BUCKEYE COMMUNITY HOPE FOUNDATION

Education Division

SPONSOR ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

The Sponsor Annual Report is an important informational source for all our stakeholders about the performance and progress of our sponsored schools. We are proud to be a Sponsor of community schools in Ohio, and are proud of all the hard work our schools, students, parents, and our staff contribute to ensure **success for all students.**



Jennifer Schorr, VP of Education
Jason Moore, Senior Director of Education

www.bchf.org

Buckeye Community Hope Foundation is a non-profit organization with the mission of "Building Communities, Rebuilding Lives." In support of the mission of the overall Foundation, and as part of its commitment that all students should have access to quality educational opportunities, the mission of the Education Division is to establish strong public community schools by adhering to quality authorizing practices, ensuring responsible oversight, and setting high standards for school performance.

Buckeye Community Hope Foundation is a statewide community school sponsor. During the 2025-26 school year, BCHF sponsored and provided oversight and technical assistance to fifty-four (54) public community schools in eighteen Ohio cities, serving 13,935 students.

Our portfolio of sponsored schools included thirty (30) traditional brick-and-mortar community schools, five (5) schools serving a majority of students with special needs, and nineteen (19) alternative drop-out prevention and recovery program schools, one of which is an online school. Six of our sponsored schools operate one or more satellite locations. Three new dropout recovery schools opened under new contracts in 2025-2026. One school closed at the end of the school year.

A primary role of the community school sponsor is to open new public community schools that have high-quality education programs focused on student success. We also must make the difficult decision to close a school when their performance falls below expectations for students. At BCHF, we take this role very seriously and make data-based performance evaluations with student well-being as the first and foremost consideration in any decisions.

Academic performance data for our schools for 2025-26 SY is based on multiple data measures. Due to the configuration of schools and Ohio's accountability components, some measures are not available for individual schools or groups of schools. The BCHF team continues to monitor school progress closely through its own data warehouse and offers a high level of support for school improvement and progress. We are committed to seeking a better future for the children served by our sponsored schools and for all students in Ohio.



OUR FOUNDATION

The mission of Buckeye Community Hope Foundation is Building Communities and Rebuilding Lives. The Education Division has a clear and focused mission, vision, and values that supports the overall mission of BCHF through sponsorship of high-quality charter schools in Ohio. We pride ourselves in being one of the first top-rated sponsors in Ohio.

MISSION

Through strategic authorizing and partnership, we develop educational communities of achievement through innovation, hope, and support.



VISION

We envision a rich ecosystem of community schools ensuring ALL students and families have access to a high-quality public education.

VALUES

RESPECT

We understand the challenges faced in the day-to-day work in our schools. We empathize with families in seeking a better future for their children.

CREDIBILITY

We are the subject matter experts. We have a positive impact on public education in Ohio.

INNOVATION

We are committed to innovative solutions and best practices to eliminate the achievement gap.

MUTUAL TRUST

We work together as a team - within our division, with our boards, with our school leaders, and, most importantly, with our families.

EQUALITY AND ACCESS

We safeguard the rights of all students to enjoy equitable access to the school of their choice, to receive appropriate services, and to be treated fairly.



WHAT WE DO

As a sponsor, we are responsible for overseeing each school's compliance with all applicable laws and rules and the community school sponsorship contract. We also provide vital technical assistance to our sponsored schools in the areas of charter school startup/incubation, fiscal and operational performance, and, most importantly, academic achievement and progress.

PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING

BCHF has a community school sponsorship contract with each of its sponsored schools. The sponsorship contract includes all legal requirements, as well as each school's unique education plan, financial plan, and governance plan. Additionally, the sponsorship contract includes the Performance Accountability Framework that details areas of school assessment and oversight. The framework includes academic and non-academic goals specific to each school.

COMMITMENT AND CAPACITY

BCHF employs a team of twenty-three (23) professionals, located throughout the state, with extensive experience in various disciplines. Our Education Division staff includes individuals with expertise in finance, education, data analysis, compliance, communications, and event planning. Our accountability and school improvement representatives have subject matter expertise in all academic core content areas, school leadership, social-emotional learning/restorative justice, special education, multi-lingual student support, mathematics, behavior and classroom management, and career-technical education.

We hold ourselves accountable. During the 2025-26 school year, BCHF refreshed its Strategic Plan through collaborative work with Mary Bradley, Chief Operating Officer, of the National Charter School Institute. The work included a comprehensive survey of stakeholder response to BCHF services and prioritization of future needs. BCHF set long- and short-range goals to address priority schools needs and to remain future-focused with our services. The 2026-2029 Strategic Plan is now available on our website at: Strategic Plan - 26/29

ONGOING OVERSIGHT AND EVALUATION

The oversight of our sponsored schools is a responsibility that BCHF takes seriously. Our team monitors and assesses each school's performance against the performance framework and terms of the contract. Annually, BCHF provides each school with a cumulative report that summarizes the school's academic performance, fiscal performance, and organizational and operational performance. The annual End of Year performance report identifies areas of strengths, areas needing improvement, and the school's prospect for renewal.

We gather information through a variety of resources including: bi-monthly on-site visits to schools; attendance at governing authority board meetings; monthly financial reviews conducted by a licensed school treasurer; on-going data assessment of student achievement and growth; ongoing reviews of state and federal law compliance, academics, special education, and operations and finance; and ongoing technical assistance provided by a team of experts with years of experience spanning various disciplines. BCHF recently added close monitoring of student attendance to its regular reporting. Attendance at each school is reported monthly and assessed as "satisfactory," "concerning," or "urgent." Year-to-year comparisons are provided to school leaders and governing board members.

