

**Minnesota Children's Summit 2005: Smart Policies, Strong Families**  
**Monday, March 28, 2005**  
**Practicing Family Impact Analysis**  
**1:45-2:45 p.m.**

**Youth Programming**

- Exercise to break into groups for smaller discussion; sort by size of graduating HS class; share name and interest
- Divide into groups to discuss 6 principles
- Consider location of schools (rural/urban) in deciding pros/cons in each small group.
- Back to large-group discussion
  - Principle 1: Family Support/Responsibility
    - Pros: benefit to children who are home-schooled to participate in activities; make it easier for families if activities in communities.
    - Cons: after school activities might cause transportation issues; schools should look at whole child; childhood obesity is a major problem not addressed by proposed changes.
  - Principle 2: Family Membership/Stability
    - Pros: activities closer to home; less divisive activities in one place.
    - Cons: disrupt connection between families and schools; schools should include all areas, not just “academics”; Park and recreation areas could become elitist
  - Principle 3: Family involvement/interdependent
    - Pros: kids activities between 3-5 pm get in less trouble; tax levy for after school activities if not at school; challenges other community organizations to get involved.
    - Cons: do resources really transfer? Transportation issues, less family time, quality of instruction, competition for money from community, equitable access to activities is diminished under proposed change.
  - Principle 4: Family partnership/empowerment
    - Pros: Advocates at grassroots mobilize cool out of school programs; chance to add programs not currently available at school; engage kids who aren't comfortable in school now.
    - Cons: Not collaborative, top-down dictatorship, no infrastructure to enact this program; increase class divide; limit choices in low-income communities; All activities should be learning opportunities.
  - Principle 5: Family Diversity
    - Pro: Arts classes could be enhanced
    - Cons: Differentially affect low vs. high-income families; May negatively impact ESL families promoting division of cultures if taken outside of school.
  - Principle 6: Supporting Vulnerable Families

- Pros: more choices in what kids do; located in community
  - Cons: already can't participate in school activities because have other things to do like baby-sit, etc.; doesn't address this problem; fee-based system will be problem for vulnerable families.
- Alarmed that PE minimally required and music/arts not required.
- Discussion of No Child Left Behind = emphasize on testing, accountability rather than holistic education of whole child, problems with democrats buying into this way of shaping policy.
- General Guidelines
  - Focus on 1 principle at a time
  - Present facts
  - Think about roles versus acting as expert
  - Don't pass judgment too quickly
  - Keep an open mind
- Ending Comments
  - Think about how policy affects our families – combine concerns with your own family concerns and with concerns facing other families. Diversity of family perspective is important – think broadly.