



## Data Work Group: Resource Portfolio

This portfolio is a compilation of the materials developed by and for the AHSI Data Work Group. The materials presented may be most useful to the AHSI organizations in enhancing their data collection and evaluation systems and activities.



For more information about the Alternative High School Initiative and to retrieve an electronic copy of this resource guide visit [www.ahsi.org](http://www.ahsi.org)

### Member Organizations

- Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans
- Big Picture Learning
- Black Alliance for Educational Options
- Communities in Schools
- Diploma Plus
- Edvisions
- Gateway to College
- Good Shepherd
- Street School Network
- See Forever
- Youth Build USA
- National League of Cities



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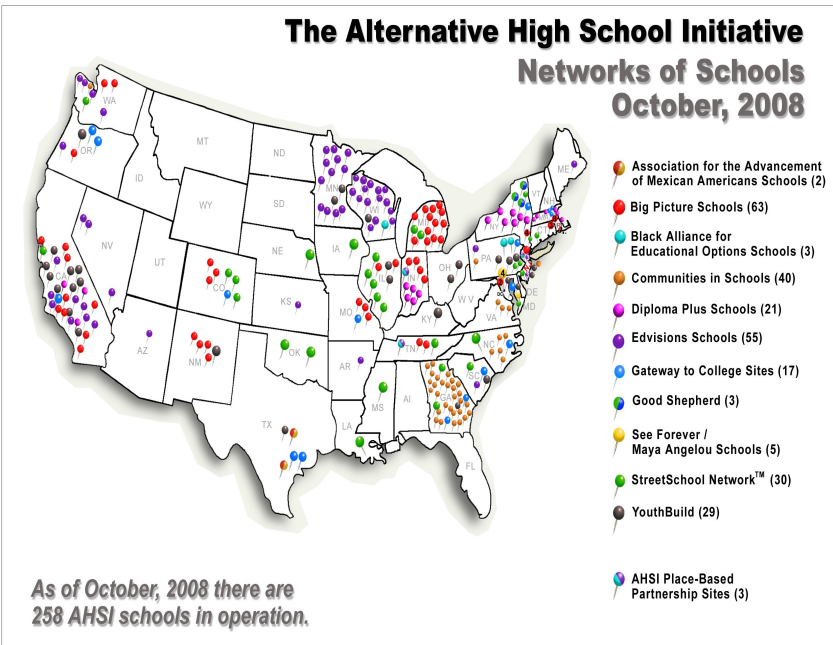
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## Background on the Alternative High School Initiative

The Alternative High School Initiative (AHSI) is a network of youth development organizations committed to creating educational opportunities for young people for whom traditional school settings have not been successful. These youth development organizations include: The Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans, Big Picture Learning, Black Alliance for Educational Options, Communities in Schools, Diploma Plus, EdVisions, Gateway to College, Good Shepherd, See Forever, Street School Network and Youth Build USA.



AHSI is co-convened by the National League of Cities and Big Picture Learning. Primarily, the students served by AHSI organizations are first-generation, low income students from underrepresented populations. These students come from a variety of backgrounds and have had varying educational experiences. AHSI intermediary organizations are committed to effectively preparing *all* students for post secondary education. Moreover, the goal of AHSI organizations is to not only promote career college readiness and access but also life readiness and ultimately success with any post secondary choice.

One strategy developed by AHSI to ensure the organizations continually have access to resources and information that will improve their ability to use data as a tool for tracking progress among schools and students has been to develop the Data Work Group (DWG). The purpose of the DWG has been to provide an atmosphere for collaborative working relationships and a community for best practice sharing around data and evaluation issues. The DWG, comprised of representatives from each of the AHSI intermediary organizations, has worked together to develop a set of tools and resources that are aimed at enhancing each organization's capacity to use data for tracking quantitative and qualitative measures of success.



## Portfolio Resources

The mission of the Data Work Group (DWG) has expanded since its inception in 2006. Originally formed to share information about the types of data each organization uses to track progress of schools and students in their networks, the group also assisted AHSI organizations with responding to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grant Knowledge data collection initiative in 2006. Since then, the Work Group has addressed a number of related issues regarding data collection and evaluation. In doing this work, the DWG created a few tools to help them communicate with each other and to others outside the AHSI Network about the students they serve and the quality and effectiveness of their program designs. Four sets of resources are important artifacts based on that work. These resources are collected in folders in the Data Work Group Portfolio in the Data and Evaluation Folder in the Internet-based IBackup system.

To review these documents, please follow a few quick steps.

1. Use your Internet browser to visit <http://www.ibackup.org>.
2. Login to the AHSI section of IBackup by entering User Name: ahsi and Password: ahs111.
3. Find and open the folder named "Data and Evaluation."
4. The Data Work Group Portfolio overview is available in PDF, and all documents are organized within sub-folders according to the categories below outlined.

### A. Data Collection Indicators and Tools

This folder contains the data wheel developed by the DWG to serve as a graphic organizer for communicating the common and unique aspects of data collection and evaluation across the AHSI organizations. As a workgroup, the organizations committed to collecting common data and to sharing information about the organization-specific data they were collecting. This folder also contains samples of tools and data reports used by the AHSI organizations.

### B. Student Progression Models

In order to communicate the unique aspects of their respective designs, each AHSI organization created a student progression model to show how students move through the several stages of their respective designs. The progression charts help the organizations to identify the key indicators and data elements that could be used for ongoing evaluation. DWG members presented and discussed their designs in order to develop greater understanding of the specific features of each of their programs.

### C. 2+2 Data Collection Initiative

From the inception of the Data Work Group, there was discussion regarding how the organizations could communicate to each other and to others about the quality and effectiveness their program designs. The Directors decided that each organization would report on two indicators common across all organizations and two indicators unique to each organization. This folder contains files describing the design of the 2+2 initiative, the data collected by each AHSI organization, and a final report, which provides a compilation and discussion of the 2+2 indicators from each of the organizations. The report constitutes a data baseline for a longitudinal assessment of program quality and effectiveness.

### D. Evaluation System Component

This folder contains a form for use by the DWG members in assessing the evaluation systems – structures and processes – employed by their respective organizations. Separate folders are available to store documents addressing the evaluation system components.