



What is GSGF?

The Great Start for Great Futures Coalition (GSGF) is a group of Stark County early education providers, agencies, advocates, and community leaders collaborating to improve children's outcomes from the prenatal months to kindergarten. GSGF develops systems that align with clear metrics, and integrates strategic partners into its work, in order to heighten public awareness and equip decisionmakers to impact outcomes.

The GSGF Goal

To ensure all children are ready for school and have equitable access to the opportunities they need to achieve school and life success.

Why Do We Do This?

To ensure all children:

- Are well cared for physically; interact well socially; have a positive self-perception; and can understand, interpret, and express their feelings.
- Approach learning with enthusiasm and curiosity and have the language, listening, and cognitive skills they need to succeed.

GSGF Strategies

Our strategies are designed to ensure that:

- **Families** read together daily and actively engage with and support their children's learning before kindergarten, through the transition into kindergarten, and throughout the school years.
- **Educators & staff of early childhood programs** use curriculums that build on prior learning; consider individual differences in language, culture, and experience; and have the resources to teach effectively.
- **The community** provides children access to health care, immunizations, and good nutrition; provides families access to high-quality early childhood education; and invests in resources and activities that support families and promote school readiness.

Great Start Facts

- » **Small But Mighty:** 90% of a child's brain development occurs by age 5. During the period from birth to age 3, a child experiences the fastest rate of brain development across their entire life span.
- » **Time Goes So Fast:** There are only **2,000 days** between birth and the beginning of kindergarten.
- » **One Thing Leads to Another:** Progress made during the first 5 years of a child's life is highly predictive of future successes and struggles. Kindergarten readiness predicts 3rd grade reading achievement, which predicts 8th grade math achievement, which predicts high school graduation, which predicts post-secondary attainment.
- » **Now Is The Time To Act!** Far too many Stark County kids (40%!) are not on track at the start of the kindergarten year.

GSGF Partners

Alliance Early Learning School
 Alliance Family Health Center
 Artful Living & Learning
 Aultman Foundation
 Aultman Hospital
 Canton City Health Department
 Canton City School District
 Canton Country Day School
 Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health
 City of Massillon
 CommQuest Services
 Early Childhood Education Alliance
 Early Childhood Resource Center
 Fairless Local Schools
 Help Me Grow
 JRC Learning Centers
 Lake Local Schools
 Massillon City Schools
 Northwest Local Schools
 Osnaburg Local Schools
 PNC Financial Services Group
 Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton
 Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities
 Stark County Community Action Agency – Head Start

Stark County District Library
 Stark County Job & Family Services
 Stark Education Partnership
 Stark County Educational Service Center
 Stark County Fatherhood Coalition
 Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery
 Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority
 State Support Team Region 9
 Summit Education Initiative
 United Way of Greater Stark County
 University of Mount Union
 Walsh University
 Weaver Child Development Center
 YWCA – Early Head Start

Plus many other community leaders & early education advocates



Questions? Reach Out!

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