



HIGHER EDUCATION
COMPACT
OF GREATER CLEVELAND



COLLEGE READINESS

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT:

When we started the Higher Education Compact in 2011, the goal was to improve the college readiness, access, and persistence of our students in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. With the implementation of the Cleveland Plan for Transforming Schools and the deep commitment of our higher education partners, we were excited to see our students' successes and improvements.

But we knew that our students had to overcome a major hurdle to reach college – and one that we needed to tackle on a larger, community level: the issue of affordability.

When it comes to college access, affordability is, in our opinion, the biggest barrier. Students cannot afford the cost of tuition and fees, and therefore, choose not to enroll in a postsecondary program. Our community has spent years searching for ways to address this issue with a universal scholarship program. We were thrilled to discover Say Yes to Education, a model that combines a robust, community-raised “promise” scholarship with a multi-sector system for deploying critical wraparound services in schools and neighborhoods. In January 2019, we publicly announced our official status as a Say Yes chapter city. The CMSD Class of 2019 was the first to be eligible for – and to use – Say Yes to Education scholarships to fund their postsecondary education. It is our hope and belief that this initiative will open the door for many more students to access education beyond high school.

As you will see in this report, there are only a few metrics that have declined or remained stagnant over the last year, with most showing improvement. We do not expect to see systemic change from Say Yes Cleveland overnight; we know that it will take a few years to begin to see the impact of Say Yes scholarships and support services on student postsecondary enrollment and completion rates. Nevertheless, the preliminary numbers are encouraging.

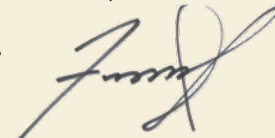
This year's Higher Education Compact Dashboard Report is a transition report. It documents the work we have done over the past decade and embeds it in the more comprehensive approach that we will execute

as part of the Say Yes strategy over the next two generations. We have been proud to lead this work to where we are today – with the Cleveland Plan in place to truly transform our primary and secondary education, and with a community investment in Say Yes Cleveland ready to change the path for our students as they pursue their postsecondary goals.

Of course, the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on these metrics over the next several years is unclear. The pandemic has deeply impacted all aspects of our community, including secondary and postsecondary education. School districts and colleges and universities are reshaping their educational models even while we write this, and we do not yet know what impact those changes may have on our students. We remain optimistic that progress will remain steady, while also remaining realistic that we will face challenges.

One thing we do know – we are all here for students of the CMSD. Our commitment will always be to the success of our students and the programs put into place to increase that success.

Sincerely,


Frank G. Jackson
 Mayor, City of Cleveland



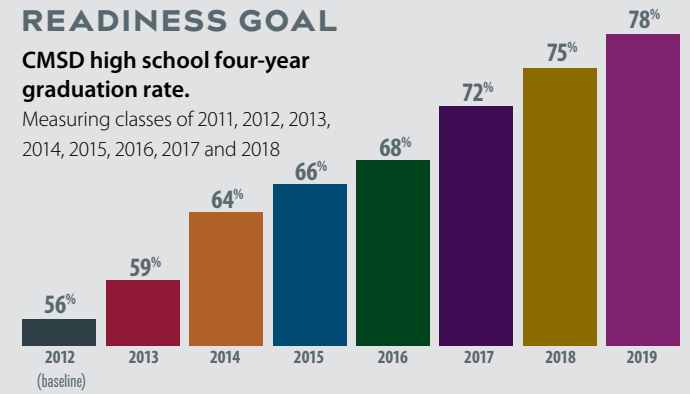

Eric Gordon
 CEO, Cleveland Metropolitan School District



READINESS GOAL

CMSD high school four-year graduation rate.

Measuring classes of 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018



Since the Higher Education Compact of Greater Cleveland (the Compact) began measuring the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's (CMSD) high school four-year graduation rate with the class of 2011, the rate has steadily risen each year from 56 percent for the class of 2011 to 78 percent for the class of 2018. This improvement is the fourth-fastest improving graduation rate in the state and demonstrates the effectiveness of the Cleveland Plan.

The Compact annually measures six indicators related to college readiness. In years past, a seventh indicator, the percentage of students on-track to graduate, has also been measured, but will no longer be included in this report due to several years of legislative revisions in Ohio's high school graduation requirements.

