

Dear all -- First thanks for commenting on the proposed Telluride Principles, and please accept my apologies for the delay in getting this draft back for you to review. As you know, my day job involves financial markets. Recent weeks have been as busy as any I remember. I hope you understand.

Attached and copied below is a redraft of the principles and introductory comments. I did the best job I could to incorporate all the comments fairly. Not all of them could be included. The two main reasons are: (1) they weren't consistent with the original Telluride ranking of priorities; and (2) length -- we have to keep the principles as absolutely brief as possible.

Please take a look at the draft attached and copied below and let me know your thoughts. Please let me know if you personally are comfortable with this reference.

Many thanks,

Rob

Telluride Principles for Investing in Young Children

September 9-11, 2007, in Telluride Colorado, 125 business, finance and policy leaders participated in the Telluride Economic Summit on Early Childhood Investment. They reviewed new evidence of proven investments in young children and proposed principles to guide the process and improvement of American youth human capital development.

The Telluride Summit is a "Davos" style forum on building human capital through research-based investments in early childhood. The forum is co-hosted by the Telluride Foundation and the Partnership for America's Economic Success. For more information on the summit, see www.PartnershipforSuccess.org.

During the 2007 summit discussions it became evident that there is a need for a set of principles to clarify Telluride participant thinking to other business people and to guide policymakers, legislators, and program managers and funders. Using a table-discussion format, participants listed and prioritized the features they judged most vital to effective child development policies and programs. The priorities were combined and drafted as five principles, which were then reviewed and commented on by Telluride Summit participants and the members of the Invest in Kids Working Group of the Partnership for America's Economic Success. The proposed principles were redrafted several times. The version below reflects the comments of Telluride participants, Invest in Kids Working Group members, and participants in various other forums. Below the principles is the original summary of Telluride Summit table reports.

Telluride Principles --

Long-term US economic strength and fiscal sustainability depends on our future workforce. Investing in children is a vital economic growth strategy and a priority of business, government and philanthropy. Private and public resources are limited and should be allocated based on evidence of

effectiveness. To provide a framework for understanding and discussing how to allocate resources for investing in children, the Telluride Summit proposes the following principles --

1. Maximizing the life success of every child in America is our highest priority.

- a. Every child has an equal right to achieve his or her full potential.
- b. The earliest investments in a child's development appear to have the highest returns and have the greatest effect if support continues through adolescence.
- c. Achieving full potential requires attending to a child's physical, emotional, cognitive and social capabilities; cultural diversity, and unique needs.

2. Involvement of parents, family and other loving adults is crucial to a child's life success.

- a. For best development of the whole child, parents, families and other loving adults need to be involved, wherever possible, at every step.
- b. There should be a variety of good options for obtaining high quality child development services.
- c. Ending generational cycles of ineffective parenting is vitally important.

3. Children are helped most and the economy is made strongest when resources are allocated on the best evidence of what will lead to positive child outcomes.

- a. Public and private funders should allocate resources (for children and for other purposes) based on rigorous evidence of effectiveness in improving outcomes whenever possible.
- b. Policy officials, service providers, and parents should be accountable to each other and to the children and families they serve.

4. Sound performance evaluations can ensure goals are attained.

- a. High quality child development programs need to have clear goals, rigorous evidence of likely success and draw on best practices – when possible, proven practices should be relied upon to ensure benefits.
- b. Ongoing performance evaluation, flexibility and continuing quality improvement should be built in at the beginning of program operation and funding design and continue throughout.
- c. Evaluations should never be used to penalize children.

5. Child development programs that use private and public incentives and are scalable will be stronger.

- a. Parent and family aspirations, and the incentives of for-profit, non-profit, and government health, nurturing and education providers, are powerful forces that can benefit every child and make the economy stronger.
- b. Programs that can be replicated in other communities and expanded regionally or nationally are more desirable.
- c. As programs are scaled up, they must not be watered down.

Proposed Telluride Principles

Summary of 2007 Table Report Recommendations

Initial Priority Idea Grouping	Combined Occurrences (Fourteen tables)
Every child, life success, equal opportunity, level playing field	14
Family engagement, parental choice, options	13
Rigorous evidence, best practices, flexible, appropriate change	12
Accountability, metrics, performance evaluation	11
Scalable, market processes, systems	11
Accountability, metrics, performance evaluation	11
Every child, life success, wellbeing	8
Rigorous evidence, best practices	7
Family engagement	7
Parental choice, options	6
Scalable	6
Holistic, comprehensive	6
Adaptable, flexible, appropriate change	5
Market processes	4
Universal with sliding scale, focus on most at risk	4
Earlier the better	4
Quality	3
Community, culture, diversity	3
Sustained through to age 18	3
System	1
Invest in leaders	1