The Stark Education Partnership is a catalyst, engaging and collaborating with education, business, civic and community stakeholders to drive sustainable improvement and innovation to provide all students with education and career success.

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December 2016

Stark County’s Significant Educational Progress

Stark County’s college credit opportunities offer families and students a potential range of savings depending on where students enroll. Those savings can range anywhere between what they would pay in tuition and textbooks at a two-year public college or at a four-year private college or university.1

Ohio has seen a 56% increase in student debt over the last decade. With 66% of Ohio’s students now carrying an average student loan debt of $30,239 – 10th highest in the nation – these savings are an important factor.3

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What it Means Financially in Potential Savings on College Tuition and Text Books for 2015-16

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**The Results**

**Collaborative P-16 Efforts Raise Rigor**

**SPARK Ohio**

Originating in Stark County, Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK) is a nationally recognized model that works with families to help get their children ready for kindergarten. While serving seven Stark school districts, the program has now been adopted by seven other counties in Ohio.

In 2016 pre- and post-testing, SPARK students scoring average and above increased 30% in the Preschool Early Numeracy Skills Screening (PENS-B) and increased 23% in the Get Ready to Read Assessment.

**Further Information...**

www.sparkohio.org

**ALL IN: Ensuring Success for All Students**

The “ALL IN” grant, in its first year of implementation, impacts 77,299 students in 29 districts. A primary focus of ALL IN builds on the multi-year work of the partners in developing a deeper understanding of equitable learning environments and high impact teaching for ALL students. Districts leading the way in this work are seeing a positive impact on closing the achievement gaps and increasing successful outcomes for ALL students. Grant funding gives teachers, administrators and students opportunities to work with nationally recognized educators and local experts to ensure ALL students can equally participate in high quality instruction that prepares them to be college and career ready.

**Further Information...**

www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=1990747

**Young Entrepreneurs Consortium (YEC)**

The $13.6 million YEC Straight A Grant was awarded in 2014 to a 15-district consortium and is now in its third year of implementation. The goals of the grant center on increasing student success and engagement while providing a foundation of entrepreneurship towards the long-term goal of creating more jobs in Stark County.

The 2016 report shows many YEC successes. More than double the number of students received Problem Based Learning (PBL) instruction compared to 2014-15. College Credit Plus (CCP) has increased 159% since 2014-15. More than 50% of YEC students said taking college courses in high school influenced their decision to attend college. Twelve of the 39 YEC high school teachers pursuing adjunct status have been credentialed to teach college courses.

**Further Information...**

www.edpartner.org/pdfs/Expanding...College_Opportunity.pdf

**College Enrollment & Persistence**

The National Student Clearinghouse enables districts to track graduates who go to college during the first three years after high school. These figures show that nearly two-thirds of Stark County’s high school graduates do enroll. The percentage increase in Stark’s college-going rate has risen 35% since 2001.

Beyond college-going, there is another important factor. Student persistence - those who return for their sophomore year - is a critical indicator for who will eventually earn a degree. Stark County students surpass the national average in both two and four year institutions.

**Further Information...**

www.usnews.com/education

**Greater Stark County High School Rankings**

Teaming with RTI International, U.S. News and World Report reviewed over 28,500 public high schools across all 50 states to arrive at its 2016 Best High Schools. The rankings entailed a four part process. Schools that served all students well – using math and reading state proficiency tests and graduation rates as the benchmarks – were then assessed by the degree to which schools prepare students for college-level work. This year, thirteen greater Stark County high schools were recognized with a silver or bronze medal. Further, six of the schools – Green, Hoover, Jackson, Lake, Louisville and Northwest – were ranked among Ohio’s top 100 best high schools.

**Further Information...**

www.usnews.com/education