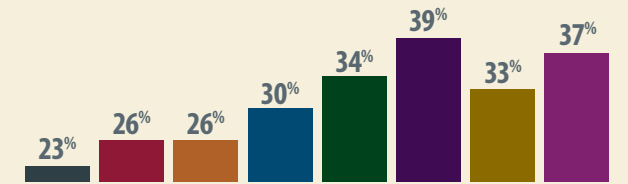
Of the six indicators still measured by the Compact, four showed improvement or remained the same over the last year. The percentage of students graduating with a 3.0 GPA or higher increased by four percentage points, from 33 percent to 37 percent. The percentage of graduates with a score of 21 or higher on the ACT remained at 11 percent, as it stood in 2019, though the percent of graduates with this score has decreased from 15 percent in 2016 and 12 percent in 2017. The percentage of students participating in Advanced Placement (AP) testing among the class of 2018 rose to 8.6 percent over the class of 2017's 6.9 percent, the highest point since we began measuring with the class of 2011. The percentage of high school graduates needing remediation in math or English at an Ohio public institution dropped to 53 percent from the class of 2017's 58 percent and is currently at the lowest rate since the Compact began measuring this indicator. This means that more CMSD graduates than ever are arriving on campus prepared for college-level coursework as a result of their high school education.

The indicators that decreased for the class of 2018 included students participating in AP testing who earned a score of 3, 4, or 5 on their AP exams (down from 10.9 percent to 10.2 percent in this report) and the percentage of students in the class of 2019 participating in College Credit Plus (down from 8.5 percent to 8.3 percent).



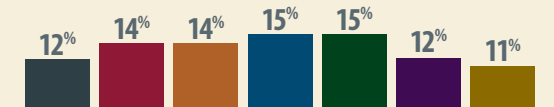
READINESS INDICATORS

2012 (baseline) | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020



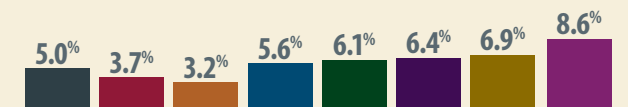
Percentage of students graduating with a 3.0 GPA or higher

Measuring classes of 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018



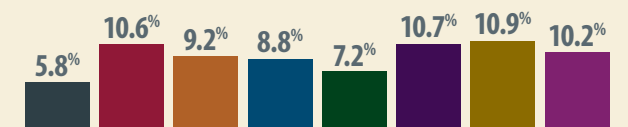
Percentage of graduates with a score of 21 or higher on the ACT

Measuring classes of 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018



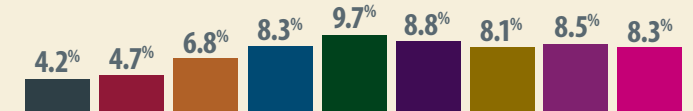
Percentage of students participating in Advanced Placement testing

Measuring classes of 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018



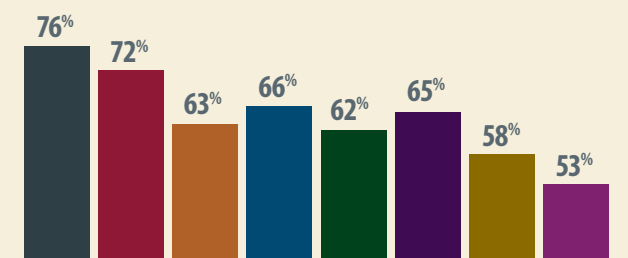
Percentage of students earning a score of 3, 4, or 5 on Advanced Placement exams

Measuring classes of 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018



Percentage of high school students participating in Post Secondary Enrollment Options Program (PSEOP) or College Credit Plus (CCP)

Measuring classes of 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019



Percentage of high school graduates needing remediation in math or English at an Ohio public institution

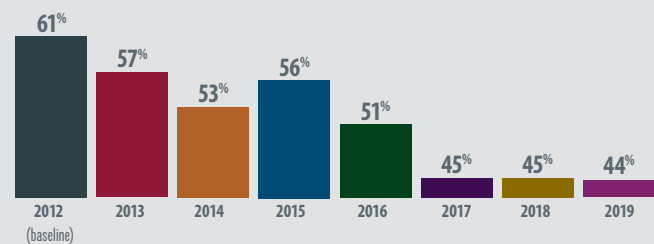
Measuring classes of 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018

COLLEGE ACCESS

ACCESS GOAL

CMSD graduate college enrollment within one year.

