When we started the Higher Education Compact in 2011, the goal was to improve the college readiness, access, and persistence of our students in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. With the implementation of the Cleveland Plan for Transforming Schools and the deep commitment of our higher education partners, we were excited to see our students’ successes and improvements.

But we knew that our students had to overcome a major hurdle to reach college — and one that we needed to tackle on a larger, community level: the issue of affordability.

When it comes to college access, affordability is, in our opinion, the biggest barrier. Students cannot afford the cost of tuition and fees, and therefore, choose not to enroll in a postsecondary program. Our community has spent years searching for ways to address this issue with a universal scholarship program. We were thrilled to discover Say Yes to Education, a model that combines a robust, community-based “promise” scholarship with a multi-sector system for deploying critical wraparound services in schools and neighborhoods. In January 2019, we publicly announced our official status as a Say Yes chapter city. The CMSD-Class of 2019 was the first to be eligible for — and to use — Say Yes to Education scholarships to fund their postsecondary education.

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It is our hope and belief that this initiative will open the door for many more students to access education beyond high school.

As you will see in this report, there are only a few metrics that have declined or remained stagnant over the last year, with most showing improvement. We do not expect to see systemic change from Say Yes to Education scholarships and support services on student postsecondary enrollment and completion rates. Nevertheless, the preliminary numbers are encouraging.

This year’s Higher Education Compact Dashboard Report is a transition report. It documents the work we have done over the past decade and embeds it in the more comprehensive approach that we will execute as part of the Say Yes strategy over the next two generations. We have been proud to lead this work to where we are today — with the Cleveland Plan in place to truly transform our primary and secondary education, and with a community investment in Say Yes Cleveland ready to change the path for our students as they pursue their postsecondary goals.

Of course, the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on these metrics over the next several years is unclear. The pandemic has deeply impacted all aspects of our community, including secondary and postsecondary education. School districts and colleges and universities are reshaping their educational models even while we write this, and we do not yet know what impact those changes may have on our students. We remain optimistic that progress will remain steady, while also remaining realistic that we will face challenges.

One thing we do know — we are all Here for students of the CMSD. Our commitment will always be to the success of our students and the programs put into place to increase that success.

Sincerely,

Frank G. Jackson
Mayor, City of Cleveland

Eric Gordon
CEO, Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Since the Higher Education Compact of Greater Cleveland (the Compact) began measuring the Cleveland Metropolitan School District’s (CMSD) high school four-year graduation rate with the class of 2011, the rate has steadily risen each year from 56 percent for the class of 2011 to 78 percent for the class of 2018. This improvement is the fourth-fastest improving graduation rate in the state and demonstrates the effectiveness of the Cleveland Plan.

The Compact annually measures six indicators related to college readiness. In years past, a seventh indicator, the percentage of students on-track to graduate, has also been measured, but will no longer be included in this report due to several years of legislative revisions in Ohio’s high school graduation requirements.

Of the six indicators still measured by the Compact, four showed improvement or remained the same over the last year. The percentage of students graduating with a 3.0 GPA or higher increased by four percentage points, from 33 percent to 37 percent. The percentage of graduates with a score of 21 or higher on the ACT remained at 11 percent, as it stood in 2019, though the percent of graduates with this score has decreased from 15 percent in 2016 and 12 percent in 2017. The percentage of students participating in Advanced Placement (AP) testing among the class of 2018 rose to 8.6 percent over the class of 2017’s 6.9 percent, the highest point since we began measuring with the class of 2011. The percentage of high school graduates needing remediation in math or English at an Ohio public institution dropped to 13 percent from the class of 2017’s 18 percent and is currently at the lowest rate since the Compact began measuring this indicator. This means that more CMSD graduates than ever are arriving on campus prepared for college-level coursework as a result of their high school education.

The indicators that decreased for the class of 2018 included students participating in AP testing who earned a score of 3, 4, or 5 on their AP exams (down from 58 percent to 53 percent in this report) and the percentage of students in the class of 2019 participating in College Credit Plus (down from 8.5 percent to 8.3 percent).

