





Workshop prepared by Jeremy Del Rio

Workshop Description

2020 Vision For Schools: Transforming Public Education Within A Single Generation Of Students

Adults promise children that if they stay in school they will be equipped to succeed in life, but we have failed to make good on that promise for generations -- with high school graduation rates in some cities hovering at or below 30%. First-graders in Fall 2008 will graduate high school in 2020. Come explore how urban ministries can transform public education within a single generation of students by activating congregations, adopting schools, and becoming answers to prayer.

Legend	
<i>Icon</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Bolded font	Suggested script for facilitator
<i>Italicized font</i>	Instructions for the facilitator
	Slide or Transparency Change
	Discuss in Small Groups
	Ask the audience a question
	Handout

INTRODUCTION – Introduce yourself and specifically your work with youth and interest in education reform.

Promises Kept?

We promise kids: “Stay in school and you’ll be equipped with the skills you need to achieve in life.” Yet in some cities, as many as 60-70% of public school students cannot read or do math at grade level.

The “Greatest Injustice”



“Educational inequity is our nation’s greatest injustice.” – Wendy Kopp,
President of Teach for America

(*US News* calls Wendy one of “America’s 100 Best Leaders” [2006] and *Time* calls her one of the “World’s 50 Greatest Influencers” [2008])

Why?

The average high school graduate from low-income urban areas will read at an 8th grade level. (Source: Teach for America)

That means average urban high school graduates lack fundamental skills to:

- compete at college or in an information economy
- complete a job application
- conduct a Bible study
- calculate tithes or
- coordinate household finances.

That is, *if* they graduate.....

52% of blacks graduate, and 57% of Hispanics. The likelihood that a ninth-grader in a big city will graduate in 4 years amounts to a 50-50 coin toss. Cross into the suburbs and the odds improve dramatically.

In 12 cities the gap exceeds 25%. (Source: *USA Today*)

The Class of 2020

The Class of 2020



Students who begin first grade in Fall 2008 are the high school graduating class of 2020. Can this be the generation for whom we make good on our promise?

Even Rivals Agree ...

***"I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America."* - Barack Obama**



***"Education is the civil rights issue of this century. Equal access to public education has been gained. But what is the value of access to a failing school?"* - John McCain**

THE HOPE FOR CITY SCHOOLS

Nationwide, there are 300,000 evangelical churches (plus mainline, Catholic, etc) and 100,000 public schools: a ratio of (at least) three churches for every one school.

In cities, those numbers tend to rise. In New York, for example, the ratio is more than 5:1 and Chicago is almost 10:1

What Might Happen IF ...

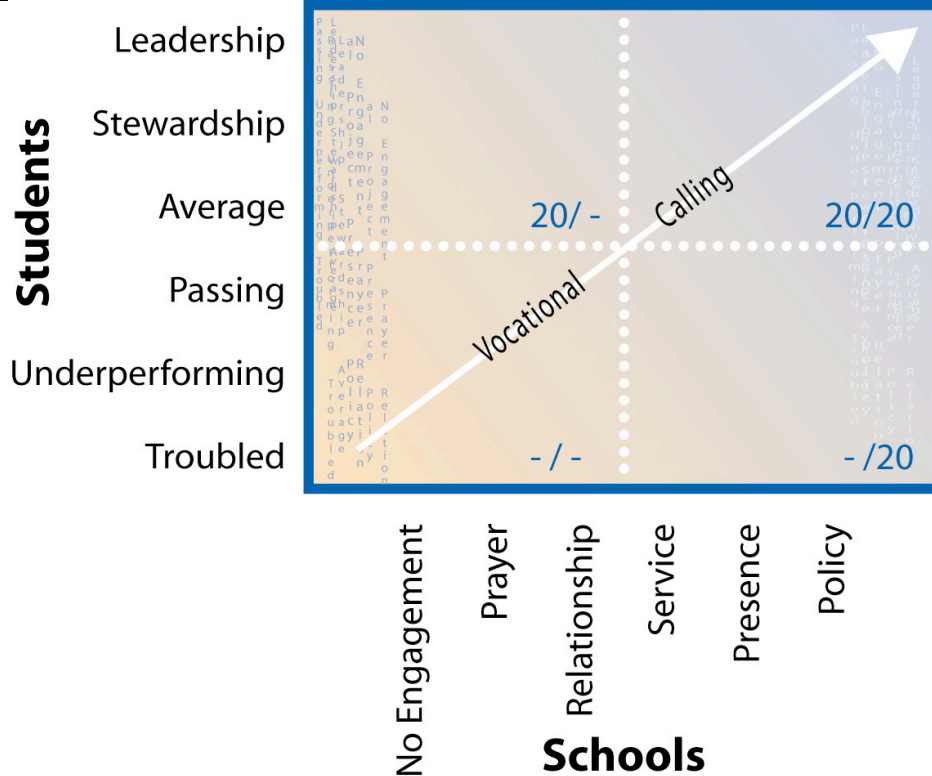
What might happen if those churches actually prayed for those schools?
 Dare we expect God to answer those prayers? What if He even used our
 churches to answer those prayers?