Measuring classes of 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018



College matriculation rates continued to fall for the CMSD class of 2018 measured in this report. However, it is noteworthy that the decline has been the smallest since the Compact began measuring college enrollment with the class of 2012. In 2012, 61 percent of the CMSD graduating class enrolled in college within one year of graduation; in 2019, that rate was down to 44 percent. This is a total decline of 15 percentage points since 2011.

Despite this enrollment decline for the class of 2018, other indicators for the class of 2019 increased this year. Students took the ACT an average of 1.69 times as compared to the class of 2018's 1.41 times; 68 percent of students completed at least one college application; and 70 percent of students completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The only other indicator that decreased was the average number of completed college applications per student by those who completed at least one; the class of 2019 completed an average of 4.89 applications compared to the class of 2018's 6.23 applications.

One additional metric that has been previously reported was the percent of students using the Naviance system. The web-based college and career planning tool continues to be heavily utilized by specific programs and in certain high schools. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, we do not have accurate data to report for this metric for the class of 2019. The Compact will work with CMSD and College Now to create a more accurate measure of student's active participation in the college-going process for future reporting.

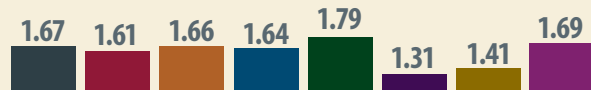


The declines in college enrollment continue to be, we believe, brought on by the barrier of college affordability. However, as you will read about later in this report, in January of 2019, Cleveland and CMSD announced the launch of Say Yes Cleveland, affording graduates in the Class of 2019 tuition scholarships to any state institution in Ohio or tuition scholarships to more than 120 private colleges who are part of the Say Yes National Compact. We believe the Say Yes announcement helped drive up this year's increases in college applications, FAFSA completions, and other access indicators. Preliminary Say Yes metrics at the end of this report show the college enrollment rate is increasing for the first time in five years.

However, we also know that the COVID-19 pandemic may have adverse effects on the matriculation rate of high school graduates for the class of 2020. With many college campuses changing their teaching models or not having firm plans in place for their upcoming semesters, we suspect some students may choose to take a gap year or find an alternate postsecondary plan until things return to a more "normal" mode of operation.

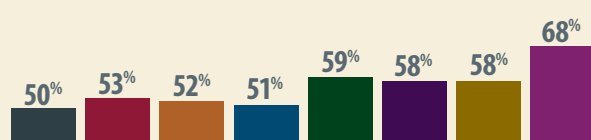
ACCESS INDICATORS

2012 (baseline) | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019



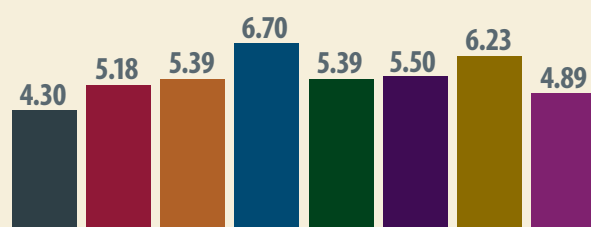
Average number of times students take the ACT

Measuring classes of 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019



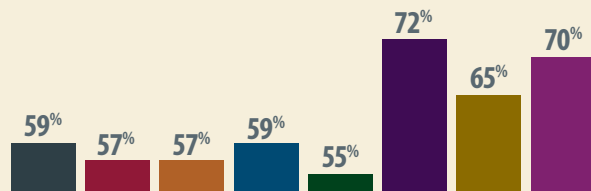
Percentage of students completing at least one college application

Measuring classes of 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019



Average number of completed college applications per student (of those that completed one)

Measuring classes of 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019



Approved Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) rate

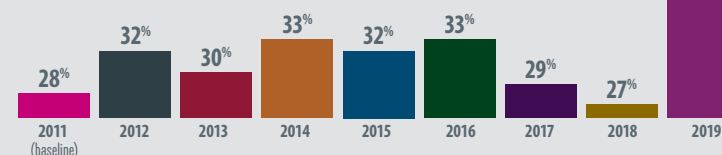
Measuring classes of 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019

COLLEGE PERSISTENCE

PERSISTENCE GOALS

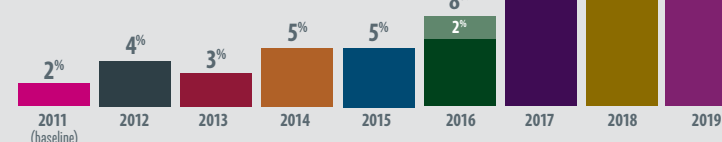
CMSD graduate six-year college completion rate from Compact four-year institutions.