**College Readiness**

**Readiness Goal**

CMSD high school four-year graduation rate.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Readiness Indicators**

- **Percentage of students graduating with a 3.0 GPA or higher**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Percentage of students earning a score of 21 or higher on the ACT**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Percentage of students participating in Advanced Placement testing**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Percentage of high school students participating in Post Secondary Enrollment Options Program (PSEOP) or College Credit Plus (CCP)**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Percentage of high school graduates needing remediation in math or English at an Ohio public institution**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The decline in college enrollment continues to be, we believe, brought on by the barrier of college affordability. However, as you will read about later in this report, in January of 2019, Cleveland and CMSD announced the launch of Say Yes Cleveland, affording graduates in the Class of 2019 tuition scholarships to any state institution in Ohio or tuition scholarships to more than 120 private colleges who are part of the Say Yes National Compact. We believe the Say Yes announcement helped drive up this year’s increases in college applications, FAFSA completions, and other access indicators. Preliminary Say Yes metrics at the end of this report show the college enrollment rate is increasing for the first time in five years.

However, we also know that the COVID-19 pandemic may have adverse effects on the matriculation rate of high school graduates for the class of 2020. With many college campuses changing their teaching models or not having firm plans in place for their upcoming semesters, we suspect some students may choose to take a gap year or find an alternate postsecondary plan until things return to a more “normal” mode of operation.

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This year marks a major milestone in the history of educating Cleveland’s children. For the first time, graduates of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) who met residency requirements had access to Say Yes Cleveland scholarships to pay their postsecondary tuition.

Although Say Yes Cleveland launched barely six months before the Class of 2019’s graduation, the availability of Say Yes scholarships proved to be an immediate incentive to pursue postsecondary education. We are excited to see that 49 percent of 2019 graduates enrolled in a postsecondary program this year. This represents an increase of five percentage points over the last year, and also outpaces the projections developed during the planning stages of Say Yes, which anticipated a three percentage point enrollment increase in the first class.

As exhilarating as this increase is, we know that it represents only the first class in what will be a 25-year scholarship program. Our sincere hope and belief are that such a successful and positive start will serve as a foundation on which we will continue to build. With each successive year, graduates will have the example of previous classes using Say Yes Cleveland scholarships, making postsecondary education a more realistic, tangible option for more students and families.

Perhaps even more importantly, each successive class of graduates will have the benefit of Say Yes Cleveland support services while in CMSD schools. The services are the crucial aspect that sets Say Yes Cleveland apart from many ‘promise’ scholarship programs. While our tuition scholarships will help students overcome the barrier of college affordability, the assistance provided by Say Yes Cleveland throughout their PreK-12 education will help students stay on track to academic success and help more students graduate ready for full advantage of postsecondary opportunities.

The success that Say Yes Cleveland has had already, and the future success that we anticipate for the program, owes much to the work that has been done in recent years to prepare more CMSD students for success after high school. The many people and organizations that have put so much effort into the Higher Education Compact have created new opportunities for CMSD graduates and have helped lay the groundwork for Say Yes Cleveland. While the future impacts of the coronavirus will be challenging for everyone, we are optimistic that the trajectory of CMSD graduates will continue to point higher and higher.

Diane Downing, Executive Director
Say Yes Cleveland

Ronald B. Richard, Chair
Say Yes Cleveland Scholarship Board

Our sincere hope and belief are that such a successful and positive start will serve as a foundation on which we will continue to build.

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enrollment summary
In order to receive the Say Yes scholarship, CMSD graduates have a choice of attending a two-year or four-year public college or trade school in Ohio as well as more than 125 private Say Yes National Compact schools across the country. The pie chart indicates what type of school 2019 graduates attended.

gscholarship board completed 15 memoranda of understanding with Ohio’s public institutions that outlined data sharing, scholarship administration, and student support expectations. Additionally, Say Yes to Education National completed MOUs with 10 additional private institutions in Ohio providing tuition scholarships to Say Yes students. With the launch of Say Yes Cleveland, the Say Yes National Compact grew to include an additional 10 schools.

