

Student Success Plans

With the right support, every child in Hamilton County can thrive.

The future of our community depends on preparing our students for life and work. The well-being and success of our kids cuts across partisan and government lines. Leadership across our community supports education and knows that preparing our future citizens and workforce are critical for our community to grow and prosper. What they've been waiting for is a high impact strategy with proven results- student success plans.

We need a new approach to how we invest in and support kids and families in our community - one that can meet kids and families where they are, address their comprehensive and personalized needs, and truly prepare them for a bright future. Our vision is to build systems of opportunities and supports that enable students to:

- Get and hold a 21st century, high-skill, high-knowledge job that enables them to support a family
- Become informed citizens and active leaders
- Grow to be heads of families and lifelong, fulfilled learners

Elevator pitch

The Children's Cabinet will work with Hamilton County Schools to connect every child with what they need to thrive. Like a roadmap, personalized student success plans identify and connect kids to whatever they need, including basics like food, housing, and healthcare, as well as high-quality after-school and summer experiences, mentoring, and internships- all the things we know matter.

Topline Messaging:

Problem: Too many of our children lack the opportunities and supports they need to be successful in school and life, and our schools can't meet our students' needs on their own.

Solution: Student Success Plans will connect every student with what they need to thrive, in and out of school. Successful kids mean a prepared workforce for Hamilton County's future.

Ask: County and city government, as well as key child-serving organizations will form a Children’s Cabinet committed to deploying existing resources more effectively by aligning agencies and services. The Children’s Cabinet will work with the school district to identify and address the needs of our kids through Student Success Plans.

Urgency: This is the time to call for an investment in a strategy that we know works both for our kids and prepares our future workforce.

Hope: Other communities across the country are using success plans with promising results, and we are optimistic they can work here. Harvard’s Education Redesign Lab chose us to join their By All Means cohort of cities because they saw potential both in our elected leadership and our community to make success plans happen.

Anticipated Questions

- I. It is the job of parents to support and raise their children. This really feels like the community and government will be telling people how to raise their kids. Is that what this is?

Parents and guardians want the best for their children. No student or family will be required to have an success plan, but we’ve heard from parents that they welcome more opportunities and supports for their students. Plus, these plans are made with the involvement of the student and parent.

Success plan specialists at the school will work with the school, student and the student’s family to create the plan and then connect the student to the needs that are identified.

- II. Isn’t this the job of our school district?

Most of a student’s time isn’t spent in school. Only 20% of a student’s time is spent in school. Success plans make a difference by targeting the other 80% often has limited opportunities for expanded learning opportunities, career exploration and enrichment experiences. The schools play an important role in the success of our kids, but they can’t do it alone. We have so many organizations and people willing to help. Student Success Plans will help connect the resources we have to the students who need them.

Notes on appealing to different segments likely to be skeptics:

The messages embedded in the question responses above are designed to appeal to specific audiences identified as skeptics:

1. **Fiscal conservatives:** Messaging on the economic imperative of supporting our students and linking it to future prosperity and success
2. **Business:** The workforce of tomorrow are the students in our schools today. Investing in our kids means you’ll have the workforce you need.

Research:

- Hamilton County is experiencing economic growth and is ranked as one of the top 10 metro areas for growing advanced industries, adding more than 15,000 jobs since 2010.¹ Many of these jobs are not being filled by our residents, because they don't have the education and qualifications they require.

Academic data show that too many of our students aren't prepared for college and career:

- One in three high school students in Hamilton County completes a post secondary credential, but 85% of living wage jobs require a credential. In our neighborhoods in poverty, only one in 5 students earns a degree or certificate after high school.²
- Two out of five students in Hamilton county live in poverty.³
- In our community, 35% of students enter kindergarten ready to learn, 35% are reading on grade level by 3rd grade and 35% graduate from high school college and career ready based on the ACT benchmarks.⁴

Out-of-School time and Student Success Plans work:

- Students spend only 20% of their time in school. The other 80% is important in their success beyond school.⁵
- The summer months can result in the summer slide with students losing the equivalent of several months of learning each summer. These losses are cumulative such that students without the needed experiences can end middle school more than a grade level behind even if they do well in school.⁶
- City Connects, a success plan provider in Boston, has shown a return on investment of \$3 for every \$1 spent based on earning potential of the students due to improved academic outcomes.
 - Other outcomes include higher standardized test scores, lower numbers of students retained, lower dropout rates, increased attendance rates, higher grades (similar outcomes for CIS)⁷

¹

<https://www.timesfreepress.com/news/business/aroundregion/story/2017/dec/12/chattanoogaamong-top-25-cities-job-growth-year/459001/>

² <https://chatt2.org/>

³ <http://census.gov>

⁴ <https://www.tn.gov/education/data/report-card.html>

⁵ <https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/>

⁶ <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2018/2018160.pdf>

⁷ <http://bc.edu/cityconnects>