**Creating Great Options: 2011/12 Academic Initiatives**

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**The Proposal: Early Childhood Education**

* 25 additional Pre-K classrooms and two additional early childhood special education classrooms added to District schools throughout the city
* 11 District schools to provide before and after school programs for ECE students
* Additional future expansion or a dedicated ECE facility

**The Proposal: Parent Infant Interaction Program**

* Expand the PIIP to all district comprehensive high schools
* Implement PIIP’s five-part approach:
  + CRIB/Infant Toddler Care
  + The Prenatal Literacy and Adolescent Nurturing (PLAN) and the Male Involvement Component (MIC)
  + Project CORE (Challenging Opportunities, Resources and Experiences)
  + Project Redirection
  + PIIP Tracking System

**The Proposal: Charter Schools**

* Consider sponsoring charter schools with proven programs catering to innovative education settings
* Charter school proposals should fill unmet needs in education, i.e. underserved areas, high demand educational themes
* Charter schools will be held to the same accountability requirements by which SLPS is measured
* Sell or lease vacant SLPS buildings to charter schools
* Proposals will be a market rate sale or lease and include academic requirements

**The Proposal: African-Centered Curriculum**

Create an African-Centered Curriculum Program in an SLPS school:

* Emphasize the acquisition of primary and higher-order thinking skills of critical, analytical, and creative thought
* Promote a strong desire among youth to serve their communities
* Emphasize value orientation and the development of a positive and proactive concept of the self, society, and the world
* Promote a respect for human diversity

**The Proposal: Multiple Pathways**

Create additional alternative education environment for SLPS students, including:

* Alternative classrooms
* School-within-a-school programming
* Separate alternative schools
* Second or last-chance schools for disruptive students

The goal is to place the students in the best environment for them to succeed rather than create destinations for punishment.

**The Proposal: Gender Schools**

* Establish four gender specific schools – two elementary schools and two middle schools
* Provide professional development to staff to tailor their teaching methods for a single-gender setting

**The Proposal: School Choice**

* Eighth graders who are not assigned to a magnet or choice high school will have the opportunity to select which of the four comprehensive high schools he/she would like to attend as a freshman in Fall 2011

**The Proposal: Performance-Based Schools**

A SLPS school can and will be reconstituted or closed if it consistently fails to improve or provide a high quality education. Performance will be assessed in the following areas:

* District benchmark tests and the MAP test
* Attendance
* Free & Reduce Meal applications
* Course offerings and graduation rate (high schools)