

Metro-York moving on poverty, other issues

By David Dagan

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York County leaders are taking aim at the concentration of poverty in city schools and are working to set up an education-research group to benefit all schools in the county, the civic group [Metro-York](#) announced yesterday.

The group released a report on its progress in carrying out **Eight Recommendations** made last November for reversing the slide of the county's urban core.

Two task forces have formed to make good on the group's ideas for improving education. The poverty task force includes superintendents and school board members from key districts, including Central York, Dallastown Area, West York Area, York City and York Suburban. [State Education Secretary Gerald Zahorchak](#) scheduled to meet with the group in March.

A separate task force is working on setting up a York County Schools Consortium, which would serve as a "think tank" for improving schools. [York College Of Pennsylvania](#) agreed to host the consortium.

Metro-York also reported on the status of its ideas for local government. The group is searching for a consulting firm to study the feasibility of consolidating the region's police departments. Also, the group announced it would delay the launch of a process to study changes to county government until after a similar process has wrapped up in Lancaster County. The ["Home-Rule" Process](#) lets voters decide whether to set up a commission to study such changes. The process is already under way in Lancaster County, and Metro-York reported it would closely watch how events unfold there.

Metro-York leaders emphasized when they released their report in November that they intended to follow up aggressively on their recommendations.