Say Yes-Eligible Postsecondary Partners in Ohio*
Ashland University
Baldwin Wallace University
Bowling Green State University
Bryant & Stratton College
Case Western Reserve University
Central State University
Cleveland State University
College of Wooster
Cuyahoga Community College
Cuyahoga Valley Career Center
Duquesne University
Miami University
John Carroll University
Kent State University
Kings College
Miami University
Notre Dame College
Oberlin College
Ohio Northern University
Ohio University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Polaris Career Center
Shawnee State University
The North Coast College
The Ohio State University
The University of Akron
The University of Toledo
University of Cincinnati
University of Dayton
University of Findlay
Wright State University
Youngstown State University

visit sayyescleveland.org for full listing of Say Yes eligible institutions.

* Postsecondary institutions that have signed MOUs with Say Yes to Education National or Say Yes Cleveland.

* ENROLLMENT SUMMARY

As we look at preliminary metrics of the first cohort of Say Yes scholars, this report will give high-level data related to enrollments and awards.

Following the January 2019 launch of the Say Yes Cleveland chapter and the ambitious commitment to begin granting Say Yes tuition scholarships with the graduating class of 2019, CMSD graduates enrolled in a postsecondary program within five years of their high school graduation (spring 2020). This was the first time in five years the postsecondary enrollment rate for CMSD graduates increased.

CMSD POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT RATES
Within one year of High School Graduation

SCHOLARSHIP SUMMARY

Say Yes Cleveland scholarships were awarded to students attending Say Yes eligible institutions after the Pell grant and Ohio College Opportunity grant (OCOG) have been applied to a student’s balance. For the Class of 2019, 845 students were enrolled and eligible for a Say Yes scholarship. For the Class of 2019, 391 scholarships were awarded totaling $1,203,443. Due to an increase in the OCOG grant and more students attending community college, tuition gap amounts were significantly less than expected.

Most Attended Ohio Schools for 2019 Say Yes Cleveland Scholars

Ohio Public Universities
Cuyahoga Community College 326
Cleveland State University 173
Kent State University 48
The University of Akron 38
Ohio State University 37
Ohio University 30
Polaris Career Center 18
Youngstown State University 32
The University of Toledo 14
University of Dayton 12
University of Cincinnati 12
The University of Akron 7
Case Western Reserve University 7
The University of Toledo 7
John Carroll University 7
Miami University 7
Ohio Northern University 7
Ohio Wesleyan University 4
Baldwin Wallace University 3
Ashland University 2
Bryant & Stratton College 2
Case Western Reserve University 1
Central State University 1
Kent State University 1
Miami University 1
Miami University 1
Northeast Ohio Universities 1
Penn State University 1
Shawnee State University 1
Youngstown State University 1

Total Scholarships Awarded
845

Total Scholarship Dollars Awarded
$1,203,443

as of June 2020

most attended ohio schools for 2019 say yes cleveland scholars

Ohio Private Universities
Notre Dame College 21
Hiram College 15
Baldwin Wallace University 12
Bryant & Stratton College 12
Ursuline College 7
Case Western Reserve University 7
John Carroll University 7
Miami University 7
Ohio Northern University 7
Ohio Wesleyan University 4
Baldwin Wallace University 3
Ashland University 2
Bryant & Stratton College 2
Case Western Reserve University 1
Central State University 1
Kent State University 1
Miami University 1
Miami University 1
Northeast Ohio Universities 1
Penn State University 1
Shawnee State University 1
Youngstown State University 1

Total Scholarships Awarded
391

Total Scholarship Dollars Awarded
$1,203,443

as of June 2020
The Higher Education Compact of Greater Cleveland would like to acknowledge the significant contribution from College Now Greater Cleveland, which provides staff resources and office space to the Compact.

Thank you to all of the community partners that continue to support students through their support of preparation for, access to, and success in postsecondary institutions.