

FIGHT FOR CHILDREN

Promoting Quality Education

Quality Schools Initiative

Fight For Children's Quality Schools Initiative is an innovative awards program that encourages replication of high quality programs that improve student achievement in public, charter, and independent schools in Washington, DC. As part of the program, Fight For Children awards each winning school with a \$100,000 grant to use towards expanding their effective practices. In addition to the grant, Fight For Children works with the leadership of the winning schools to capture the ongoing strategies these schools are using to improve student achievement. In order to encourage and facilitate replication of these successful programs, Fight For Children publishes case studies on the effective practices of the winning schools and distributes them throughout the DC community.

DC First Lady and Fight For Children board member Michelle Fenty announced Fight For Children's 2009 Champions of Quality on April 17, 2009. The winning schools are Bell Multicultural High School, Capital City Public Charter School, and The Washington Middle School for Girls. Fight For Children will distribute case studies of these winning schools in the fall of 2009. If you are interested in receiving one of these case studies, please email [Anna Yousufzai](mailto:Anna.Yousufzai@fightforchildren.org).

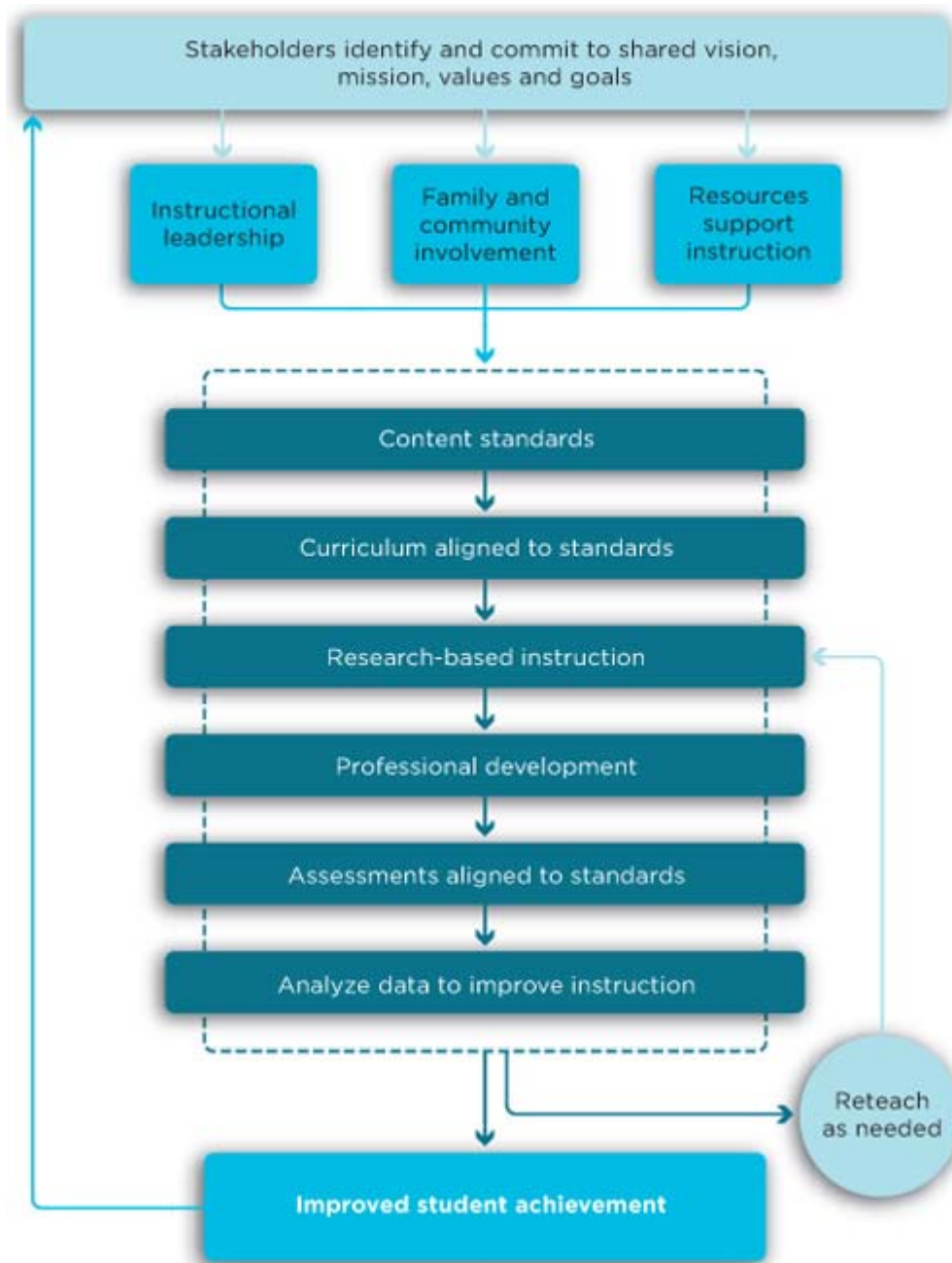
In 2008, the winning schools of the Quality Schools Initiative were Strong John Thomson Elementary School, E.L. Haynes Public Charter School, and San Miguel School. Over 1,000 case studies of their effective practices have been distributed throughout DC. In [Strategies for Building Excellence in Washington, DC Schools](#), Fight For Children identified three common threads connecting these three schools:

