



# Berea College Knox Promise Neighborhood

Knox County, Kentucky

The Berea College Knox Promise Neighborhood uses a place-based, student-focused approach to improve educational outcomes for children from birth to age 24 who live in Appalachian Kentucky. Over 25 partner schools and numerous other organizations, including one of the country's first community action agencies, work with Berea College to implement an array of early learning, curricular, family support, wellness, and safety supports. Because this "neighborhood" is vast and rural, most services are provided within the partner schools.

## COMMUNITY COMPOSITION

African American 1%

White 96%

Latino 1%



34%

of Berea College Knox PN residents live below federal poverty level

27%

of Berea College Knox PN households are families with children

\$26,806

average median household income (per year) in Berea College Knox PN

7,484

children live in the neighborhood footprint

7,818

children are enrolled in partner schools

11 partner agencies

25 partner schools

## PROGRAM IN ACTION

### ACADEMIC CHALLENGES

#### Kindergartener Development

35%

of kindergarteners are ready for school

#### Academic Proficiency Math

47%

of students are proficient in math

#### Academic Proficiency ELA

56%

are proficient in English language arts

#### Chronic Absenteeism

19%

of students are chronically absent from school

#### High School Graduation

95%

of students graduate on time

### SELECT STRATEGIES

- Early Steps to School Success home-visiting program for families with babies
- Professional development for early learning staff
- myON online literacy platform for families

- Academic case management for high-need students
- Community-school coordination facilitated by Promise staff
- TI-Nspire calculators and support on using them for students

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- Community-school coordination facilitated by Promise staff
- Literacy academies through myON for students and families

- Teen Outreach Program to address high-risk behaviors
- Academic case management for high-need students
- Community-school coordination facilitated by Promise staff

- Teen Outreach Program to address high-risk behaviors
- Families and Students Together cycles
- Incentives for students who achieve high Advanced Placement scores

Source for academic challenges: APR ad hoc summary, year 1

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Cassie attends a small elementary school in rural Kentucky. One day, Cassie saw a simple antibullying poster being hung in the hallways by her Promise School Coordinator, Pam Blake. This gave Cassie the courage to tell Pam, through tears, that she was often ridiculed by a group of students. Pam and Cassie discussed the situation and met with the principal to develop a plan of action. Cassie trusted Pam to take her concern seriously and now says she feels safe and supported at school. The bullying has subsided and, over time, Cassie's attendance and school engagement has improved.

GET INVOLVED!

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