



San Francisco Public Library

DATE: September 15, 2006

TO: Honorable Mayor Newsom
Mayor, City and County of San Francisco
City Hall, Room 200

FROM: Luis Herrera
City Librarian

I was very pleased to learn of your plan for the “Partnership for Achievement,” a city and school partnership to improve San Francisco’s public schools. I believe that through its programs and resources, the Library can play a pivotal role in the success of this initiative. It is in the spirit of support and collaboration that I offer the following recommendations on several program initiatives that hopefully you will consider as part of the partnership. Details on these initiatives are outlined below:

In-Service Training and Resource Support for SFUSD Teachers and Librarians

Library staff welcome the opportunity to provide orientations and training on the myriad of resources that complement curriculum instruction. These workshops would highlight the following resources:

- Online homework help tools available to students through the library
- Subject guides for teachers
- Electronic databases available to teachers to support classroom instruction
- Relevant teacher planning meetings to collaborate on resources available at the public library that support and enhance curriculum

Career and College Preparation

The Library can serve as a key resource to assist students in exploring their career and college options. The Library will target the purchase of college, career and test materials in print and electronic formats. Additional support in the area would include the following:

- Provide Career and Education Planners to teachers and students
- Promote career development resources available in the College Access Center housed in the Main Library
- Work with the College Access Center to present programs on college selection, funding options, and the on-line application process

Collaboration with School Library Staff

The ability to access and evaluate information is a cornerstone of student success. The Library can support SFUSD's information literacy education for K-12 students through programs aimed at developing these competencies. The Library would offer the following support:

- Library staff will provide outreach to schools and host class visits to the Main and branch libraries to introduce information resources and provide training on how to access those resources
- Invite SFUSD librarians to participate in the public library's monthly book evaluation meetings

Library Card Campaign

A shared vision of having every student in San Francisco possess a public library card is a strategy to increase student success in developing research and information literacy skills. The elements of a joint school district and city library card campaign would include the following:

- The Library would work with SFUSD staff to target the entering grades for elementary, middle and high schools each year ensuring that at the end of five years all students will have cards
- The Library and school district would engage students in a design contest for a new student card
- A kick-off campaign to promote the project would involve the Mayor, District officials and students to heighten awareness on the initiative

Support SFUSD's Efforts in Early Literacy Development

The Library is committed to a strong working relationship with the district's Child Development Centers to support early literacy through the Library's *Every Child Ready to Read* program. The Library's role would involve the following:

- Provide training to Center parents
- Work with staff to develop booklists, services and enhanced materials collections that support early literacy
- Develop joint workshops and trainings

In addition to the above noted programs, the Library is committed to continue its support of the school district by actively participating in *Back to School* nights; working with parents and teachers to promote resources that support student homework; providing required reading materials in all 28 neighborhood branch libraries; and sponsoring author visits, discussion groups and teen advisory programs to support the overall goal of supporting student achievement.

The Library's mission is to promote lifelong learning and build a community of readers. As such, the Library's effort can support your vision for a coherent, comprehensive plan for collaboration toward an excellent public school. Through this collaboration the Library can provide critical assistance to empower teachers in the classroom; energize curriculum for students; open doors to additional resources for SFUSD teachers, students and their families; and introduce literacy and the use of the Public Library system as important paths for education and employment. We welcome the opportunity to be part of your efforts toward a partnership for achievement.