



School & Main Institute Who We Are - Services

School & Main Institute is a nationally recognized training and partnership facilitation organization. We help people work together - across institutional lines or in “uncommon” coalitions - to improve their communities and the lives of youth living in them.

About School & Main Institute

The strongest responses to the challenges that impede learning, employment, health, and other community issues only take hold when stakeholders collaborate. But real collaboration takes work. And it takes skill. Especially when public and private sector organizations are involved.

People often don't have the skills and knowledge they need to work shoulder to shoulder with colleagues from a variety of sectors who speak different languages and have different expectations.

School & Main Institute staff and faculty have years of expertise as leaders, program developers, trainers, and facilitators in the fields of education, workforce preparation, youth and community development.

We are deeply knowledgeable about policy - but have a passion for practice.

We've experienced the rhetoric of large and small scale community improvement initiatives - and know how to support the people who manage the reality of them.

If your community improvement effort involves diverse constituencies, stakeholders and partners we can help.

School & Main Institute was founded in 1985, at Brandeis University's Heller School of Social Policy and Management, and has grown into a nationally recognized non-profit organization.

Services

School & Main crafts leading edge training and technical assistance programs for a wide variety of clients - from grassroots community groups, schools, employers to state and federal agencies. Our services include:

- Facilitated meetings
- Collaborative or Community -Wide Strategic Planning Efforts
- Skill-Building Workshops
- Partnership Development Programs
- Board, Interagency, and Leadership Team Training and Retreats
- Community, Regional or National Institutes and Summits
- Needs Assessment and Asset Mapping
- “Connecting the Dots” - Policy and Practice Alignment Support
- Development of Training Materials
- Coaching and Content Rich Technical Assistance

What Sets Us Apart

- Proven partnership development methodologies
- Expertise with public-private sector collaboration
- Intensive, high quality training formats
- Commitment to personal and community capacity building
- Focus on results (collaboration as more than just meetings).

Our Work - Examples

- Step Up Springfield - Campaign for Proficiency
- Federal Youth Investment Forums - Philadelphia, Chicago, and Phoenix (US DOL, DOE, HHS, and DOJ)
- Texas Statewide Youth Program Initiative & Training Packets
- Rural Training Institute and Rural Resource Guide
- Wyoming and Kansas "Connecting the Dots" - Policy Crosswalk for School-to-Work, Workforce Investment, Welfare to Work, Vocational Education and Education Reform
- Career Passport Assessment System
- Georgia Youth Development Institute, 2002
- South Carolina Education Partners Planning Institute
- Arkansas Career Academy Institute
- Mississippi Youth Investment Summit
- Minnesota Statewide Partnership Development and Employer Engagement Series

About Our Name

School and Main *streets*: The cross streets of community life, where education, business, and community organizations intersect.

Institute: A place for learning. There was no "community development college." We thought there should be.

When we first received funding, we thought our purpose was to support existing programs or help start new ones. We bought a lot of things, but what we didn't buy is change. Enter School & Main Institute....SMI has been there to support even the smallest steps we have taken.

From board rooms to class rooms, School & Main strategies work. School & Main staff, some of the most capable professionals with whom I have worked, are action- oriented and well-grounded in how schools operate. Over the years, they have helped our community design and carry out educational reform strategies which draw on the strengths of every partner at the table.

Call or email us for more information or visit www.schoolandmain.org to see upcoming events.

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Clients & Partners - Examples

- Texas Workforce Commission
- Job Corps
- Efficacy Institute
- Center for Youth Development and Education / Commonwealth Corporation
- Minnesota Department of Children and Families
- Center for Workforce Development, Birmingham, AL
- US Departments of Labor, Education, Health and Human Services, and Justice
- U.S. Department of Labor/New England Region
- Southwestern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center
- Georgia Workforce Investment Board
- Roxbury Network, Boston, MA
- Greater Gardner School to Work Partnership, MA
- State School To Career offices in Kansas, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Iowa, Colorado, and Texas
- Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing
- Urban League of Cleveland, OH
- Worcester Public Schools, MA
- Boston Public Schools, MA
- National Center on Secondary Education and Transition

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