2,231
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPANTS

324
CLASSROOMS OBSERVED

HUNDREDS
OF GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS ATTENDED

13,935
STUDENTS SERVED

54
SCHOOLS SPONSORED



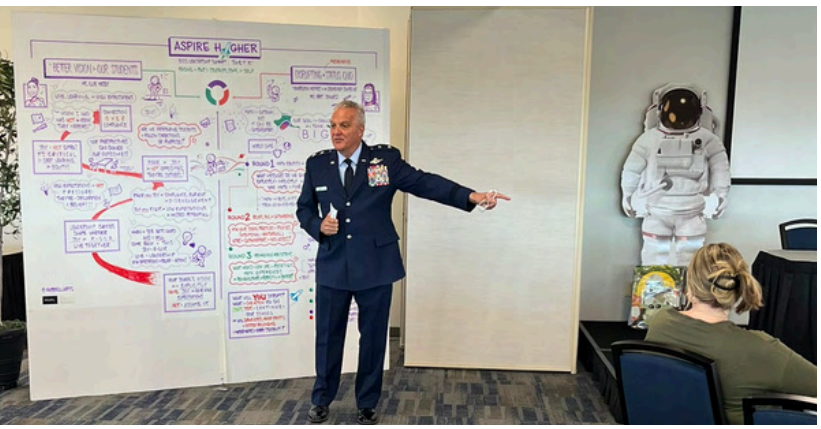


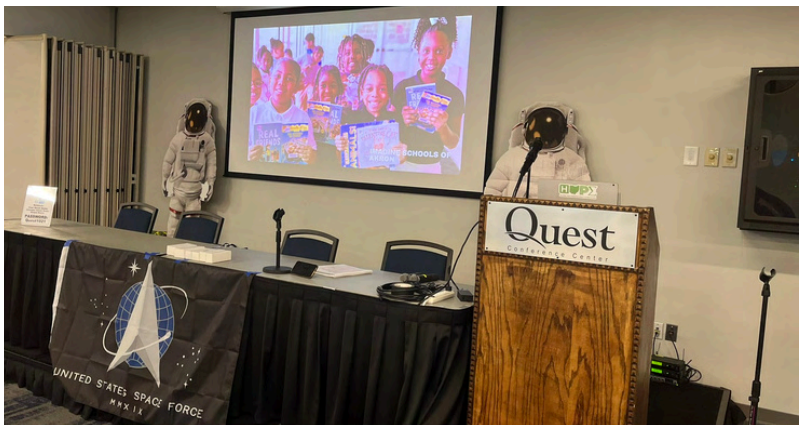
OUR FOCUS

Buckeye Community Hope Foundation emphasizes technical assistance in all aspects of schooling, with a focus on effective teaching and learning. Annually, we assess each school's needs and implement a work plan to support success for ALL students. This plan includes various supports for schools based on needs they have in common and individualized, targeted technical assistance to meet each school's unique needs.

SUPPORT FOR ALL SCHOOLS

In the 2025-26 school year, BCHF organized support for all schools around the results expressed in the annual spring needs assessment. An organizing theme of "Aspire Higher: Raising the Bar for Students, Staff, and Self" set the tone for both the **Annual School Leader Summit** in June 2025 and priority professional development sessions for 2025-26. This theme emphasized how educators' mindsets and high expectations for their students can foster and accelerate student learning. BCHF's Accountability and School Improvement Department emphasized offerings aligned to leadership themes and topics in its 2025-26 Professional Learning Opportunities Catalog. Major General David B. Johnson was a keynote speaker for the Summit, urging leaders to anticipate and plan purposely for peak performance. "Teamwork toward a purpose is essential," he urged.







BCHF's **All-Schools Meeting** in September 2025 kicked off the 2025-26 school year. Schools received awards based on academic accomplishments and best practices in communications and engagement. The event also featured Solution Centers, opportunities for school leaders to converse with BCHF team members about data for student learning, support for students in mathematics and English language arts, special education, multi-lingual learner needs, and early literacy. Information was shared about the Parents' Bill of Rights and Ohio's New Plan for Mathematics.





BCHF also supported its sponsored schools through Cohort Learning, an ongoing professional learning community (PLC) model. Cohorts served educators working in special education, multilingual learner support, early literacy, K–8 mathematics, data analysis, leadership, teacher support, workforce literacy, and graduation and secondary success.

A feature of the school year was an in-person Summit on Early Literacy, held in December 2025, in which we brought schools together to discuss literacy needs and best practices for our youngest learners.

BCHF regularly analyzed data for student learning through Fall and Winter analyses of schools' norm referenced testing and SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-oriented) Goal data, and Ohio State Testing Data. Additionally, customized professional development and technical assistance services were available to all schools upon request.

TARGETED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

BCHF provided targeted technical assistance to schools based on their performance and assignment to a tier of support. Using available data, schools designated as Tier 1 exceeded academic performance metrics of the Sponsor contract. Tier 2 schools met academic performance metrics. Tier 3 schools did not meet academic performance metrics of the contract or were trending downward. Tier 0 schools were "new or incubating schools" within 2 years of start-up.

In 2025-26, schools received two high-stakes reviews annually. The individual status of the school, based on data, determined specific plans for each review. Review procedures incorporated input of at least three stakeholder groups, for example, teachers, parents, administrators, and students. Each review cycle emphasized development of a profile of school strengths and needs, with a plan for follow-up. BCHF planned and offered individualized technical assistance to schools based on review evidence.

Schools in the Tier 3 category were encouraged to engage in deeper analysis of teaching and learning data to develop a focused school improvement plan. BCHF collaborated with schools, their respective state support teams, and management companies (where applicable) to align focused school improvement plans with the school's state submitted One Plan. Where necessary, BCHF required an Academic Corrective Action Plan, approved by the Governing Board, to better guide the school's plans for academic turnaround.

Our strong record and sustained emphasis on high-quality teaching and learning aligns to BCHF's mission of establishing "strong public community schools by adhering to quality authorizing practices, ensuring responsible oversight, and setting high standards for school performance." We support our schools in a continuous improvement process with the overall aim of making all schools high quality and all students successful!

SPONSOR EVALUATION

The Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) conducts evaluations of sponsors in three equally weighted components (Academic Performance, Compliance and Quality Practices). We're proud to announce that Buckeye Community Hope Foundation received the highest rating of Exemplary on its most recent Sponsor evaluation.