🖥️ The Paradigm Shift



What if churches began to view schools as partners for equipping
 students to become who God created them to be? What if every church
adopted one school within walking distance of the congregation for
 meaningful prayer, service, and even advocacy?

🖥️ The Adoption Matrix: A Strategy for Engaging Public Schools



Holistic 20/20 engagement begins with prayer but doesn't end there.

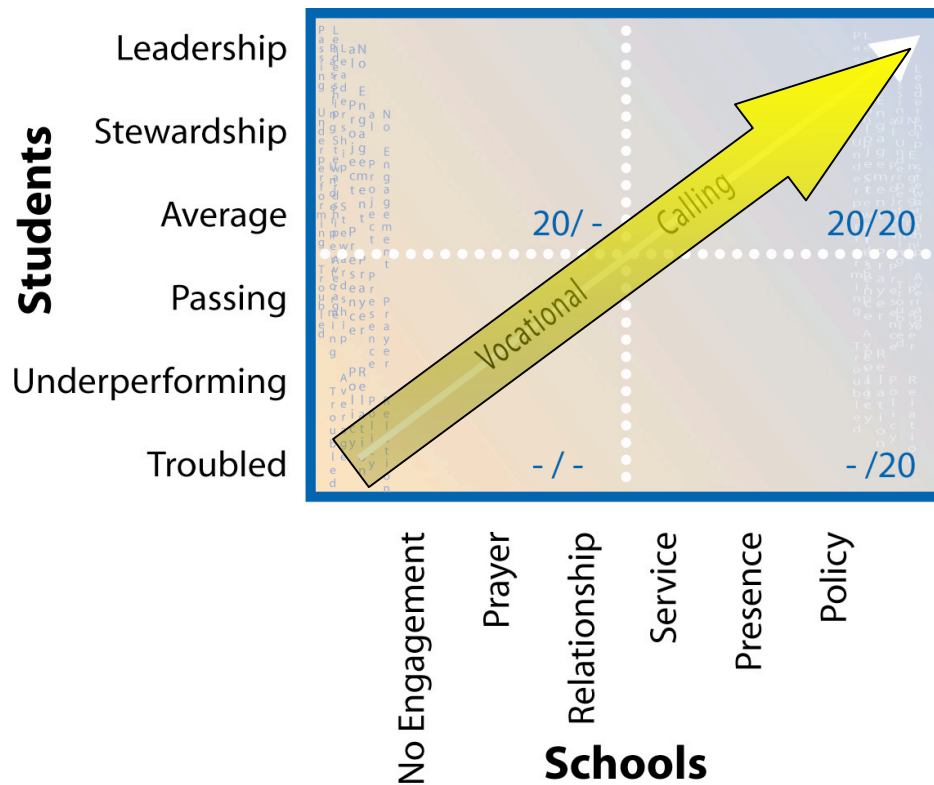
The 20/20 Elements



The 20/20 elements:

- 1) Vocational Calling
- 2) School Engagement
- 3) Student Leadership

I. VOCATIONAL CALLING



What moves a church along the strategy is an embracing of vocational calling.

It's the job of people in the pulpits to equip people in the pews for the work of ministry.

