

La Crosse, WI 2019 Rebuilding for Learning initiative – Update
<https://www.lacrossepartnersinlearning.com/>

"Our on-going collaboration between La Crosse County, City of La Crosse, and School District of La Crosse - and well over 30 frontline organizations working directly in support of youth and families - is poised to unveil another outstanding experience. This year's Rebuilding for Learning theme, Know Your Impact!, features a compelling meld of national and local speakers... this year will focus around the endless possibilities available in our community that are making an impact in the lives of students and families in the La Crosse area....October 28 @ 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

The Family and Youth Subcommittee (Rebuilding for Learning Steering Committee) is a subcommittee of the La Crosse Community Collaboration, which is a partnership between three local governmental entities: (1) The School District of La Crosse, (2) the City of La Crosse and (3) La Crosse County. The Collaboration, which began in 2005, has a meeting once per quarter which is chaired jointly by the School District of La Crosse Superintendent, the Mayor of the City of La Crosse, and the La Crosse County Administrator. Participants include Department Heads / Managers / Directors from those three organizations...

In 2011, the Family and Youth Subcommittee adopted a conceptual framework outlined in Howard S. Adelman and Linda Taylor's book, "Rebuilding for Learning," to advance the mission of strengthening collaboration and improving communication within the family and youth services area. In adopting this framework, the subcommittee began to refer to itself as the "Rebuilding for Learning Steering Committee." The descriptive term "Rebuilding for Learning Initiative" now refers to the subcommittee's activities.

Under the new framework, the RfL Steering Committee adopted the goal of ensuring all children have the opportunity to succeed by addressing barriers students face that prevent them from coming into the classroom "ready to learn." Examples of these barriers, stemming from challenges faced by either the child or the child's parents, include, but are not limited to: (a) mental health, (b) substance abuse, (c) abuse or neglect, (d) lack of fundamental basic needs, (e) behaviors which disrupt the classroom and put the child at risk of entering the criminal justice system either as a youth or later as an adult, etc.

To address these barriers, the RfL Steering Committee adopted Adelman and Taylor's strategy of working towards creating more integrated and seamless systems across three levels of intervention: (1) prevention, (2) early intervention, and (3) emergency intervention. One of the first objectives of the renamed "RfL Steering Committee" was to plan a summit bringing together School, City, County and community providers of services to children and youth. This first summit in August of 2011 focused heavily on examining local systems of intervention to identify gaps and overlaps. From this first summit came the objectives of creating and maintaining a website (www.lacrossepartnersinlearning.org), and addressing perceived communication barriers that were created by the need to keep certain child and youth information confidential.

Recent summits (both in 2015 and 2016) have focused on increasing trauma-informed practices throughout our three agencies as well as community service agencies. They have also sought to increase awareness of RfL activities as well as available community services and promising initiatives (i.e., neighborhood revitalization, community policing, local mental health services, etc.). Attendance at the summits has grown each year, with over 1,000 individuals attending the 2016 summit....."