



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.

Questions? Reach Out!

For more information, please contact:

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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



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