



year 4

**City of Learners**
2018 ACTION REPORT



DEAR CITIZENS OF DAYTON AND THE DAYTON REGION,



Mayor Nan Whaley

It is with pride and gratitude that I began my second term as your Mayor in January. Working together, we have made enormous strides to ensure that Dayton is supporting our families and investing in young people. We continue to earn – not just claim – the name *City of Learners*.

This report highlights just some of our community's successes. Credit for these achievements – and many others that are not noted – belongs to countless people and organizations that share the goals of the City of Learners Committee. We celebrate and lift up their contributions because keeping Dayton a great place to live and work is a mission that is important to us all.

Dayton will stay strong only if we give our young people a world-class education. In today's hyper-competitive, global economy, every student must be prepared – *and* have the opportunity – to continue his or her education after high school. Our kids must understand, starting at a young age, that the most rewarding jobs will go to those who have a post-high school credential or a 2-year or 4-year college degree.

Our touchstone in all of the City of Learners work continues to be promoting quality – quality in our Preschools and K-12 schools, in our afterschool and summer programs, in the educational pathways we're fostering and in the mentoring experiences we offer young people.

We mean it when we say that we will invest in initiatives that produce results. *When we commit to supporting quality, our decisions about how to spend our time, talent and money are much easier.*

We are fortunate to have so many people and organizations that are staying strong in their support of children. By committing to helping children from cradle-to-career, we are explicitly rejecting quick and easy solutions. Rather, we acknowledge that the hard work of being a highly educated community is never done.

Thank you for joining me in this work.

Sincerely,

Nan Whaley
Mayor of Dayton

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5 PRIORITIES

In January 2015, the City of Learners identified these 5 priorities and divided into work groups to address them:

1.

OFFER

affordable, high quality Preschool
to all children

2.

ENSURE

all children attend a high quality K-12 school

3.

INCREASE

the availability of high quality afterschool
and summer learning opportunities

4.

GROW

the partnerships between businesses
and schools

5.

EXPAND

the number of young people
who have a caring mentor



DAYTON IS MAKING QUALITY PRESCHOOL AFFORDABLE FOR ALL

Thanks to our voters, Dayton was the first city in Ohio to offer every family – regardless of income – the chance to send their 4-year-old to an affordable and quality Preschool. In the 2017-18 school year, Preschool Promise became available citywide.

That achievement was made possible with the overwhelming passage of Issue 9 in November 2016, which is helping to fund Preschool Promise and to keep Dayton financially sound.

Expanding Preschool Promise so quickly wouldn't have been possible without Montgomery County, which has been a generous and steadfast supporter of the initiative. Montgomery County provided support for the first Preschool Promise pilot programs in Kettering, and then supported Dayton's pilot in Northwest Dayton.

Adopting Preschool Promise is an important statement to our families that Dayton is a great place to invest and to raise a family.

Today Preschool Promise continues to focus on 3 things:

1.

Educating the community about the power of Preschool to prepare children for Kindergarten and ensure they start school on track, not behind.

2.

Improving the quality of Preschools by offering robust professional development and intensive coaching to teachers, and providing stipends for curriculum and improvements that promote young learners' education.

3.

Supporting families by providing sliding-scale tuition assistance to all families, regardless of income.

Preschool Promise has had impressive success:

- **More than 1,060 Dayton families** joined Preschool Promise in the 2017-18 school year.
- **55 Preschools in Dayton participated in Preschool Promise**, giving families great Preschool options.
- **11 additional Dayton Preschools** joined Preschool Promise this last school year.
- **15 Preschool providers in Dayton** increased their Star Rating under Ohio's *Step Up to Quality* initiative.
- **A new website** allows families to join Preschool Promise from their cell phones.
- **More than 600 Dayton families** joined the Preschool Promise Star Attendance program, which provides a \$25 reward each month their child has 90% or better attendance.
- **Families in Preschool Promise can choose to receive 3 text messages** each week with ideas about how to keep their children learning at home.
- **87 teachers in Dayton** joined one of multiple year-long Professional Learning Communities to improve their skills, with a dozen teachers working toward a Child Development Associate certificate.
- **Almost 2 dozen Dayton Public School teachers** received \$400 vouchers to a school supply store.
- **Preschool Promise became a stand-alone organization** with a board of directors that includes representatives appointed by the City of Dayton.

