

8- Wouldn't academic confidence and success be a significant determinant as to whether they are "engaged" in school?

There are numerous determinants of student engagement (i.e., involvement with and enthusiasm for school). Recent Gallup research reveals that teacher talent and teacher engagement drive student engagement. Furthermore, student engagement appears to be linked to a school's focus on the development of students' strengths and to students' hope (closely associated with academic confidence) and experienced wellbeing. Student success is the outcome of high student engagement.

Engagement data from the Gallup Student Poll provide schools and communities with the information they need to create conditions conducive to student success. Impact planning around item-level data empowers schools, parents, and community leaders with data that are malleable and actionable.

9- Would the purpose of doing the Gallup poll in the community be because of the difficulty getting it into the school system or are there other benefits?

Most school districts find the Gallup Student Poll fairly simple to implement in comparison with other student achievement tests and surveys. However, not all districts opt to participate. In addition, not all students stay in school. Some programs have access to youth who are at risk or who have already dropped out of school. Measuring hope, engagement, and wellbeing can give these programs important noncognitive data to inform programming and boost their efforts in preparing kids for the future.

10- What can a small city's youth department (not school district) do to capture this information?

Gallup can poll students via the Web in whatever location the community deems necessary. Gallup will load the locations and the student data (identifiers and other relative metrics) to the data collection system. Students will complete the survey on Internet-accessible computers in designated program locations.

11- How does the Forum address the "silos" in communities when addressing readiness and success?

The Forum and its partners in the Ready by 21 National Partnership seek to bring leaders together from across a community and offer proven frameworks, tools and coaching to engage these leaders where they are — building on their current initiatives and resources — and equipping them to think and act differently to improve outcomes for children and youth. The key is in acting together, to make sure that efforts add up rather than simply add on. It begins with a basic step that is nonetheless a challenge for most communities: bringing leaders together to develop a shared vision and a plan with specific, strategic Action Areas to target. For more information, please explore the Ready by 21 website at www.readyby21.org.