

# Making Hamilton the Best Place to Raise a Child

## Anti-Poverty Task Force



By creating the conditions so that students can achieve and use their education as a passport out of poverty.



### Early Successes

- Anti-Classism guidelines complete and in-service beginning.
- Staff development with focus on "Failure is Not an Option" 2006-2007.
- Targeted students:
  - ESL students improved their EQAO scores between 2003 and 2006
    - i. Reading Grade 3 by 10%, grade 6 by 17%
    - ii. Writing Grade 3 by 20% Grade 6 by 25%
    - iii. Math Grade 3 by 30%, Grade 6 by 29%
  - Credit recovery programs and pathway programs for at risk students in place
  - Increased apprenticeships
  - Decreased at risk students grade 7 and 8 from 2003-2006
- Specialized programs
  - S.H.A.E (strengthening Hamilton's Aboriginal Education) reduced drop-out suspensions, increased graduation rate
  - Turning Point program started Fall of 2006 for drop-outs 10 to 15 students have already graduated
  - Adult day school graduates with diplomas
  - 7 alternative programs in place
  - Approximately 40 classrooms in 15 community facilities (such as the correctional center)
- High Needs schools : Additional teachers, 10 child and youth workers, some extra resources for textbooks and literacy and numeracy teachers.
- Clothing closets in 6 schools, nourishment programs in 35 -40 schools.
- Opened Best Start programs at Woodward, Elizabeth Bagshaw, Hillcrest, Cathy Wever, Gibson, and King George schools. Ontario Early Learning Centers or satellites at 11 schools.

### Poverty Reduction Strategy

- Raising staff's expectations of student achievement of disadvantaged groups.
- Raising awareness of inequity amongst staff through the Equity Policy.
- Targeting students who are at risk of dropping out of school.
- Providing specialized programs for particular groups of students.
- Providing additional resources to schools where there is a high congregation of disadvantaged students.
- Supports: clothing, food and bus fares to keep students in school.
- Strong support for Early Child Development and Care.

### Community Partners

#### Major partners include:

City of Hamilton  
Hamilton Public Library  
Industry Education Council  
Hamilton Community Foundation  
YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington  
YWCA Hamilton  
Umbrella Child and Family Centres  
Hamilton Police Service  
Today's Family  
East End Kiwanis  
SISO  
Wesley Urban Ministries  
Partners in Nutrition  
Mohawk College  
Affiliated Services for Children and Youth

*In addition there are about 150 partnerships with service clubs, churches, businesses, agencies and neighborhood organizations*



**TACKLING POVERTY**  
*in* **HAMILTON** *We can do it!*