As impressive as these success measures are, the most important result is that students in Preschool Promise programs are making significant academic and social gains. Students are outpacing expected gains on nationally normed assessments.

Dayton's investment in Preschool Promise is getting children ready for Kindergarten and making Dayton even more attractive to families.

ALL CHILDREN NEED TO KEEP LEARNING OUT OF SCHOOL

Because children spend more time out of school than in the classroom, they need to keep learning after school, on weekends and evenings, during breaks and especially over the summer.

The Dayton community is working to expand high quality learning opportunities that include everything from coding camps and swimming lessons to homework help and museum visits. These programs are offered by schools, community and faith-based groups, youth-serving organizations, arts and cultural institutions and government entities.

As with our Preschools, the community's focus is on promoting quality programs that help students grow academically and foster their social-emotional development.

Research tells us that quality summer programs should run at least 6 hours a day for 5 to 6 weeks, while afterschool programs should be offered a minimum of 125 days over the school year.

Other characteristics of a high quality program are:

- Trained staff
- Well-defined student goals
- An evaluation process that tracks achievement in subjects such as math, writing and reading, as well as data about school attendance and social-emotional development
- A research-based curricula that is mixed with enrichment activities that leverage community partnerships
- Practices that promote attendance rates of at least 80% to 90% for every child
- Activities that promote meaningful family engagement
- Inclusion of a mix of children from different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds

Ten providers and 6 funders have launched a Summer and Afterschool Collaborative. The group's objective is creating a seamless system of high quality afterschool and summer programming in Dayton and Montgomery County, with special attention on serving high-need students. The Collaborative developed a strategic plan that is rooted in [Results-Based Accountability](#), and, for the first time in the history of our community, the Collaborative partners are collecting common data about student needs and student success.

Today, 10 programs across 17 sites are working together to plan and support each other in this work.

The Collaborative has agreed on 5 performance measures relating to social-emotional learning, parent engagement, attendance, physical health and nutrition, and academic progress. The results will help programs determine which efforts are most effective with young people.

Nearly 1,000 students who were scheduled to attend programming more than 18 days averaged 233 hours of enriching activities over the school year. Those hours translate to a quarter of the time Ohio's K-6 schools are in session, giving the children significant additional time on tasks that help them succeed in the classroom.

That said, too few children have this opportunity, and we're especially lacking in activities for our middle-school-age young people and high-schoolers. Many Dayton students do not participate in traditional extra-curricular school activities such as band and sports.



The Collaborative has been generously supported by The Dayton Foundation, which named a [Del Mar Encore Fellow](#), Vel Hux, to lead this initiative.

The Collaborative pioneer programs are:

- Five Rivers MetroParks Adventure Central
- Boys and Girls Club of Dayton
- Dakota Center
- Dayton Christian Center
- Miracle Makers, East End Community Services
- Omega Community Development Corp.
- Sunlight Village
- Trotwood-Madison Early Learning Center
- Trotwood-Madison Park Elementary School
- Trotwood-Madison Westbrooke Village School
- Wesley Community Center
- YMCA Early Childhood Education and Learning Center at Grace United Methodist
- YMCA Childcare St. Anthony's Church
- YMCA at Horace Mann School
- YMCA at Cleveland School
- YMCA School Age Enrichment Program at DECA Prep
- YMCA Childcare at Rivers Edge Elementary

The Collaborative partner funders are:

- Montgomery County
- United Way of Greater Dayton
- The Dayton Foundation
- Iddings Foundation
- The Frank M. Tait Foundation
- Vectren Foundation



OUR KIDS AND NEIGHBORHOODS NEED HIGH QUALITY SCHOOLS

In October 2017, Mayor Whaley endorsed a 4-person slate of candidates for election to the 7-member Dayton School Board. She took this unusual step as a statement about her commitment to ensuring that Dayton's school district has the leadership needed to promote student success. Three of the 4 endorsed candidates prevailed, and the Mayor and the City Manager meet regularly with the board and Superintendent to ensure a shared agenda on behalf of children.

