



The Ohio Appalachian Collaborative Accelerating College/Career-Readiness

All students deserve access to a high-quality education that maximizes their potential to succeed in the 21st century. Unfortunately, many small-town and rural school districts are unable to provide their students with the rigorous, results-producing education they need to be college/career-ready. These districts also struggle to recruit and retain the most important asset in increasing student achievement—great teachers.

Responding to these and other regional challenges, Battelle for Kids and a collaborative of 21 Appalachian Ohio school districts have joined forces to create and implement a comprehensive model to transform rural education and student outcomes.

At the conclusion of this multi-year initiative, the ultimate goal is to implement a successful reform model that can be scaled across rural Ohio and the country.



"We are setting an ambitious goal: all students should graduate from high school prepared for college and a career—no matter who you are or where you come from."

— President Obama, March 2010

Transforming Education and Student Outcomes in Appalachian Ohio



The Collaborative Represents:

- 21 rural school districts
- 79 schools
- 2,270 teachers
- 35,400 students

Uniquely Positioned for Success

Despite the challenges facing Appalachian Ohio, this region has examples of high student achievement. Appalachian Ohio is united by its strong sense of community and culture. Acknowledging its strengths and areas for improvement, the Collaborative is uniquely positioned to transform leadership and produce significant student gains because of its:

- **Unprecedented support.** Capitalizing on the unique support among superintendents, union presidents, board of education presidents, and local and regional organizations.
- **Economies of scale.** Leveraging the size of the Collaborative to combine resources and access new resources and solutions.
- **Collaborative networks.** Cultivating the dynamic relationships between districts and education partners to sustain continuity and accountability.
- **Existing academic strengths.** Sharing information about existing academic successes and encouraging collaboration between districts and educators to accelerate and replicate best practices and generate new innovations.
- **Alignment with federal and state education priorities.** Building on innovative federal, state and local initiatives to improve teaching effectiveness, increase rigor, inform instructional practice, and more.



The Compelling Need

Rural Ohio value-added student projection data reveal that 70–80% of rural Ohio students have a 50% or less probability of achieving a college-ready ACT score.

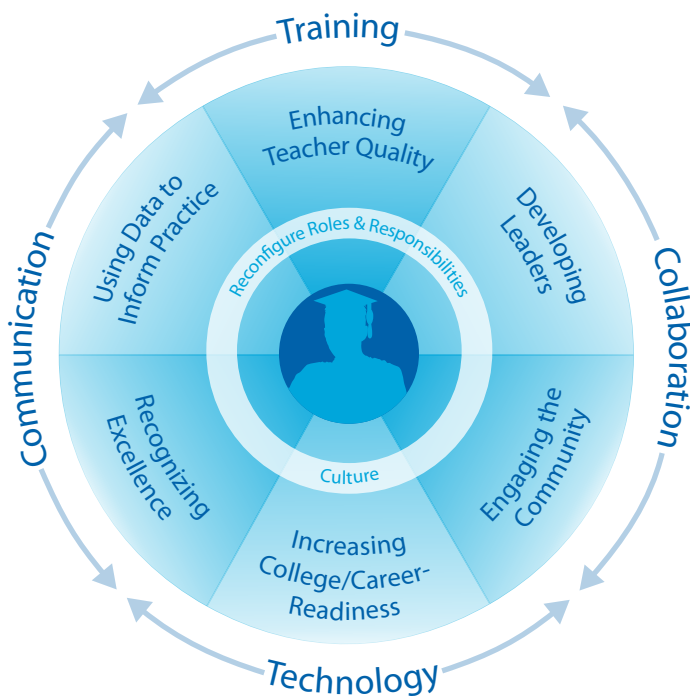
The Results We Expect

The primary success measure will be the dramatic and sustained increase in the participating districts' college/career-technical school entrance rates and, ultimately, completion rates. Other measures of success for participating districts will include:

- 85% of students taking the ACT college entrance exam and 100% of those students scoring a minimum of 22.
- Increasing teacher value-added scores annually.
- Eliminating achievement gaps for economically-disadvantaged students.
- 70% of students entering college and college completion rates rising.
- High school graduates entering college with a minimum of six credits from Advanced Placement (AP) and/or post-secondary education options (PSEO).

Ultimately, this work will be scaled across rural Ohio and the country.

The Collaborative will have national expertise available through consultation with the authors of "A Grand Bargain for Education Reform." While not a prescription, this book provides a useful guide for the Collaborative's efforts.



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The Rural Transformation Model

The Collaborative's mission is to accelerate college/career-readiness for every student. Uniting research-based and results-proven strategies for dramatically improving human capital development and accelerating student outcomes, the model addresses six components for transformational change: **Increasing College/Career-Readiness, Enhancing Teacher Quality, Using Data to Inform Practice, Developing Leaders, Engaging the Community and Recognizing Excellence.**

Connecting these components are four core processes: **collaboration, communication, technology and training.** As a result of implementing and integrating these components and processes, roles and responsibilities will change and a new culture for 21st century learning will be realized.



About Battelle for Kids

Battelle for Kids is a national, not-for-profit organization that provides strategic counsel and innovative solutions for today's complex educational-improvement challenges. Our mission-driven team of education, technology, communications and business professionals specializes in creating strategies that advance the development of human capital, the use of strategic measures, and the implementation of effective practices in schools. We partner with state departments of education, school districts and education-focused organizations to advance these strategies with the shared goals of: improving teaching effectiveness and student progress; informing instructional practice in real time; recognizing and rewarding teaching excellence; and aligning goals and maximizing impact in schools.

For more information, contact us at (614) 481-3141 or visit www.BattelleforKids.org.