EPHESIANS 4:11-12

*“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, **for the work of the ministry.**” (Ephesians 4:11-12)*

Redefine Youth Minister



While our cities lack traditional, paid, full-time youth ministers (but no shortage of kids – “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few”) why not, “Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (Luke 10:2)?

Therefore, we must redefine youth minister.

Anyone God trusts to have a meaningful relationship with a young person is a youth minister.

Salt and Light

Salt and Light



50-80% of every congregation is already directly connected to a school through:

- Students
- Parents
- Grandparents

- **Aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings, etc**
- **Teachers**
- **Custodians**
- **Support staff**
- **Principals and administrators**

God has already dispersed His body as salt and light throughout schools – if only our churches would activate the body!



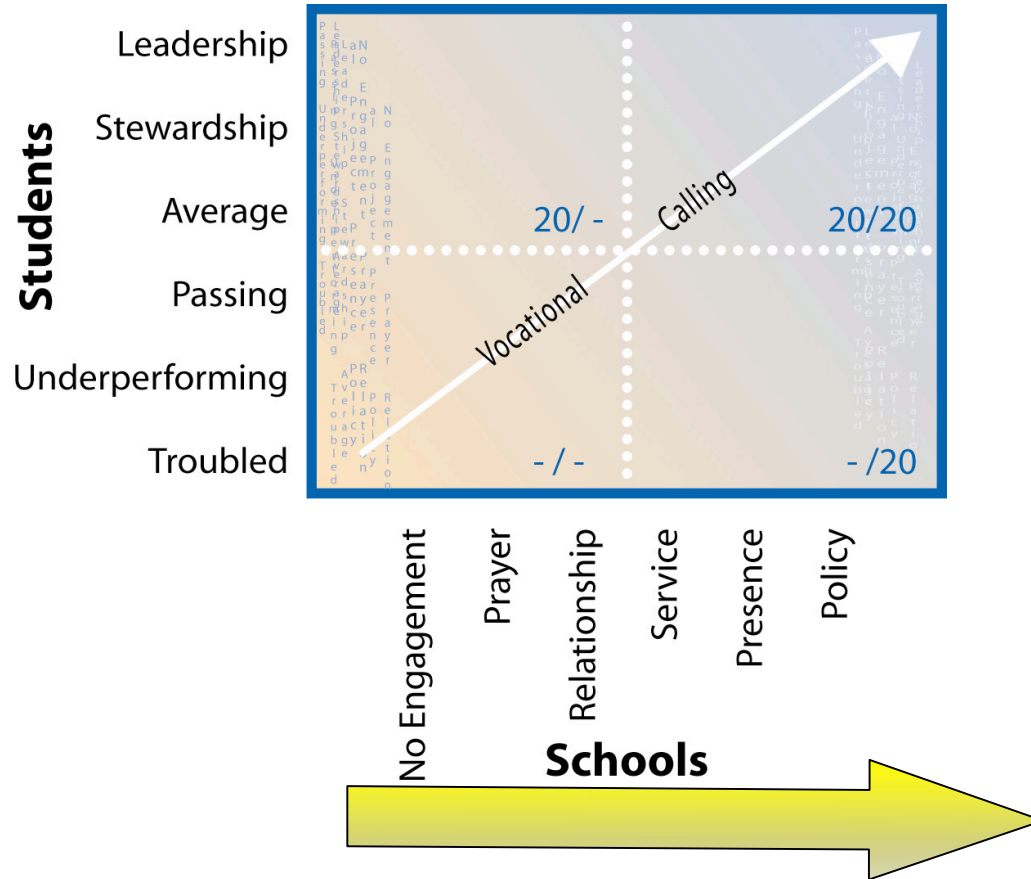
Matthew 5:13-16

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:13-16)

Facilitator Instructions - Practical sidebar: If you want an overwhelming visual, ask students, parents, etc to stand during a Sunday service, one group at a time. Watch nearly the entire congregation respond to the invitation.