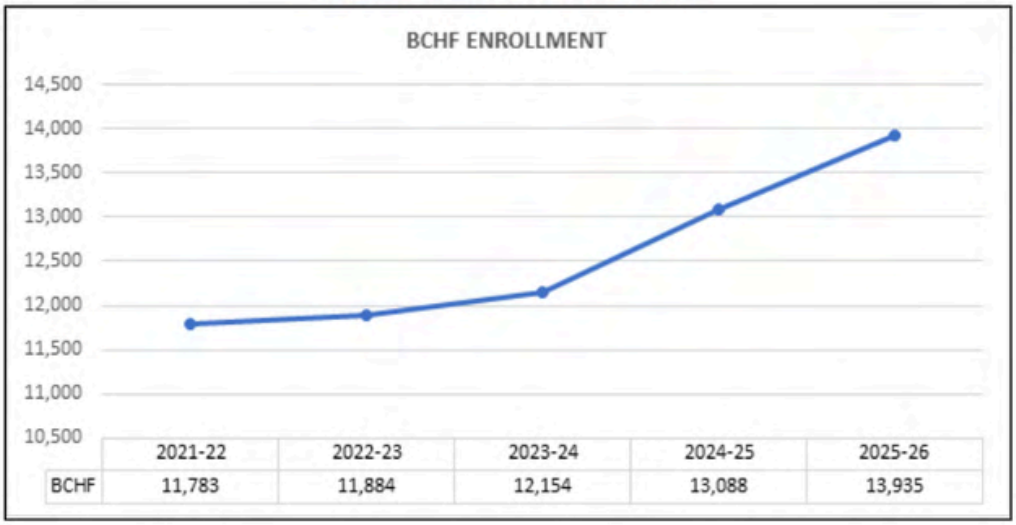




OUR STUDENTS

BCHF provided high-quality school authorizing/sponsorship support to a growing population of deserving students. As depicted in Figure 1, enrollment in BCHF-sponsored schools increased by 847 students from 2024-25 to 2025-26, an increase of approximately 6%.

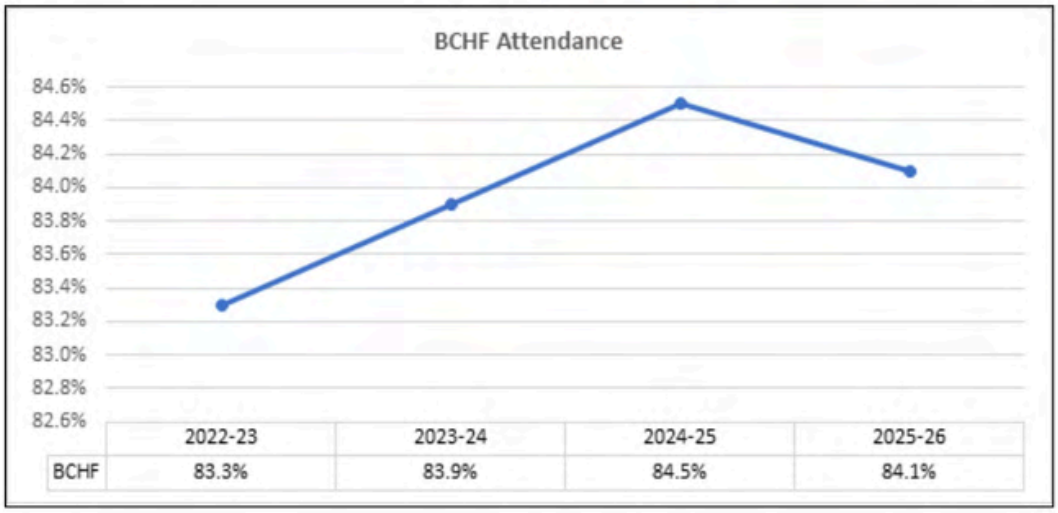
Figure 1. Enrollment Trend



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
BCHF	11,783	11,884	12,154	13,088	13,935

Throughout the school year, BCHF monitored student attendance in each of our sponsored schools. Notifications were sent monthly to governing boards and school leaders. While attendance rates remained rather stable, student attendance, at 84.1% overall, continued to be a concern.

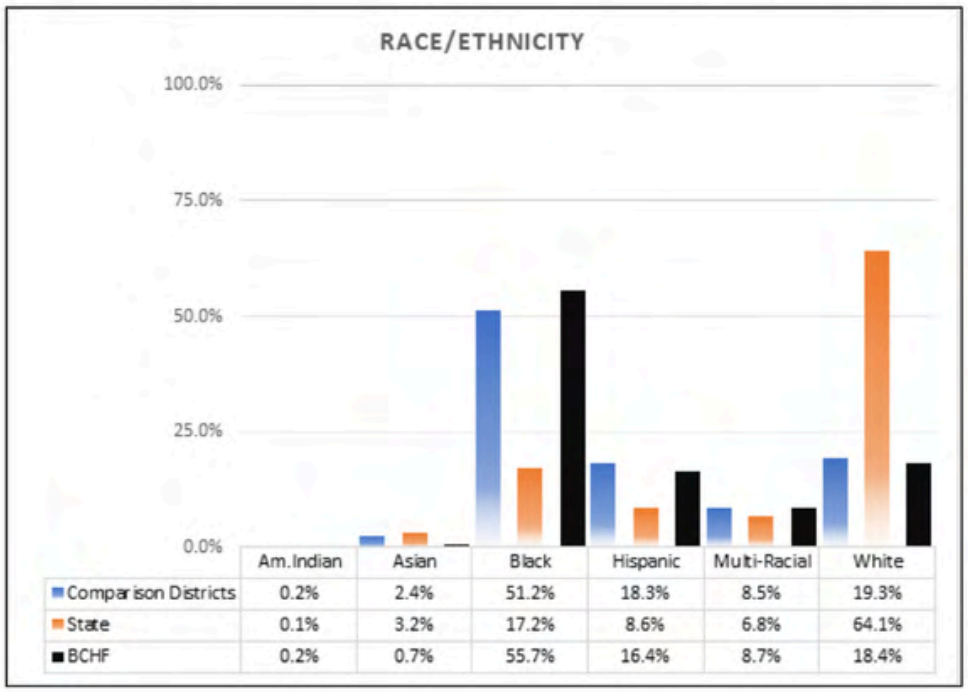
Figure 2. Attendance Rate



	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
BCHF	83.3%	83.9%	84.5%	84.1%

BCHF-sponsored schools, located primarily in urban centers of Ohio, educate a diverse population of students. Percentages of students of color align closely with comparison districts in which BCHF schools are situated but significantly exceed Ohio averages. Figure 3 below summarizes the race ethnicity characteristics of students in BCHF-sponsored schools.

