

STATEMENT OF INTENT 2026-27

"The essential features of successful place-based work are intentionality, relationships, and dialogue. Nothing meaningful happens on accident, sustaining work requires relationships and continual improvement requires meaningful conversations with everyone involved."

-Annie Bogenschutz

Everything we do this year is designed to create clear pathways for success. We intentionally consider the path from cradle to kindergarten, pathways for school success, and pathways for future readiness.

We use collective impact techniques to support the structures we need to ensure involvement from champions. We use school districts as geographic boundaries to organize our work across the county. Early Childhood Workgroups and Community Schools Advisory Boards in each district intentionally hold space for dialogue and sustain the enabling conditions for our place-based work. Input from district level advisory boards and workgroups is transferred to countywide groups.

The Wayne Partnership large group meetings maintain a community of difference makers. Workgroups support the development of pathways for early childhood, childhood, adolescence, young adults, and families. Community Schools and Out of School Time strategy workgroups accelerate efforts using proven methods. The Cradle to Career Leadership Table supports these workgroups and expands multi-disciplinary efforts to include youth justice and business partnerships for career pathway development.

Countywide efforts acknowledge that it is the responsibility of young people to choose their path, yet every young person should not have to blaze a new trail. It is our responsibility to make sure in this place young people in our communities have plentiful choices and multiple pathways of success. Nor should any one community or family be responsible for charting those possible courses.

In each district and in each building, an implementation plan exists to create pathways and provide support along the way and our countywide efforts enhance their capacity. District Leads facilitate building plans; we track our progress precisely by building so we can list what we have done and can consider adjustments.

Regardless of their future path, our young people must be able to read, thus, we increase our intensity of focus on early literacy. We want more reading, more writing, more art, more poetry, and less screentime.

Regardless of their path, our young people must be healthy. We renew efforts to gather sparse resources for nutrition, medical, dental, and vision needs. We encourage healthy habits including physical activity, sleep habits, and self-care plans.

Regardless of their path, no one should walk alone. In each district, trained Success Planning Coaches and guides are to be visibly in place. Success Planning implementation teams across districts ensure that every young person has a networked Success Coach who can access resources for young people. These coaches are caring and competent and trained in youth development, the science of hope and trauma informed practices.

Regardless of their future path, these young people are starting out here. We are responsible for their health, their safety and their opportunity here in Wayne County.

When every young person is successful and well our work is complete. When every young person knows they belong to a community that has intentionally laid out pathways for their success that contain challenge balanced with support, and when they know we have thoughtfully placed skilled compassionate guides along the way - then will we have done our job.