

Children’s RBA Report Card Working Group
 Minutes of the Stable Families Committee Meeting, November 15, 2011

Candidate Indicators by Dimension of Stable Families

The committee reviewed the indicators identified at the prior meeting and added a new one: percent of families having dinner together at least five days per week. It then identified three possible dimensions of stable families – environment, parental engagement, and child self-esteem/resilience – and clustered all the candidate indicators under the three dimensions:

Environment	Parental Engagement	Child Self-esteem/Resilience
< 200%/225% FPL	*Families eating dinner together	Inventory of child self-esteem and resilience
*Housing insecurity (School transiency, families spending >30% of income for housing, other?)	Parents involved in kids’ education	Kids with a caring adult in their lives
Food insecurity	*Chronic absenteeism	
	Two-parent families	
Single parents in poverty	Kids with dads in their lives	
	Kids in out-of-home placements	
	Abuse and neglect	

*Potential headline indicators

Headline and Secondary Indicators

We tentatively identified housing insecurity as the headline indicator for environment. We need to do more research to determine the best specific indicator to use. For parental engagement, the headline indicator chosen is families eating dinner together if the data are available on an ongoing basis; otherwise the headline indicator would be chronic absenteeism. We deferred consideration of a headline indicator for child self-esteem and resiliency until we can investigate what data are currently available. The candidate indicators not selected as headline indicators will need to be assessed further for their usefulness as secondary indicators.

Information and Research Agenda

1. Confer with Connecticut housing advocates to determine the best indicator to use for housing stability.
2. Confer with researchers who reported families eating dinner together five times per week to determine whether and when the original data from 2005-2007 will be updated.
3. confer with SDE to determine what inventories of child self-esteem and resiliency are currently in use at the statewide level and are considered reliable.