



Talking Points

The Education System's Role in Children's Health and Wellbeing

Lead with **Human Potential** and **Civic Potential** to establish why public education matters.

"When we ensure that all of Jacksonville's kids have the opportunity to learn and develop, they become our city's biggest assets—our future potential. We need the contributions and talents of all of our children for our city to become as vibrant as it can be. By making sure our education system works well, we are also making sure our city has the human potential it needs to grow economically and thrive socially."

Use **Weaving Skills Ropes** to establish a role for the K-12 system in child wellbeing.

"We can't make sure that our young people achieve their full potential unless we pay attention to all the different aspects of their healthy development. Physical health and mental health are intertwined with children's academic progress. They work together like the strands of a rope. For a rope to function well, each strand must be strong and tightly woven. Kids are the same. When they develop one skill it strengthens the others. So when we invest in their wellbeing, it supports their education, and vice versa. We can find better ways to design environments that support our kids that enable them to learn and develop skills that are strong and flexible."

Use **Strong Tracks for Development** to connect the K-12 education system to other child and family systems.

"Communities can help children reach their full potential by coordinating the resources that promote physical and mental health and wellbeing. This includes removing barriers to access as well as early detection and screening. When schools take an active role as a System of Care partner, kids have greater access to health practitioners who can catch problems early. These experts can then consult with teachers and school nurses to efficiently and effectively ensure children stay on track through childhood and into adulthood. Think of the System of Care as a system of tracks. Figuring out how to meet students where they are is like planning a route. We need to anticipate where and when demand

will be most high and design a system that meets these needs and functions well. We have the know-how to plan and engineer a healthier, more vibrant, and better-connected community, one that ensures that all people have what they need to thrive.”

Close with ***Fairness Across Places*** to establish the community as the agent of change.

“We are making it a priority to ensure that children in every neighborhood in the city have access to a quality education. To make sure that there are strong school-based services in every zip code across Jacksonville, we need to devote resources to the places where they currently are patchy or weak.”