Leadership: The ability to create a culture around specific teaching principles by clearly expressing a vision.

Effective Use of Data: The ability to understand and use data to drive instruction, lesson planning, and professional development.

Parent Engagement: The ability to recognize and utilize talent in the parent community to further the school's mission.

These elements combine with specific strategies to form a successful school improvement process:



For more information about the effective practices of the award-winning schools, please read *Strategies for Building Excellence in Washington, DC Schools*.

Background on the Quality Schools Initiative Awards

The winning schools in the 2008 Quality Schools Initiative—Strong John Thomson Elementary School, E.L. Haynes Public Charter School, and San Miguel School—met multiple eligibility requirements for the program, including increased student achievement and demonstrated best practices based on quality indicators in the areas of leadership, instruction, and professional development. An independent selection committee of leaders across DC’s

education spectrum selected the winning schools and four finalists.

Fight For Children will mail information about the 2009 Quality Schools Initiative awards to eligible schools in January 2009.

My School Chooser

Fight For Children publishes *My School Chooser*, a user-friendly guide to help families make the best educational choice for their children. The 2009-2010 edition features profiles all 320 schools in Washington, DC, including test scores for DC Public School and DC charter schools, extracurricular activities, transportation options, tuition information, and application procedures. Also included is a calendar and helpful worksheets to assist parents in determining which schools make the most sense for their families. Last year, Fight For Children distributed 12,000 copies of the guide.

Download the 2009-2010 edition [pdf] of *My School Chooser* in [English](#) or [Español](#). **Please note the PDF version contains updated and/or corrected information on several schools. These changes are highlighted at the beginning of the PDF.** You can also request a printed copy by calling Anna Yousufzai at 202-772-0424 or by [email](#). Please specify how many of each version you would like.

DC Public Schools recently announced several changes to the process for out-of-boundary, pre-kindergarten and preschool enrollment. These include changes to application deadlines and the number of schools to which you may apply. The information contained in *My School Chooser* does not reflect these changes. Please visit <http://www.k12.dc.us/options> to learn the most current enrollment information.

Parent Leadership Institute

Fight For Children is also promoting quality education by empowering parents to be better stewards of their children's education. Research has repeatedly shown that parental involvement is essential to improved student performance and leads to better schools. With the support of the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#), Fight For Children's Parent Leadership Institute trained a cadre of parent leaders in 2008 using a proven parent training model from the [Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence](#) in Kentucky. These parents are now working within schools to organize other parents and improve their children's education experience. Fight For Children is also conducting research on other effective parent engagement methods and programs.

Fight For Children is an independent non-profit organization that serves low-income kids by promoting quality education and keeping kids healthy. We also produce Fight Night and School Night.