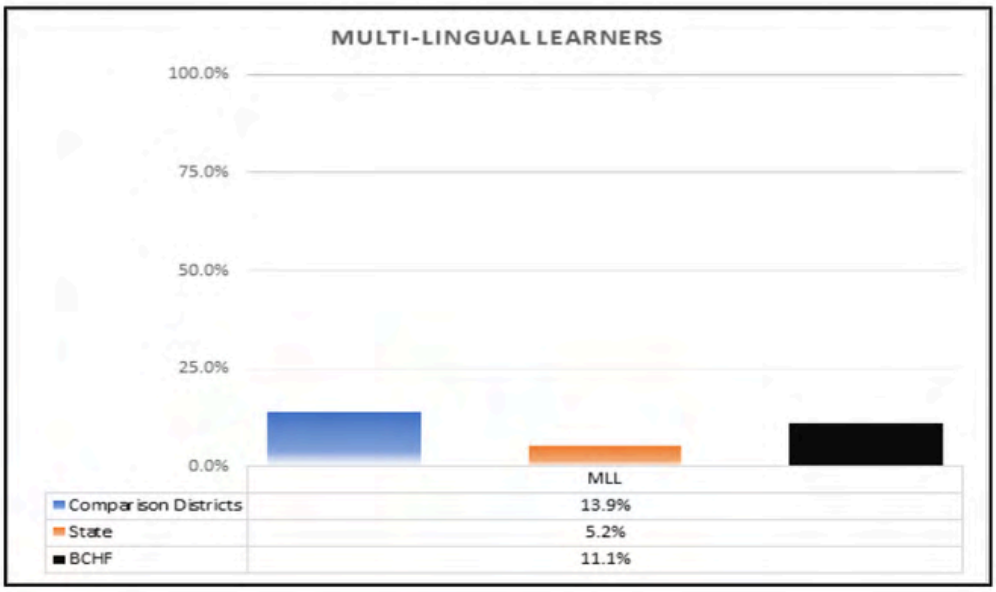
Figure 3. Race/Ethnicity Demographics of Students in BCHF-Sponsored Schools



	Am.Indian	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Multi-Racial	White
Comparison Districts	0.2%	2.4%	51.2%	18.3%	8.5%	19.3%
State	0.1%	3.2%	17.2%	8.6%	6.8%	64.1%
BCHF	0.2%	0.7%	55.7%	16.4%	8.7%	18.4%

Our sponsored schools served a significant percentage of students whose first language is not English. In 2025-26, multi-lingual learners constituted just over 11% of all students in our schools, as compared with a state average of 5.2%.

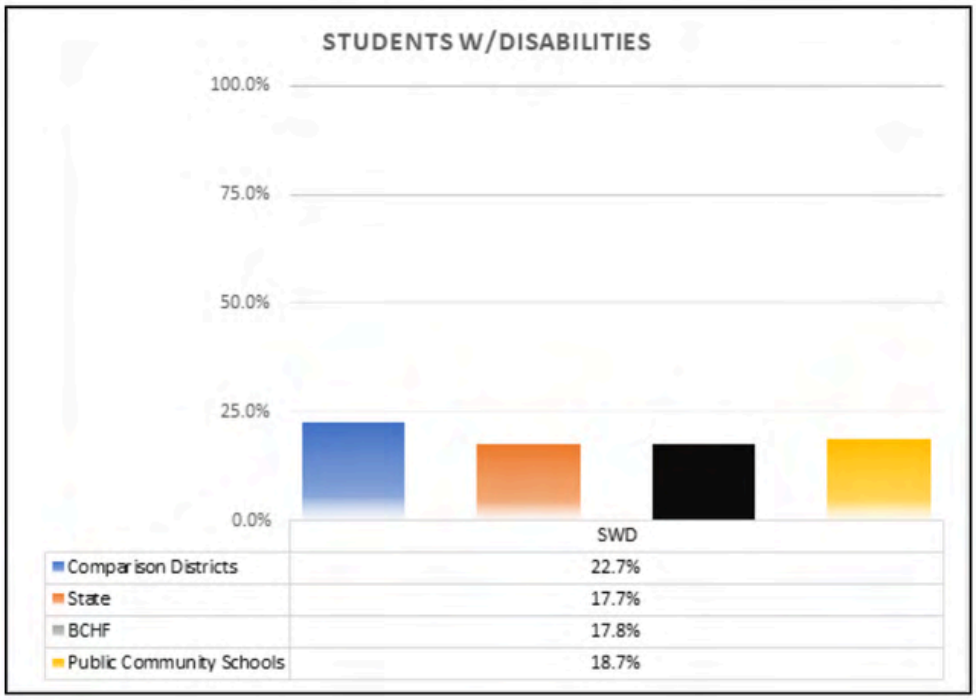
Figure 4. Multi-Lingual Learners in BCHF-Sponsored Schools



	MLL
Comparison Districts	13.9%
State	5.2%
BCHF	11.1%

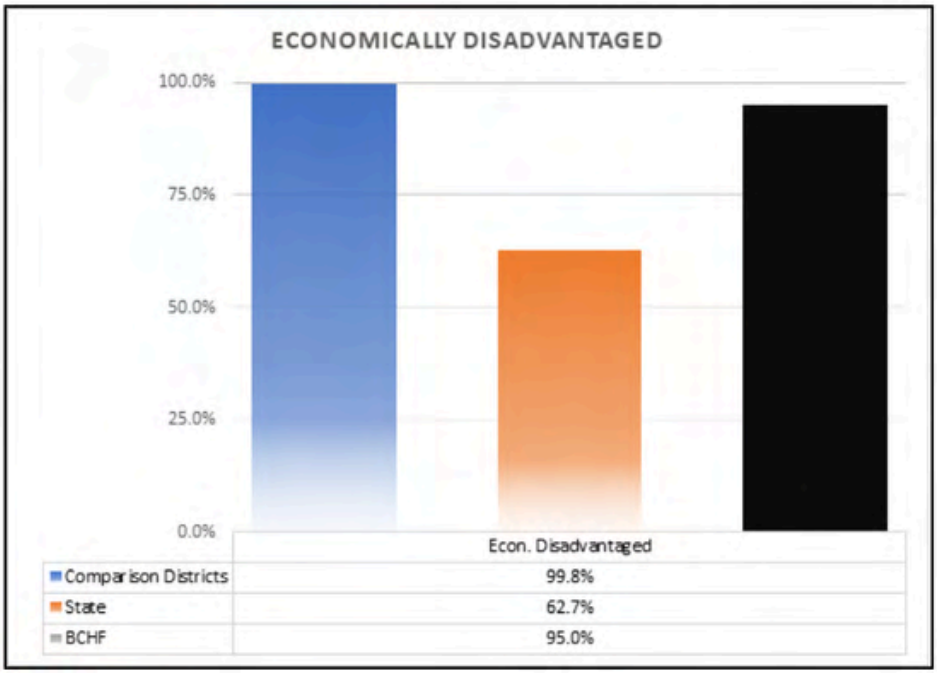
Students with disabilities were another significant subgroup of learners in BCHF schools in the 2025-26 school year. Mirroring the state average, approximately 17.8% of students in BCHF schools were identified as students with disabilities eligible for an Individualized Education Program (IEP). This percentage was comparable to community schools statewide.