Measuring classes of 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013



CMSD graduate three-year college completion rate from Compact two-year institutions.

Measuring classes of 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016



*Darker bar section is all CMSD students graduation rate and shaded bar section is full time student graduation rate.

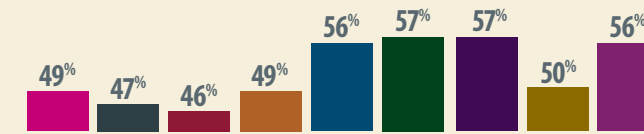
This year's college graduation metrics measure the CMSD graduating classes of 2013 at four-year institutions and 2016 at two-year institutions and, in both situations, showed an increase in college completion rates. The six-year college completion rate for CMSD graduates at Compact four-year institutions rose from 27 percent to 37 percent, the highest graduation rate since the 2011 baseline of 28 percent. Similarly, the three-year college completion rate for CMSD graduates from Compact two-year institutions rose from 12 percent to 13 percent, also the highest graduation rate since the 2011 baseline of two percent.

Retention rates have also increased for CMSD graduates, as students in the CMSD graduating class of 2018 had a 56 percent retention rate in all Compact institutions from year one to year two as compared to last year's 50 percent retention rate for the class of 2017. The percentage of CMSD graduates earning degrees from four-year Compact institutions within four years decreased from 21 percent for the class of 2012 to 15 percent from the class of 2013, which is still an increase over the 10 percent of graduates to do so in the class of 2006.

The percent of CMSD students transferring from two-year to four-year Compact institutions also decreased from 10 percent in the class of 2012 to seven percent in the class of 2013, down 14 percentage points from the initial measure of 21 percent for the class of 2009.

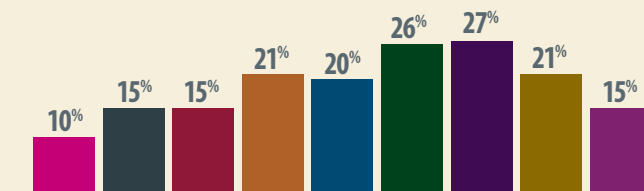
PERSISTENCE INDICATORS

2011 (baseline) | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019



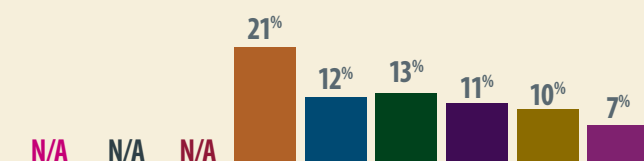
Percentage of CMSD graduates retained in all Compact institutions from year one to year two

Measuring classes of 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018



Percentage of CMSD graduates earning degrees from four-year Compact institutions within four years

Measuring classes of 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013



Percentage of CMSD graduates transferring from two-year to four-year institutions

Measuring classes of 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013

In previous years, the Compact has measured the remedial course passage rate for CMSD graduates and the percentage of CMSD graduates completing at least 24 college-level credits within one year of enrollment at Compact four-year and two-year institutions. However, beginning with this report, we will no longer be including those indicators. With the launch of Say Yes Cleveland, we will be looking at different metrics to evaluate student persistence than those we previously studied.





Our sincere hope and belief are that such a successful and positive start will serve as a foundation on which we will continue to build.

This year marks a major milestone in the history of educating Cleveland's children. For the first time, graduates of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) who met residency requirements had access to Say Yes Cleveland scholarships to pay their postsecondary tuition.