II. ENGAGING THE SCHOOL



Defining "Success"



Redefine success the way the school defines success. Love prefers the "other." Church attendance and water baptisms don't count! Sample metrics:

- + Student retention
- + Attendance
- + Graduation
- + Test scores
- + Extracurricular program offerings
- + Mentor/mentee relationships

Phase 1: Intentional Prayer



As often as your church prays, commit to praying for one school within walking distance

Why?

- We preach a God who answers prayer
- We grow to love what we pray for
- If it's nearby, we cannot escape it

Best Practices

- Corporate prayer (during Sunday service)
- Congregational prayer meetings
- Bulletin Inserts
- Small Groups
- Intercessory teams
- Prayer e-lists and bulletin boards
- Prayer walks

Phase 2: Resume of Trust



The biggest impediment: educators have no reason to trust us.

Evangelicals as a group, abandoned public schools when the Supreme Court outlawed a 30-second nonsectarian, state imposed prayer. For decades since, we have tended to talk about public education only to:

- Complain
- Falsely claim that prayer is forbidden in schools (“As often as there are tests, there will be prayer in schools!” – anonymous principal)
- Demand vouchers (our churches lack capacity to educate all of our students – 2 million in New York City alone!)
- Protest sex education or science curricula
- Advocate evacuation in favor of religious or home schools



Overcome mistrust by cultivating credibility. Establish what Pastor Ray Parrascondo calls a “Resume of Trust.”

Ideas:

- **Faculty breakfast** before school (Best Practice: Crossroads Church)
- **Principal lunch** (your treat)
- **Appreciation** events for teachers, administration, and/or students
- **Principal presentation** on Sunday and corporate response
- **Schoolyard BBQ** (Best Practice: Abounding Grace)



Phase 3: Service



Become answers to prayers (yours and those already prayed for and within the school) by responding to felt needs

Discrete, well defined acts of service that add real value (as defined by the school)



Best Practices

- **Sponsor events** (Why not sponsor the defunded holiday production?)
- **Gardening**
- **Painting** (Best Practice: Paint the Town)
- **Seasonal cleaning**
- **Sports camps**
- **Carnivals**
- **Backpack giveaways** (Best Practice: Christ Tabernacle)



Phase 4: Presence



Develop an ongoing presence on campus, beyond the traditional Bible club.

Strategy should flow organically out of relationship. What needs have the faculty, students, and staff identified that your church can continually serve?

Best Practices

- Mentoring (Best Practice: Generation Xcel)
- Tutoring
- After-school programs (Best Practice: Generation Xcel)
- Safety monitors (halls, lunchroom, etc)
- Classroom volunteers
- Sports leagues and coaching
- Music and arts programs (Why can't the worship pastor teach music for 12 weeks and celebrate with a recital?)
- Leadership clubs
- Character education (Best Practice: Heart of a Champion)
- Student organizing (Best Practice: Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice)
- Parent outreach / PTA

Policy



Earn the right to be heard.

Not every public policy or law is just. Leverage growing credibility to affect just policy decisions.

Speak to macro issues and local school decisions.

ABC's of Educational Policy

The ABC's of educational policy:

