

## WHO WE ARE

Alignment Rockford is a collective impact organization whose mission is to align community resources in support of public school strategies to raise student achievement, improve the health and happiness of our children, and advance the economic and social well-being of our community.

## WHAT WE SEE

Alignment Rockford envisions all students graduating from high school with marketable employment skills and enrolling in post-secondary education and training. They are eager to live, work, learn, create, and play in the Rockford Region as contributing adults.

## COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Collective impact is a centralized infrastructure, a dedicated staff, and a structured process that leads to a common agenda, shared measurement, continuous communication, and mutually reinforcing activities among all participants.

## PRINCIPLES

- Focus on those with the greatest need first
- Target academics and the whole child
- Comprehensive and multifaceted approach



“Alignment Rockford effectively brings together community resources in support of our public schools. It is difficult to imagine leading our District without their continued support.”

*Ehren Jarrett, Superintendent  
Rockford Public Schools District 205*

## PURPOSE

- Enable children to succeed
- Align with the school district’s strategic priorities
- Design solutions focusing on high-yield challenges
- Solve complex problems
- Work of serving public schools is multi-generational

**TEAMS** develop solutions surrounded by these needs identified by the public schools

- Healthy Starts: equip families of children ages 0-5 with the tools needed to excel in school
- Career Awareness: create a K-12 system to increase student career awareness
- Pathways: increase student engagement, preparation and placement in post-secondary training and employment or education
- College Readiness: create an engaged school and community culture where all students expect to pursue higher education or professional training beyond high school graduation

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since its inception in 2010, Alignment Rockford's accomplishments have included creating a dramatic rise in community awareness about the challenges and opportunities facing Rockford Public Schools, and implementing the Alignment system of principles, structure, process and technology to design and deliver solutions.

During 2014 the value of **incremental tangible goods and services** provided through Alignment Rockford solutions to support Rockford Public Schools is conservatively **estimated to exceed \$560,000**.

## PROCESS

All Alignment teams form in response to a District's request. They are chaired by a public school executive and vice chaired by a recognized community leader. Each Alignment team follows the same process cycle, and each phase in the cycle is composed of multiple steps.

### Solution Design

Beginning the process cycle is the important solution design/tactical planning phase which identifies a solution that responds to the strategic need.

### Community Engagement

The team engages the community with Alignment's unique Invitation to Participate (ITP)<sup>™</sup> tool. The ITP<sup>™</sup> asks organizations to align their existing resources to support the strategic needs of the public schools.

### Pilot Implementation and Evaluation

Solutions are piloted, assessed and improved before serving an entire target population.

### Scale Up

The team examines the data, analyses the data to determine if/how to expand, and then when and where to expand the project. The team will then develop a plan for expanding to additional sites based on capacity and need.

### Ownership

As Alignment solutions mature they migrate to the school district and become a part of its usual practices to support all students. Alignment organizations utilize proprietary principles, structure, processes, and technology. This is key to pilot program success, fundamental to outcomes evaluation, and critical to effective replication and institutionalization.

All Alignment participants are selflessly committed to creating a positive and constructive atmosphere as they shoulder the responsibility of advancing Rockford Public Schools strategies for student success.