Figure 5. Students with Disabilities



With 95% of students in our portfolio of schools meeting criteria for economically-disadvantaged, BCHF schools educate students with a variety of needs and readiness levels. The comparable statewide percentage is 62.7%.

Figure 6. Economically Disadvantaged Students

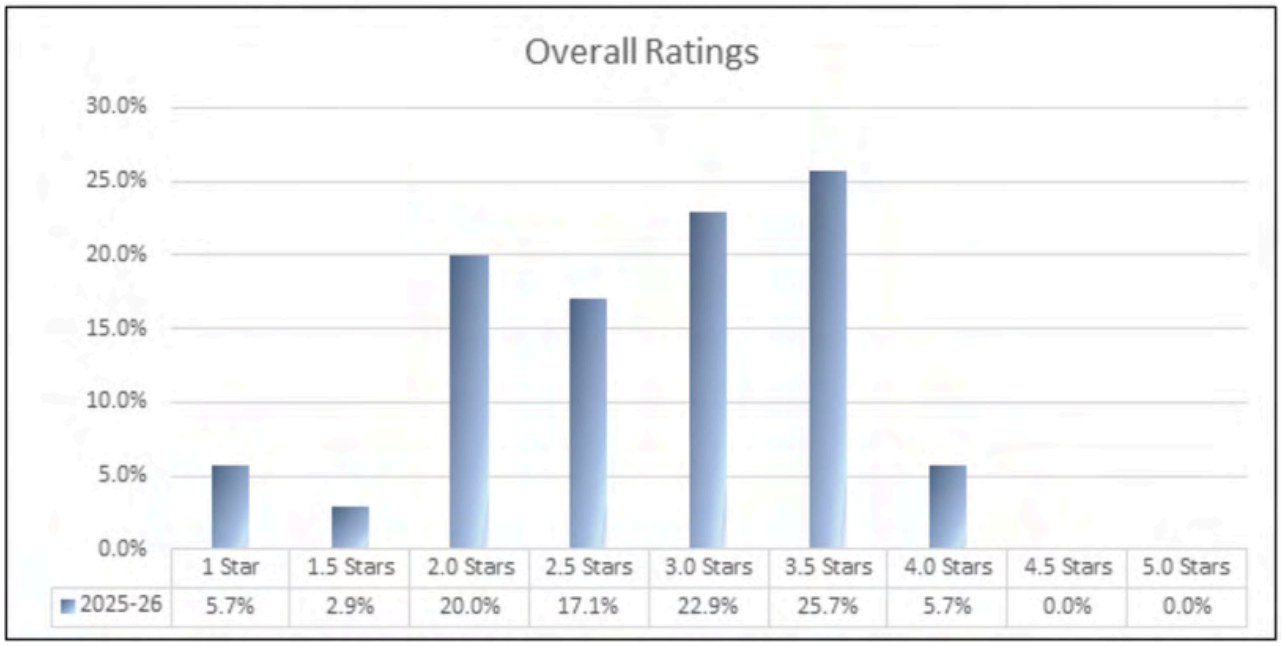


Most of BCHF's traditional community schools earned a 2.5 to 3.5-star rating (out of a possible 5 stars) on Ohio's 2025-26 School Report Card. Overall report card strengths were Prepared for Success, Graduation, and Progress Ratings. Areas for continued improvement included Early Literacy and overall Achievement.

Figure 7. Traditional Schools (Non-Dropout Recovery Star Ratings

Component	1 Star	2 Stars	3 Stars	4 Stars	5 Stars
Achievement	13.9%	58.5%	27.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Progress	0.0%	5.8%	46.2%	42.3%	4.8%
Gap Closing	13.8%	16.1%	20.7%	32.2%	17.2%
Early Literacy	34.2%	31.6%	23.7%	10.5%	0.0%
Graduation	9.1%	18.2%	27.3%	0.0%	45.5%
Prepared for Success	37.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	62.5%