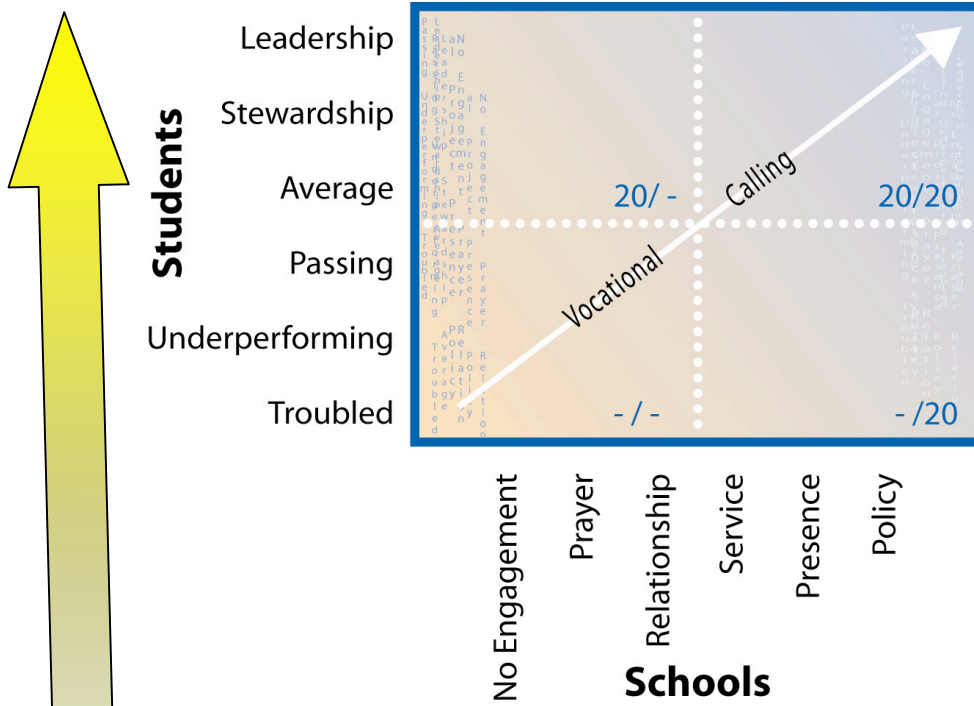


- Appointments (personnel)
- Budgets
- Curriculum

An individual church acting alone can affect transformation at the school level. But coordinating regionally can affect change system-wide.

III. Student Leadership

III. STUDENT LEADERSHIP



 **“The world’s best businesses are realizing that no matter....”**

*“The world’s best businesses are realizing that no matter what industry they are in, their **real business is developing leaders.**” – Fortune (10/01/07)*

 **The Great Commission: A Leadership Development Mandate**

The Great Commission: A Leadership Development Mandate

*“Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)*

 **Every disciple Jesus made was a leader.**



Every disciple Jesus made was a leader.

Jesus made disciples before they were converts. Why not follow his example first with the students in our churches and also with the un-churched students in our schools?

 **Students are called to lead. 1 Tim 4:12**



Students are called to lead.

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example...” (1 Tim 4:12)

Move students from troubled and chronically under-performing, beyond passing and average, to stewardship and leadership



The challenge of 10%



The challenge of 10%

“Mostly we found that to change a block, we had to get between 10 and 20 percent of the people engaged.”- Geoffrey Canada, Harlem Children’s Zone

The goal for each adopted school: Develop a pipeline of student leaders that will include 10% of the student body



The challenge of 10% Example

For example, in a school of 1,000 students:



Year 1: 12 students (freshmen)

Year 2: 24 students (keep first 12 sophomores and select 12 more freshmen)

Year 3: 48 students (keep previous 24 and select 24 freshmen)

Year 4: 96 students (keep previous 48 and select 48 freshmen)

Every developing leader helps develop a younger leader as a mentor, except in Year 1

Leadership within a high school



Disperse student leaders as salt and light throughout the school:

- **Classrooms**
- **Student council**
- **Sports teams**
- **Extracurricular clubs**
- **Community service**

ABOUT 20/20 VISION FOR SCHOOLS

20/20 Vision for Schools was conceived by the Coalition of Urban Youth Workers (www.CoalitionNYC.com) in New York City and operates locally as a partnership between the Coalition and the New York City Leadership Center (www.NYCLeadership.com).

20/20 Vision remains committed to open-sourcing education reform. Join the movement to transform public education nationwide, and feel free to adapt 20/20 Vision experiences and strategy to your city. All we ask is that you freely give to others what you have received from us, and let us know if and how the strategy unfolds for you. For more information, visit www.2020Schools.net.

CREDITS

Workshop prepared by: Jeremy Del Rio (www.JeremyDelRio.com)

Originally written for [2020 Vision for Schools](#) and [Urban Youth Workers Institute/Reload 2008-2009](#)

Photos courtesy: [MichaelMowery.com](#), [JeremyDelRio.com](#), and [GenerationXcel.com](#)

This workshop may be reproduced in whole or in part with appropriate attribution, but photos may not be used without permission except in this presentation. Online references must include hyperlinks to <http://2020schools.net> and <http://JeremyDelRio.com>.

Copyright 2008 Jeremy Del Rio. Some Rights Reserved.