Although Say Yes Cleveland launched barely six months before the Class of 2019's graduation, the availability of Say Yes scholarships proved to be an immediate incentive to pursue postsecondary education. We are excited to see that 49 percent of 2019 graduates enrolled in a postsecondary program this year. This represents an increase of five percentage points over the last year, and also outpaces the projections developed during the planning stages of Say Yes, which anticipated a three percentage point enrollment increase in the first class.

As exhilarating as this increase is, we know that it represents only the first class in what will be a 25-year scholarship program. Our sincere hope and belief are that such a successful and positive start will serve as a foundation on which we will continue to build. With each successive year, graduates will have the example of previous classes using Say Yes Cleveland scholarships, making postsecondary education a more realistic, tangible option for more students and families.

Perhaps even more importantly, each successive class of graduates will have the benefit of Say Yes Cleveland support services while in CMSD schools. The services are the crucial aspect that sets Say Yes Cleveland apart from many 'promise' scholarship programs. While our tuition scholarships will help students overcome the barrier of college affordability, the assistance provided by Say Yes Cleveland throughout their PreK-12 education will help students stay on track to academic success and help more students graduate ready to take full advantage of postsecondary opportunities.

The success that Say Yes Cleveland has had already, and the future success that we anticipate for the program, owes much to the work that has been done in recent years to prepare more CMSD students for success after high school. The many people and organizations that have put so much effort into the Higher Education Compact have created new opportunities for CMSD graduates and have helped lay the groundwork for Say Yes Cleveland. While the future impacts of the coronavirus will be challenging for everyone, we are optimistic that the trajectory of CMSD graduates will continue to point higher and higher.

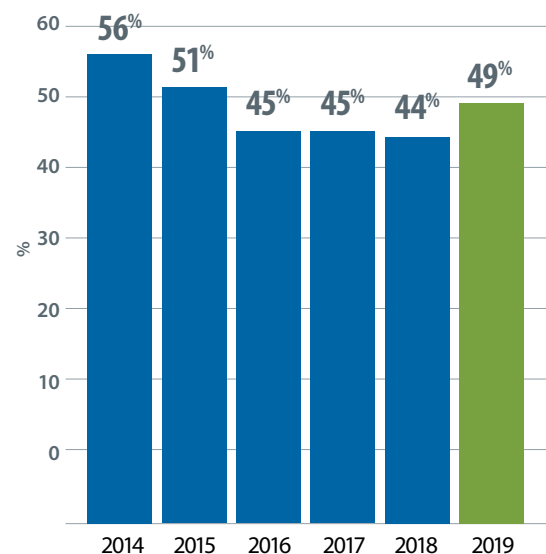
Diane Downing
Diane Downing, Executive Director
 Say Yes Cleveland

Ronald B. Richard
Ronald B. Richard, Chair
 Say Yes Cleveland Scholarship Board

As we look at preliminary metrics of the first cohort of Say Yes scholars, this report will give high-level data related to enrollments and awards.

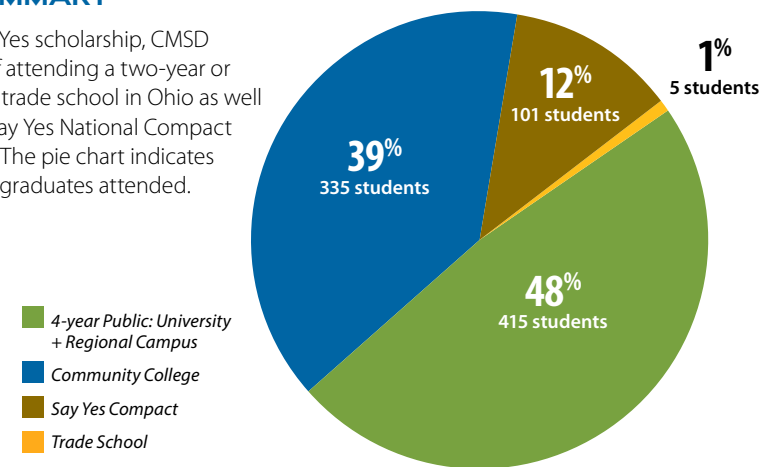
Following the January 2019 launch of the Say Yes Cleveland chapter and the ambitious commitment to begin granting Say Yes tuition scholarships with the graduating class of 2019, CMSD graduates enrolling within one year of their high school graduation (spring 2020) increased five percentage points as compared to the previous class. This was the first time in five years the postsecondary enrollment rate for CMSD graduates increased.