Figure 8. Traditional Community Schools Overall Rating



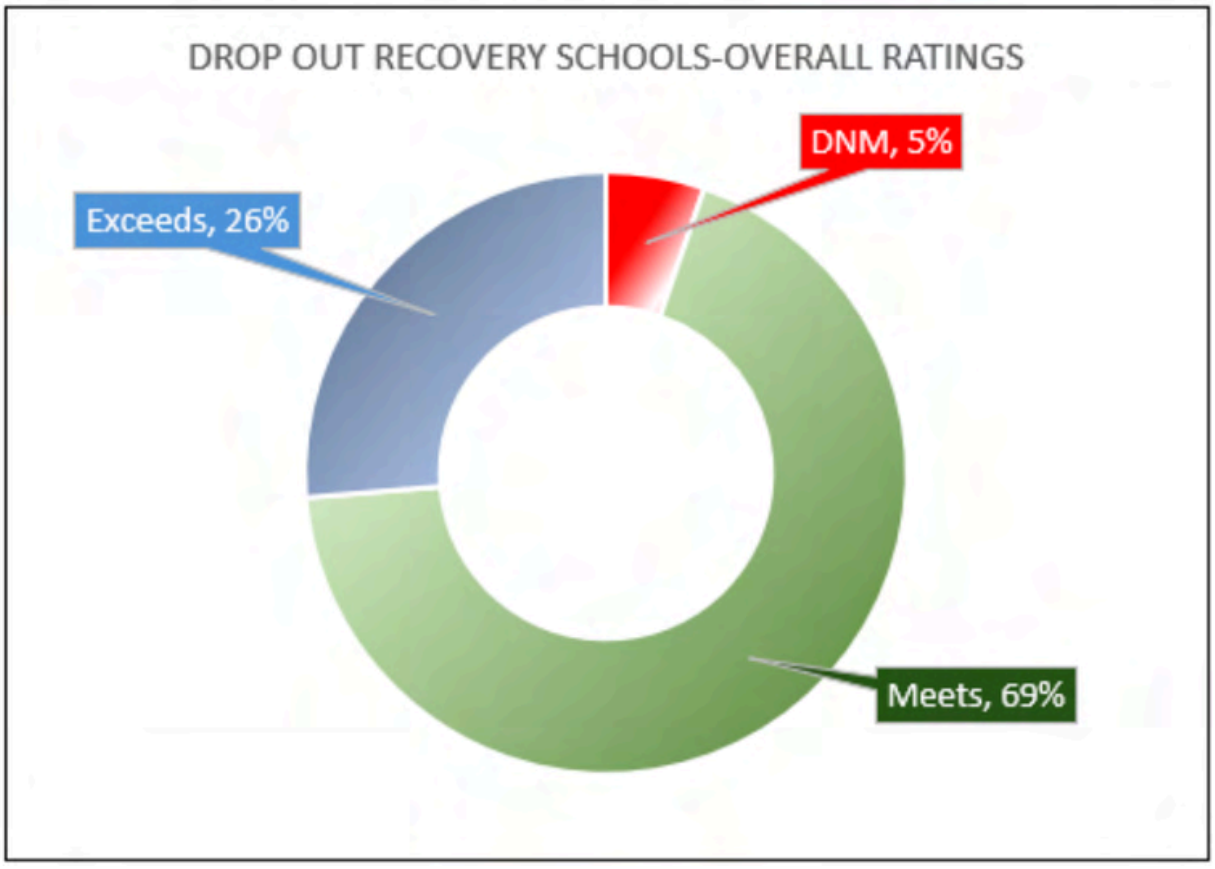


Ninety-five percent (95%) of BCHF's sponsored Drop Out Recovery Schools received a "Meets" or "Exceeds" rating on the 2025-26 Ohio Drop Out Recovery Program Report. Over half (52.6%) received an "Exceeds" rating on the Progress Component of these reports. 42.1% of schools were rated "Exceeds" on their combined graduation rates. Schools showed an ongoing need for improvement in Achievement, as measured by high school test passage rate.

Figure 9. Drop Out Recovery School Ratings

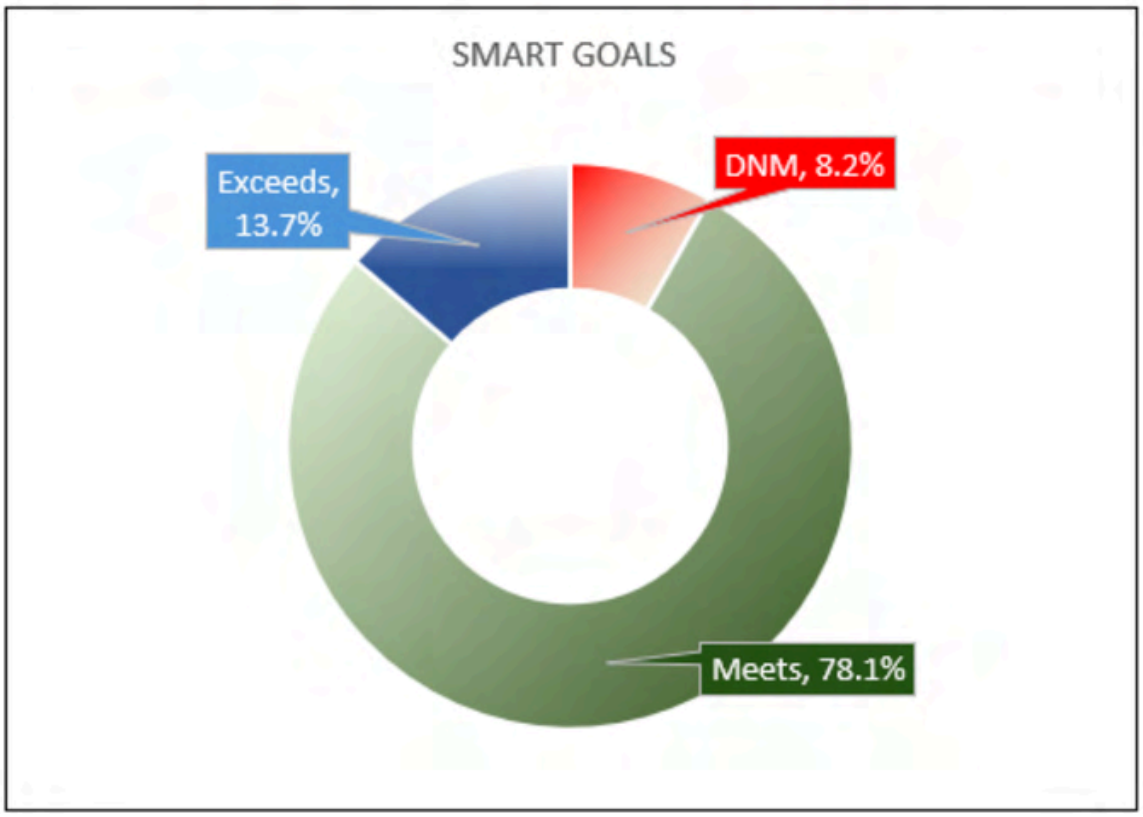
Component	Not Rated	Does Not Meet	Meets	Exceeds
Achievement	10.5%	52.6%	21.1%	15.8%
Progress	0.0%	10.5%	36.8%	52.6%
Gap Closing	10.5%	10.5%	42.1%	36.8%
Combined Graduation	21.1%	0.0%	36.8%	42.1%

Figure 10. Drop Out Recovery Overall Rating



BCHF encouraged each of their sponsored schools to set a high-priority SMART goal for academic improvement during the 2025-26 school year. This goal was aligned to the school's state-submitted Needs Assessment and One Plan. BCHF gathered evidence at biannual review visits that over 78% of schools met or made substantial progress in meeting their stated SMART goals.