As a result of two generous grants secured under the leadership of Learn to Earn Dayton, the Dayton Public Schools (and other Montgomery County partner school districts) will participate in a new initiative focused on closing the achievement gap for children of color and boys.

Professionals aptly named Equity Fellows will be trained and embedded in select Dayton Public Schools and charged with identifying ways to eliminate barriers to student achievement. This strategy is modeled after the successful STEM Fellows program designed by the Montgomery County Educational Service Center that has heightened student interest in math and science. The work is supported by highly competitive regional and national funding and represents an extraordinary opportunity for our community.

Simultaneously, the High Quality Schools Committee continues to focus on ensuring that all Dayton students have effective teachers and high quality educational options. It regained its momentum with the selection of Dr. Elizabeth Lolli as the new Dayton Public Schools Superintendent.

At the start of the 2017-18 school year, a new teacher event was held at a Dayton Dragons game. Mayor Whaley and community leaders welcomed new teachers and thanked them for choosing to teach in Dayton.

On March 8, 2018, the High Quality Schools Committee hosted a "teacher recruiting fair." This event was open to Dayton Public Schools, as well as high-performing charter schools, including the Dayton Early College Academy and the Dayton Leadership Academy.

Soon-to-be-graduates of the University of Dayton, Wright State University, Central State University and Miami University were invited to interview for teaching positions. Some Teach for America candidates also attended. About 35 teaching candidates met with school representatives. The candidates and school leaders agreed the event was an excellent way to explore teaching opportunities and identify strong teacher candidates.



In Spring 2018, a Montgomery County-wide FAFSA completion campaign was held to help students complete this all-important financial aid document. All Dayton Public School high schools participated.

In 2016-17, 49% of Dayton Public School students completed a FAFSA. Stivers School for the Arts had the highest completion rate, with 73% of students submitting the form.

This last school year, DPS' FAFSA completion rate climbed to 57%. Stivers School for the Arts again had the greatest percentage of "completers," at 90%. But all Dayton Public high schools, except for Belmont High School, ended the year with substantial increases.

In 2017, we initiated a "Summer Melt" program that addresses the fact that too many students who have been accepted at a college fail to show up at campus in the Fall. (For many young people, the decision to drop out before they even start often is because of a small financial hardship or a temporary personal difficulty.)

In the first year, about 250 students participated in this "mobile messaging" program, which offers reminders about deadlines at their college and offers personalized assistance when a student is at risk of not attending. In the summer of 2018, participation nearly doubled.

A new initiative that is planned for 2018 is “Breakfasts for Champions.” Scheduled for October 2018, February 2019 and May 2019, these events will honor teachers who have had exceptional success in the classroom.

Unlike in previous years, the High Quality Schools Committee did not create its own school performance metrics. Rather, the Committee is relying on data released annually by the Ohio Department of Education and the National Student Clearinghouse.

There is mixed news in that data:

- The percentage of Dayton Public School students who are reading proficiently in the 3rd-grade increased by almost 8 percentage points from the previous year (2015-16).
- The percentage of students graduating from Dayton Public high schools who secured a college degree or credential within 6 years increased by 1 percentage point.
- 8th-grade math proficiency rates and high school graduation rates showed small decreases.

The following key benchmarks continue to be the focus of the High Quality Schools Committee:

- 3rd-grade reading proficiency
- 8th-grade mathematics proficiency
- High school graduation
- Student attendance



YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LEARNING ABOUT CAREERS EARLY

All students need adults in their lives to help them plan for rewarding careers and good jobs that will allow them to support their own families.

Over the last year, school counselors and educators from Dayton Public Schools have joined in quarterly Career Connections trainings provided by the Montgomery County Educational Service Center. A Dayton-area industry is highlighted at each training to keep counselors current and knowledgeable about in-demand jobs, as well as the educational preparation those jobs require.

During these discussions, educators build essential relationships that are creating important connections for their students with local employers. The collaboration is paving the way for internships, summer jobs, job shadows, apprenticeships and other opportunities for young people.