CMSD POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT RATES
Within one year of High School Graduation



ENROLLMENT SUMMARY

In order to receive the Say Yes scholarship, CMSD graduates have a choice of attending a two-year or four-year public college or trade school in Ohio as well as more than 125 private Say Yes National Compact schools across the county. The pie chart indicates what type of schools 2019 graduates attended.



MOST ATTENDED OHIO SCHOOLS FOR 2019 SAY YES CLEVELAND SCHOLARS

Ohio Public Universities

Cuyahoga Community College	326
Cleveland State University	173
Kent State University	48
The University of Akron	38
Ohio State University	37

Ohio Private Universities

Notre Dame College	21
Hiram College	15
Baldwin Wallace University	12
Bryant & Stratton	12
Ursuline College	7
Case Western Reserve University	7
John Carroll University	7



SCHOLARSHIP SUMMARY

Say Yes tuition scholarships were awarded to students attending Say Yes eligible institutions after the Pell grant and Ohio College Opportunity grant (OCOG) have been applied to a student's balance. For the Class of 2019, 845 students were enrolled and eligible for a Say Yes scholarship. For the Class of 2019, 391 scholarships were awarded totaling \$1,203,443. Due to an increase in the OCOG grant and more students attending community college, tuition gap amounts were significantly less than expected.

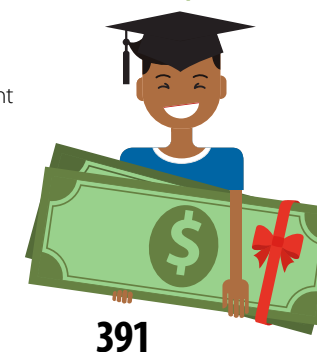
Total SAY YES Eligible Students Enrolled



Total Scholarship Dollars Awarded (as of June 2020)



Total Scholarships Awarded



The Say Yes Cleveland Scholarship Board completed 15 memoranda of understanding with Ohio's public institutions that outlined data sharing, scholarship administration, and student support expectations. Additionally, Say Yes to Education National completed MOUs with 10 additional private institutions in Ohio providing tuition scholarships to Say Yes students. With the launch of Say Yes Cleveland, the Say Yes National Compact grew to include an additional 10 schools.

Say Yes-Eligible Postsecondary Partners in Ohio*

- Ashland University
- Baldwin Wallace University
- Bowling Green State University
- Bryant & Stratton College
- Case Western Reserve University
- Central State University
- Cleveland State University
- College of Wooster
- Cuyahoga Community College
- Cuyahoga Valley Career Center
- Denison University
- Hiram College
- John Carroll University
- Kent State University
- Kenyon College
- Miami University
- Notre Dame College (S. Euclid, OH)
- Oberlin College
- Ohio Northern University
- Ohio University
- Ohio Wesleyan University
- Polaris Career Center
- Shawnee State University
- The North Coast College
- The Ohio State University
- The University of Akron
- The University of Toledo
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Dayton
- Ursuline College
- Wright State University
- Youngstown State University

* Postsecondary institutions that have signed MOUs with Say Yes to Education National or Say Yes Cleveland.

Visit sayyescleveland.org for full listing of Say Yes eligible institutions.



HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT OF GREATER CLEVELAND

216.635.0152

HigherEducationCompact.org

The Higher Education Compact of Greater Cleveland would like to acknowledge the significant contribution from College Now Greater Cleveland, which provides staff resources and office space to the Compact.

PARTNERS

EDUCATION PARTNERS

Baldwin Wallace University	Kent State University
Bowling Green State University	Notre Dame College
Case Western Reserve University	Oberlin College
Cleveland Metropolitan School District	Ohio Board of Regents
Cleveland State University	The Ohio State University
Cuyahoga Community College	Ohio University
Eastern Michigan University	University of Akron
Hiram College	University of Toledo
John Carroll University	Ursuline College

FUNDERS

The Cleveland Foundation
The George Gund Foundation
KeyBank Foundation
The Martha Holden Jennings Foundation
National College Attainment Network
RPM International, Inc.

Thank you to all of the community partners that continue to support students through their support of preparation for, access to, and success in postsecondary institutions.



College Now Greater Cleveland
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