BETTER systems for BETTER outcomes
Every child. Cradle to career. In communities across the country.

This has been StriveTogether’s vision since the beginning. Every child has equal promise — and deserves equal opportunity. It’s the why behind everything we do. And it’s a big, bold idea. It really is.

Improving educational outcomes is crucial to ending the cycle of poverty. The most vulnerable students are stuck in systems not designed to support them. We believe it’s the job of every community member to ensure the success of our children, no matter their race or economic status. We must dismantle obstacles and partner with people in other sectors to help every child reach his or her full potential, from cradle to career. Achieving better outcomes requires better systems.

Over the next five years, communities in the StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network will work relentlessly across sectors and systems to reduce locally defined disparities. Using data to make decisions and improve practices in real time leads to real results, but in many cases, the right solutions require rebuilding systems instead of trying to fix existing ones. Local partnerships will need to match practice-level work with bold strategies to change systems and drive equitable outcomes.

In the next decade, StriveTogether has an ambitious plan to pursue a broader education and economic mobility agenda through the Cradle to Career Network. Because of this work, communities will in five to 10 years:

- Improve outcomes and reduce disparities across more than half of cradle-to-career indicators of success
- Engage people across sectors to drive shifts in public and private resources aimed at reducing disparities
- Adopt economic mobility as an overarching indicator of success and make substantial progress on a broader systems change agenda

Our bold goals for the next five and 10 years

- The first decade
  Primarily focused on improving educational outcomes and reducing disparities

- The next five years
  Deeper focus on systems change and additional sectors that affect educational outcomes and underlie disparities

- The next 10 years
  Economic mobility for low-income youth as an overarching indicator of success at the end of the cradle-to-career continuum

Improving education and economic mobility for children and families requires:

- Shared accountability for results
- Unwavering focus on data & improvement
- Practice & policy shifts across systems
The critical capacities and priorities to achieve our bold goals

Seven capacities have emerged as essential to advance StriveTogether’s five-year goal, with specific priorities requiring support in Cradle to Career Network communities.

**Leadership & talent**
- Strengthen core leadership capabilities in local partnerships and communities
- Improve local talent sourcing pipelines

**Data & Information**
- Grow data analytical capabilities in local partnerships and communities
- Enhance data-sharing systems and infrastructure across the network
- Improve how knowledge and information are shared to spread practices

**Practice improvement**
- Build and leverage connections across the network to spread effective practices
- Deepen continuous improvement capabilities of key leaders and practitioners across sectors in communities

**Communications & engagement**
- Improve local communications and engagement capabilities in local partnerships and communities
- Strengthen StriveTogether’s national brand and positioning

**Policy, advocacy & mobilization**
- Strengthen local policy analysis, development and mobilization
- Expand StriveTogether’s policy role

**Sustainable resources**
- Develop and implement public/private partnerships for outcomes-based financing
- Improve operational effectiveness and sustainability of local partnerships

**Equity**
- Integrate equity across all capacities, infuse capabilities in local partnerships and implement a network strategy to improve equity in systems
Gaps in opportunity and achievement hold back our children, our communities and our country. This is such a critical moment to advance a broader economic mobility agenda, given the national conversation on racial equity and disparities.

StriveTogether’s next five-year plan builds on a strong base — the Cradle to Career Network — and emphasizes organizing systems around students, not institutions.”

Danae D. Davis  
Milwaukee Succeeds, Executive Director

Build a better world for every child

Let’s work together on creating a more equitable and inclusive world for children and families in America.

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