

A photograph of four diverse children (two boys and two girls) smiling and looking towards the camera. They are outdoors in a grassy field, with a bright sunset or sunrise in the background, creating a warm, golden glow. The children are of various ethnicities and are dressed in casual clothing.

**StriveTogether**  
Every child. Cradle to career.

**BETTER RESULTS FOR EVERY CHILD**  
*Accelerating change to build stronger communities*

## OUR INVESTORS

ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

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# *From StriveTogether's* CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

## REAL CHANGE FOR EVERY CHILD COMES FROM THE COMMUNITY.

At StriveTogether, our mission is to help communities transform how they serve children and families. In 2015, we launched an initiative called the Cradle to Career Accelerator Fund to accelerate progress in communities toward this bold goal.

Within three years, all six of the communities in the first group of the Accelerator Fund received StriveTogether's highest designation as national models for student success.

Through stories and data, we have learned how these six communities are getting better outcomes and changing the systems that shape opportunity for kids in America. Our unique approach — combining leadership development with targeted coaching, technical assistance and financial support — has accelerated progress for local community partnerships in powerful ways.

Now, in our new five-year strategic plan, we have set a bolder goal of having at least 24 communities in our

Cradle to Career Network reach systems transformation. This means additional sectors are involved and gaps are closing for children of color and low-income children.

With your help, we are committed to enabling economic mobility for children and families. On behalf of our communities, thank you for your trust and investment to support the success of every child.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Blatz".

**JENNIFER BLATZ**  
President and CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy L. Zimpher".

**NANCY L. ZIMPHER**  
Board Chair

# Leading change in communities to get better results

**A**t StriveTogether, we know that together we can get better results for every child. With this vision in mind, we bring communities together around data to make decisions and improve results for kids. We seek to create local change to enable economic mobility, and we strengthen and align the many systems, such as education, employment, health and housing, that shape opportunity for children and families in America.

To accelerate progress, especially for children of color and low-income children, we launched the Cradle to Career Accelerator Fund in 2015 with support from five national investors, which grew to 10 over the three-year timeline. Accelerator Fund communities focus on seven major milestones from kindergarten readiness to college and career.

With an audacious goal — better outcomes for

kids at scale — the Accelerator Fund is a three-year commitment combining:

- A nationally validated framework for guiding the work and measuring results
- The StriveTogether Leadership Program, an intensive institute equipping teams of community leaders with a practical, results-based approach
- Tailored coaching and support on leading change, community engagement, systems thinking and collaborative improvement
- Financial support to address barriers and scale promising practices

The first six communities in the Accelerator Fund are changing systems — shifting how individuals and organizations make decisions and use

policies and practices — to get better, more equitable outcomes. Parents, educators and other local leaders regularly come together and consider how to adapt and evolve their actions to support the cradle-to-career goals of their community partnership.

Across the Cradle to Career Network, StriveTogether advances progress in communities by building leadership skills at all levels and sharing what works. Using our framework, StriveTogether communities make smarter decisions with local data so that every child has better educational outcomes and is on a path to economic mobility.

The StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network reaches 10.4 million students, involves more than 10,800 organizations and has partners in 30 states and Washington, D.C.



## ALL HANDS RAISED

*Multnomah County, OR*

An elementary school found that its African-American students were disproportionately represented in disciplinary referral and suspension data. All Hands Raised supported a partner organization that works closely with African-American students to better communicate with teachers.

**Disciplinary referrals for African-American students decreased by 35%**



## THE COMMIT PARTNERSHIP

*Dallas County, TX*

In 2011, only 36 percent of Dallas County 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public pre-kindergarten. The Commit Partnership has aligned 15 school districts across two counties on a common registration period and supported policy changes for this shared vision of full-day pre-k, including a \$30 million budget reallocation by the Dallas school board.

**The enrollment rate for children in public pre-kindergarten rose from 36% to 43%**



## GRADUATE TACOMA

*Tacoma, WA*

The Washington State Opportunity Scholarship helps underrepresented students secure financial support to enter STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. With support from Graduate Tacoma, targeted efforts were made to students who had not completed the scholarship application.

**Scholarship applications in Tacoma rose in just two years by more than 70%**



## HIGHER EXPECTATIONS

*Racine County, WI*

United Way of Racine County identified students at risk of not meeting the goal of a tutoring program: To receive 1,800 minutes of tutoring. With support from Higher Expectations, United Way tracked student data and made weekly program adjustments so that tutoring continues to support reading growth.

**The number of tutoring minutes students received in one school year increased by 82%**



## SEEDING SUCCESS

*Shelby County, TN*

Seeding Success supported Communities In Schools of Tennessee to use past and current data to support students at risk of missing school. CIS staff tested strategies and shared best practices. Partners worked with children and their parents to encourage attendance.

**Across 15 Memphis schools, chronic absenteeism decreased by 27%**



## STRIVEPARTNERSHIP

*Cincinnati, OH, and Northern Kentucky*

ImpactU, created by StrivePartnership and Cincinnati Children's Hospital, teaches leaders how to use continuous improvement tools. After participating, a Cincinnati Public Schools assistant superintendent incorporated this approach in four elementary schools for third-grade reading and it's now expanding to middle school math.

**Reading scores at participating schools were 61% versus 35% at other schools**



**73%**

High school graduation rate rose countywide from 64.7%, with racial gaps closing

**ALL HANDS RAISED**

*Multnomah County, OR*



**46%**

Third-grade reading scores have increased in Dallas by 10 percentage points, driving countywide average up from 41%

**THE COMMIT PARTNERSHIP**

*Dallas County, TX*



**86%**

Four-year, on-time high school graduation rate increased from 55%

**GRADUATE TACOMA**

*Tacoma, WA*



**77%**

High school graduation rate is up from 70% in Racine, with the gap between black students and other students closing

**HIGHER EXPECTATIONS**

*Racine County, WI*



**59%**

Percentage of kids ready for kindergarten rose countywide from 53% in one year

**SEEDING SUCCESS**

*Shelby County, TN*



**60%**

Third-grade reading scores in Cincinnati Public Schools are up from 46%

**STRIVEPARTNERSHIP**

*Cincinnati, OH, and Northern Kentucky*





**StriveTogether**

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Getting better results is possible by working together and investing in our future. Through the Cradle to Career Network, diverse communities are making a measurable difference in the lives of children and families. We are thrilled to partner with StriveTogether in creating real change for every child.”

**Lisa M. Hamilton**

Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer  
The Annie E. Casey Foundation