Figure 11. Attainment of Priority SMART Goals





SCHOOL INITIATIVES

THE WRITING CHALLENGE

Each year, Buckeye Community Hope Foundation sponsors a writing challenge for grades three through twelve to emphasize the importance of writing in academic achievement. This year, students explored their identities, what makes them unique, and how their individuality can make the world a better place.

Elementary students read There's Only One You by Deborah Hembrook and Kathryn Heling before reflecting on what makes them different and special. Elementary winner and overall champion Trinity Rollins from Hamilton County Math Science Academy wrote:

"My traits can help change the world in good ways. My art can make people feel understood and inspired. My volleyball trait shows hard work and can encourage others to try their best. By being myself, I can make a small difference and help others, too."

The middle school challenge focused on how identity shapes a person's experiences. Students used nonfiction texts to explore how identity has influenced the lives of others and themselves. Middle school winner Praise Oghenekaro, also from Hamilton County Math Science Academy, reflected on her Nigerian heritage:

"These struggles and experiences help make up our identities."

High school winner Aisha Sharif, a junior at Focus North High School, researched how personal identity affects society. Her essay, "Two Worlds, One Girl: The Struggles of a Teenager Growing up in a Multicultural Home in America," explored the experience of growing up in a Somali-American Muslim household while navigating different cultural expectations at school.

"Growing up in a Somali-American household was like living in two different cultures and worlds for me. I had specific cultural expectations at home that were unique to my African Muslim culture. When I went to school, however, I felt I had to act a certain way to make friends and earn the respect of my peers."

Forty-eight entries were received this year from Buckeye Community Hope Foundation schools. We celebrate all participating students and the teachers who supported their work. The future looks bright as students continue to explore their identities and their places in the world.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CARD CONTEST

Our annual holiday card contest once again celebrated the remarkable creativity of our students. Students from across all grade levels were invited to submit festive designs that captured the spirit of the season. We are proud to announce that Tayla, a 7th grader from Horizon Science Academy Columbus Middle School, and Desire, an 11th grader from Engage High School were the winners. Their outstanding artwork was featured on the cover of our holiday card, allowing their artistic vision to spread joy and seasonal cheer to our entire Buckeye Community Hope Foundation family and beyond. This tradition continues to provide our students with a meaningful opportunity to showcase their talents while bringing the community together during the holidays. The full list of student artwork can be viewed on our website: https://bchf.org/2025-holiday-card-contest/

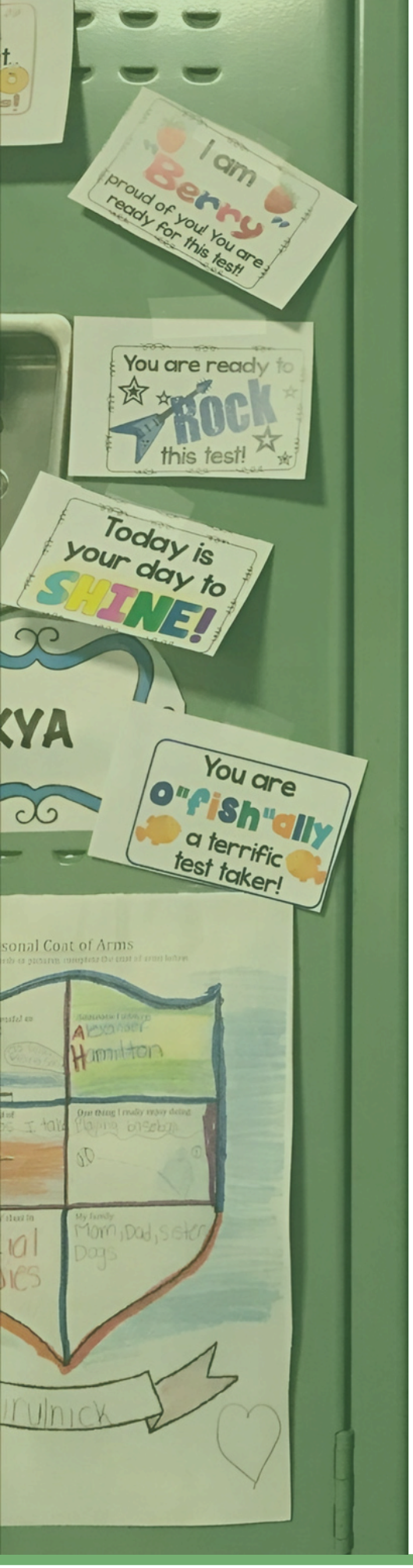




CONCLUSION

Buckeye Community Hope Foundation is proud to report the 2025-26 school year as a year of progress for our sponsored schools. We are impressed, each and every school day, at the hard work of students, faculty and staff, leaders, management companies, and parents. We are appreciative also of the support from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, Buckeye Community Hope Foundation Board of Directors, and our community partners.

