

PROMISE POSTING

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Louisiana's Promise Strategy

The Louisiana's Promise Strategy is to support school districts in their efforts to mobilize and engage community leaders in developing strategies to increase graduation rates. In October 2009, the Core Group (Education's Next Horizon, Picard Center, Louisiana Department of Education, and Louisiana Association of United Ways) assisted School Superintendent **Edward Cancienne** and the **Iberville Parish School System** in convening a summit for that purpose. The initial planning meeting was attended by over twenty Iberville Parish leaders representing law enforcement, education, business, community, and faith-based organizations.

Led by Superintendent Cancienne, the Iberville Parish Community Leadership team developed priority goals in three Louisiana's Promise Foundation Principle focus areas: Early Detection & Community Support Systems, Truancy & Attendance, and Connecting School to the Future. A follow-up meeting was held in which specific objectives, benchmarks, and target dates were developed for each goal. This plan was also aligned with the Superintendent's Master Plan, which addressed additional goals for district-wide school improvement. The planning sessions were facilitated by Education's Next Horizon.



Photo courtesy of Post South/Iberville Parish

The Core Group is currently meeting with **Baker School Superintendent Estes Taplin** and his staff to plan a community summit in mid-March 2010.

To become a part of a Dropout Prevention Leadership Team in your community or for information about how Louisiana's Promise can assist your community in tackling the dropout problem, contact John Warner Smith, CEO of Education's Next Horizon, at jsmith@lanexthorizon.org, or by phone at (225) 933-1177.



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