This effort complements Ohio's Career Connections mandate, which requires all Ohio schools to provide "Career Awareness" opportunities to students in Kindergarten-5th grade, "Career Exploration" experiences in grades 6 through 8 and "Career Planning" in 9th through 12th grade.

This early and sustained exposure to careers is important for students who have multiple tech-prep options in Dayton Public high schools.

In an effort to connect more students with apprenticeships in the skilled trades and manufacturing – think of these opportunities as "college without the debt" – City Commissioner Christopher Shaw is hosting regular gatherings of labor leaders, Sinclair College representatives, stakeholders from Dayton Public Schools and others. In early August, this group hosted an all-day event for 9th-grade DPS teachers to introduce them to apprenticeship opportunities. Additional apprenticeship programs will be highlighted in the future.

The State of Ohio now requires that all high schools have a Business Advisory Council to help build meaningful partnerships between schools and the business community. Dayton Public Schools is collaborating with the Business Advisory Council that covers all 16 school districts in Montgomery County and several districts in Warren County. The Council released its first report March 1, 2018.

THE COUNCIL'S OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. IMPROVING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
2. IMPROVING PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
3. IMPROVING INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT
4. FOSTERING CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT
5. ADVANCING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAKEHOLDERS

Our approach must be that young people cannot wait until after high school to begin exploring careers and have meaningful work experiences.



MENTORING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

All young people deserve and need multiple caring adults in their lives. Having a mentor improves students' academic performance and helps ensure they are making good choices about their futures.

The Mentoring Collaborative of Montgomery County continues to coordinate and support youth mentoring programs in Dayton and Montgomery County, with special attention on ensuring mentors are highly qualified. Housed at Sinclair College, the Collaborative provides training and recruitment. It also certifies both agencies and individual mentors at partner organizations.

At the March 2018 Mentoring Collaborative Summit and Awards Ceremony, which focused on supporting traumatized youth, the Collaborative awarded the John E. Moore Sr. Champion of Youth Award to Mayor Whaley. Commissioner Jeff Mims spoke to the nearly 160 attendees.



Mayor Whaley accepts the John E. Moore Sr. Champion of Youth Award. From left, John E. Moore Sr., Mayor Whaley, City Commissioner Mims, Jane McEwen, Manager, Montgomery County Mentoring Collaborative

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Shauna Adams, University of Dayton

Mohamed Al-Hamdani, Dayton Board of Education

Silvia Anderson, Anderson and Anderson
Consulting Group

Tess Asinjo, Dayton Leadership Academies

Cassie Barlow, Wright State University

Jayne Bey, Family Childcare Provider

Mary Boosalis, Premier Health Partners

Jerry Brunswick, Montgomery County Port Authority

Ron Budzik, Dayton Business Committee

Mary Burns, Miami Valley Child Development Centers

Sheila Burton, Dayton Public Schools

Dave Collins, Sinclair College

Robert Curry, Thompson Hine

Angelia Erbaugh, Dayton Region
Manufacturers Association

Richard Ferguson, Community Volunteer

Raymond Fitz, University of Dayton

Sherry Gale, Grace United Methodist Church

Rachel Goodspeed, Vectren

William Harris, Jr., Dayton Board
of Education

Robert Jones, United Theological Seminary

Helen Jones-Kelley, Montgomery County
ADAMHS Board

Tom Kelley, Montgomery County

Kim Kramer, Mini University

Bruce Langos, Montgomery County Sherriff's Office

Tom Lasley, Learn to Earn Dayton

Jan Lepore-Jentleson, East End Community Services

Gary LeRoy, Wright State University

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Elizabeth Lolli, Dayton Public Schools

Peggy Mark, Premier Health Partners

Tom Maultsby, United Way of Greater Dayton

John S. McManus, Dayton Board of Education

Mike McQuiston, The Connor Group

Pat Meadows, Community Volunteer

Dave Melin, PNC Bank

Michael Merz, U.S. District Court

Gary Minyard, Victoria Theater Association

Phil Parker, Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce

Mike Parks, Dayton Foundation

Rana Peake, Sinclair College

Cathy Ponitz, Caresource

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