

B E R E A

COLLEGE PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD

IMPLEMENTATION GRANTEE PROFILE

Jackson, Clay, and Owsley Counties, KY

Partners

- LEAD AGENCY**
Berea College
- PARTNER AGENCIES**
Clay County School System
Jackson County School System
Collaborative for Teaching & Learning
Owsley County School System
Cumberland Valley Regional Health Department
Save the Children

Mission

Berea College Promise Neighborhood uses a place-based, student-focused theory to improve outcomes for children from cradle-to-career. Proven research drives this approach, contributing to the outcome of Berea College Partners for Education: All Appalachian Kentucky youth will succeed at school. This work encourages collaboration among school systems, families and community partners to provide all children with an educational advocate, individualized services and a path to success.



Land Area: 961 square miles
Population: 39,609

Located among the Appalachian mountains of Kentucky, the three Counties of Jackson, Clay, and Owsley are contiguous. The largest of all Promise Neighborhoods in terms of geographic size, Berea is a rural zone connected by two lane roadways.

Fast Facts

Community Composition	
<p>Socioeconomic Data</p> <p>One-third to more than one-half of the children in the footprint lives below poverty</p>	<p>Demographic Data</p> <p>Majority white</p>
<p>Children Enrolled in Target Schools</p> <p>6,301 students</p>	<p>Children Living in Footprint</p> <p>8,890 younger than 18 6,537 school-aged</p>
<p># Schools Served</p> <p>16</p>	<p>Types of Schools</p> <p>P-5; P-6; 6-8; 7-8; 7-12; 9-12</p>



Early Successes & Results

Promise Neighborhoods communities have been working to realize their vision for a cradle-to-career pipeline of seamlessly linked programs, services, and supports to help ensure all their children reach their fullest potential. Lead agencies are collaborating with a wide range of partners, including schools and community members, to build the capacity necessary to achieve better results for children and families. Guided by the Promise Neighborhoods program's clear results framework, lead agencies and partners have worked to develop critical infrastructure, such as strategic and accountable partnerships and systems and processes to collect, analyze, and use data for learning and accountability to create a culture of results.

In addition to enhancing their capacity and laying a foundation for more effective collaboration, Promise Neighborhoods communities have begun to implement significant pieces of their cradle-to-career pipeline, engaging children and families, providing access to needed programs, services, and supports, and achieving early successes and results. Highlights from this ongoing work in Berea Promise Neighborhood include:

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND READINESS

BPN staff and partners align efforts to provide families with knowledge and skills to raise healthy, happy children who enter school ready-

to-learn. High quality professional development for early childhood teachers and caregivers further enriches this network of support. In addition, first-time teachers work with a coach to deepen their skills. These coaches have also helped teachers and administrators improve environments by recommending resources that provide more learning opportunities in the available space. When families and teachers provide engaging learning opportunities, children demonstrate better developmental outcomes and long-term

academic success, as our data illustrates. The involvement of the community early childhood councils also brings in more resources, like an oral health care grant that has been educating parents about

the importance of oral health in their child's development.

IMPROVING ACADEMIC OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

BPN has made great strides in addressing this area of the pipeline. Through use of an academic case management system, staff have been able to successfully manage caseloads of children and look at individual student data on a daily basis. These staff use those data to identify specific areas of academic need and provide interventions to address them. Berea has also worked strategically with each BPN school to develop plans that meet





the particular academic needs of each school. Through this work, schools have begun to incorporate results-based performance measures into their plans. All three counties have experienced academic gains.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

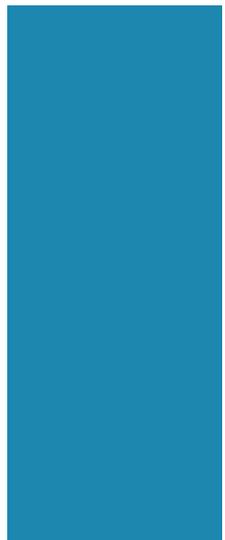
Through the use of Public Safety Enhancement (PSE) funds, BPN has launched a Recovery Coach program that provides case management to support parents who are in recovery from substance abuse. In partnership with the Department of Child Based Services and the Jackson Family Court, coaches work with families to create goals around substance abuse counseling, finding employment and attending local Alcoholics Anonymous/ Narcotics Anonymous meetings. A number of parents have successfully reunited with their children and have closed case plans with the social workers due to their diligence in the program.

INTEGRATING ARTS AND HUMANITIES

BPN has infused Arts and Humanities throughout its pipeline of services. BPN works closely with a local arts consultant, schools, community organizations and regional partners to provide a variety of services that address shared goals of academic achievement, school improvement and community development. For example, Oneida Elementary in Clay County has a math-related art residency on quilting. Participating 4th and 5th graders worked with local artists and their classroom teacher to create a quilt in the Friendship Star pattern using right triangles. Students who previously had trouble with math found a new way to approach math skills through quilt-making.

Key Challenges & Opportunities

BPN faces challenges in seamlessly serving three counties with different school districts, different existing services, and different needs and ensuring residents are leaders, owners, and contributors to the work. There has been difficulty moving from administration of multiple grants throughout a large region to the development of a new infrastructure based on the Promise Neighborhood work and vision. BPN also struggles with transportation for out-of-school events in this large and rugged region that lacks comprehensive public transportation. Academic Specialists have used this as an opportunity to create new ways for students to continue working on academics during snow days.





Making a Difference

Our approach is working. More students are entering Kindergarten ready to learn; students at all grade levels are achieving proficiency in math and English Language Arts at rates that outpace state growth; more students are graduating high school, applying for and gaining acceptance to college without the need for remedial classes. Schools are analyzing and using data to shape instruction and provide targeted interventions that address individual student needs. Families are participating in more school activities and programs such as

Families and Schools Together (FAST) that are improving communication skills and strengthening family bonds, leading to better behavior and academic performance for children. Community partners are improving their professional skills and collaborating to support students and education. We are developing a foundation—committed partners, integration of proven practices, a culture of achievement—to sustain the impact of Promise Neighborhood after the end of federal funding.

-Berea Promise Neighborhood



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