A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR BATTLE CREEK’S CHILDREN

WKKF has awarded Battle Creek Public Schools (BCPS) with a $51 million grant over five years so that the children of Battle Creek can receive a quality education.

Our goal is to ensure that every child in Battle Creek Public Schools will graduate and be prepared for college or a career.

With these resources, BCPS will be able to undertake a bold and comprehensive plan that benefits every school, every grade, every teacher and every student in the district.

WHY BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Battle Creek is our hometown, and our roots in this community go back to our founding in 1930. From the first day our foundation was launched, it has been our mandate and responsibility to help build a stronger Battle Creek community.

We learned the greatest needs are here at BCPS. Data from the New York University study that we commissioned with BCVision tells us that BCPS students are less likely to graduate high school, are less prepared for college and successful careers, achieve lower academic achievement and are less proficient in reading and math in comparison to their peers in surrounding school districts. These outcomes fall into disturbing patterns of entrenched racial and socioeconomic disparity.

We have a responsibility to our community, and we can’t let this deep inequity persist in our own backyard. Our mission and our passion called us to respond swiftly, with bold action to achieve greater educational equity for these students.

Our investment will help transform Battle Creek Public Schools into a district that provides an exemplary, quality education.

GOALS

1. Prepare all students for success at the university level as well as in the career field of their choice.
2. Create an organizational culture within BCPS that is reflective, nurturing of all students and staff, transparent, results-oriented and continuously improving.
3. Recruit, retain, develop and support a diverse high-quality staff that is fully committed to BCPS, students and families.
4. Strengthen partnerships and increase collaboration with students and families, community and businesses to support student achievement.
HELPING CHILDREN SUCCEED IN YEAR ONE

Starting next year, there will be more adults in the classrooms and more specialists in every building to provide support for kids who need extra help. Schools will have more resources to better meet the needs of all students and all teachers.

Immediate improvements will include:

- New books, supplies and technology for classrooms
- Specialists to help students improve reading and writing
- Counseling and assistance with career planning and college applications
- Investment in arts and athletics
- New curriculum programs
- More supports for students who are struggling emotionally
- A free, all day five week pre-kindergarten summer program
- Enhanced academic program supports for all learners
- An intermediate STEM academy for middle schoolers
- Enhanced professional development for teachers
- Improved communications between the school district and parents

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

In the coming years, we expect:

- Math and reading scores will increase
- Schools will offer safer and more positive school environments
- More of our young people will graduate
- Students will graduate better prepared for college and their careers

EVERY SCHOOL, EVERY GRADE LEVEL, EVERY STUDENT

Examples of how the W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s grant will benefit all students at all grade levels in the first year of funding

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRE-KINDERGARTEN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free 5-day-per-week summer program for children entering kindergarten</td>
<td>Extended pre-kindergarten school year</td>
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<td>New math curriculum designed to improve student achievement</td>
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<th>ELEMENTARY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hiring of highly-qualified staff to improve literacy through small group instruction</td>
<td>New math curriculum designed to improve student achievement</td>
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<th>MIDDLE SCHOOL</th>
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<td>Development of the middle school STEM academy that focuses on science, technology, engineering and math</td>
<td>Early emphasis on personalized college and/or career planning</td>
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<th>HIGH SCHOOL</th>
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<td>Launch of the Early-Middle College Program, which allows students to simultaneously work toward their high school diploma and associate’s degree</td>
<td>Establishment of the Link Crew to help with the transition to freshman year</td>
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