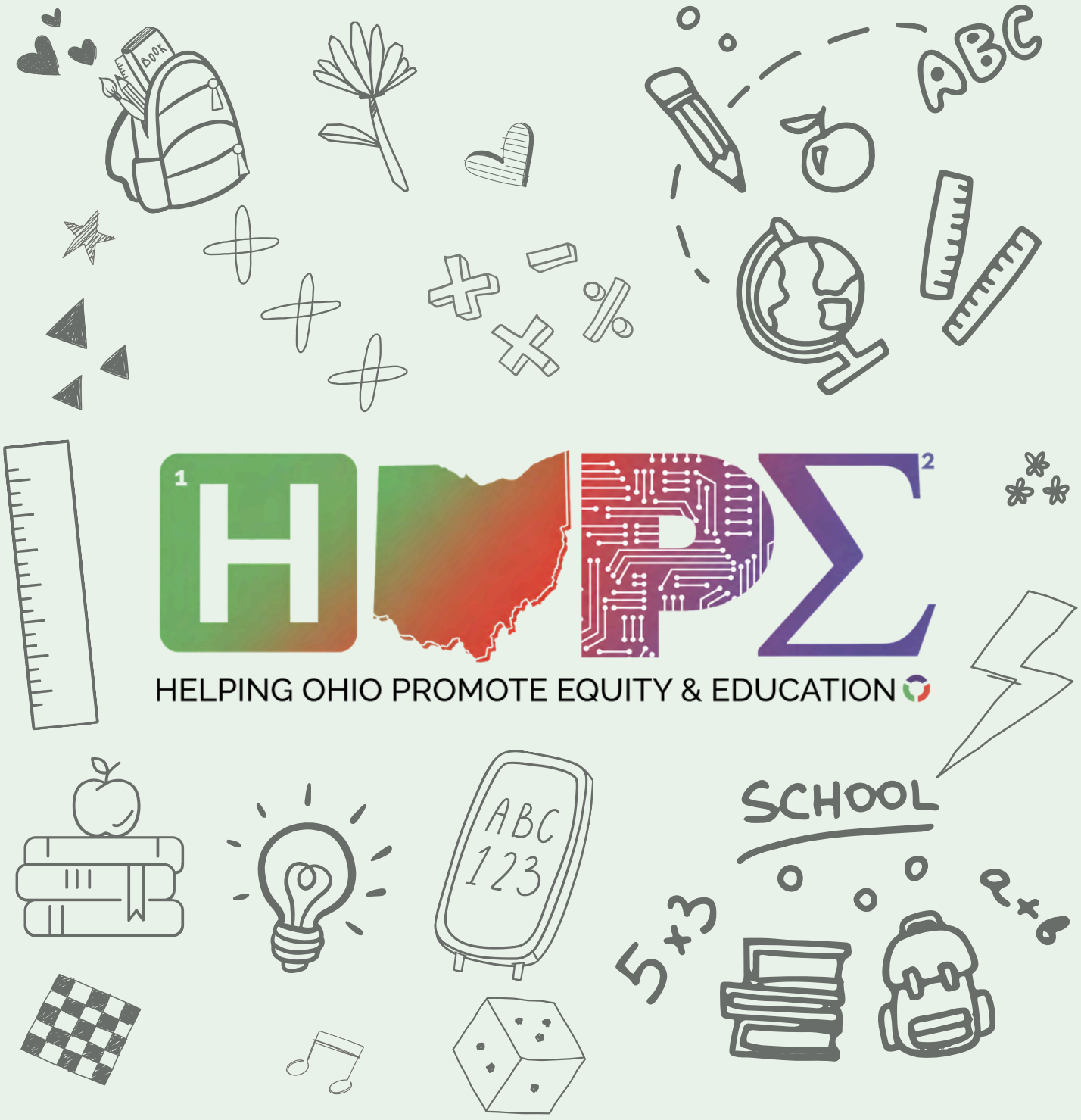
This report concludes with a big THANK YOU to everyone involved in our schools and in the goal of making a brighter future for the students of Ohio!



LIST OF SPONSORED SCHOOLS 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

AKRON CAREER TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
ACADEMY FOR URBAN SCHOLARS TOLEDO
ACADEMY FOR URBAN SCHOLARS YOUNGSTOWN
AUGLAIZE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL ACADEMY
BENNETT VENTURE ACADEMY
BREAKTHROUGH SCHOOLS WOODLAND HILLS
BUCKEYE COMMUNITY SCHOOL – LIMA*
BUCKEYE COMMUNITY SCHOOL – TIFFIN*
BUCKEYE COMMUNITY SCHOOL – SPRINGFIELD
COLUMBUS NOOR ACADEMY**
CONSTELLATION SCHOOLS: EASTSIDE ARTS ACADEMY
CONSTELLATION SCHOOLS: LORAIN COMMUNITY MIDDLE
CONSTELLATION SCHOOLS: OLD BROOKLYN COMMUNITY MIDDLE
CONSTELLATION SCHOOLS: PURITAS COMMUNITY MIDDLE
CONSTELLATION SCHOOLS: STOCKYARD COMMUNITY MIDDLE
CONSTELLATION SCHOOLS: WESTPARK COMMUNITY MIDDLE
CONSTELLATION SCHOOLS: WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
ENGAGE HIGH SCHOOL
FLEX HIGH SCHOOL
FLEX HIGH SCHOOL OF CLEVELAND
FOCUS LEARNING ACADEMY OF SOUTHEASTERN COLUMBUS
FOCUS LEARNING ACADEMY OF SOUTHWESTERN COLUMBUS
FOCUS NORTH HIGH SCHOOL
GLOBAL AMBASSADORS LANGUAGE ACADEMY
GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
HAMILTON COUNTY MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY
HORIZON SCIENCE ACADEMY COLUMBUS MIDDLE SCHOOL
HORIZON SCIENCE ACADEMY DAYTON DOWNTOWN
HORIZON SCIENCE ACADEMY DAYTON HIGH SCHOOL
HORIZON SCIENCE ACADEMY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HORIZON SCIENCE ACADEMY LORAIN
HORIZON SCIENCE ACADEMY YOUNGSTOWN
IMAGINE AKRON ACADEMY
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS
L. HOLLINGWORTH SCHOOL FOR THE TALENTED AND GIFTED
LINCOLN PARK ACADEMY
MAIN PREPARATORY ACADEMY
NOBLE ACADEMY COLUMBUS
NOBLE ACADEMY EUCLID
NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL
PROMISE ACADEMY
RIVERSCAPE CAREER TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
SHOREWAY HIGH SCHOOL*
SOUTHERN OHIO CAREER ACADEMY
STAMBAUGH CHARTER ACADEMY
SUMMIT ACADEMY COMMUNITY SCHOOL FOR ALTERNATIVE LEARNERS OF MIDDLETOWN
SUMMIT ACADEMY SECONDARY SCHOOL – MIDDLETOWN
SUMMIT ACADEMY TOLEDO
SUMMIT ACADEMY COLUMBUS
SUMMIT ACADEMY DAYTON
THE ACADEMY FOR URBAN SCHOLARS
THE RICHLAND SCHOOL OF ACADEMIC ARTS
WESTSIDE ACADEMY
YOUNGSTOWN PREPARATORY ACADEMY

***NEW SCHOOL IN 2025-26**
****CLOSED AT THE END OF 2025-26**



HOPE²

HELPING OHIO PROMOTE EQUITY & EDUCATION

Through strategic authorizing and partnership, we develop educational communities of achievement through innovation, **hope**, and support.

BUCKEYE COMMUNITY HOPE FOUNDATION

Education Division