

Invest in Education Pathways to Good Jobs

Education For All ARPA Initiative



CITY OF CLEVELAND

Mayor Justin M. Bibb

Agenda

- 01** The Need
- 02** Initiative Overview
Narrative & Impact Measures
- 03** Initiative Implementation
Key Partners & Timeline
- 04** Initiative Finances
Cost, Leverage & Sustainability Plan

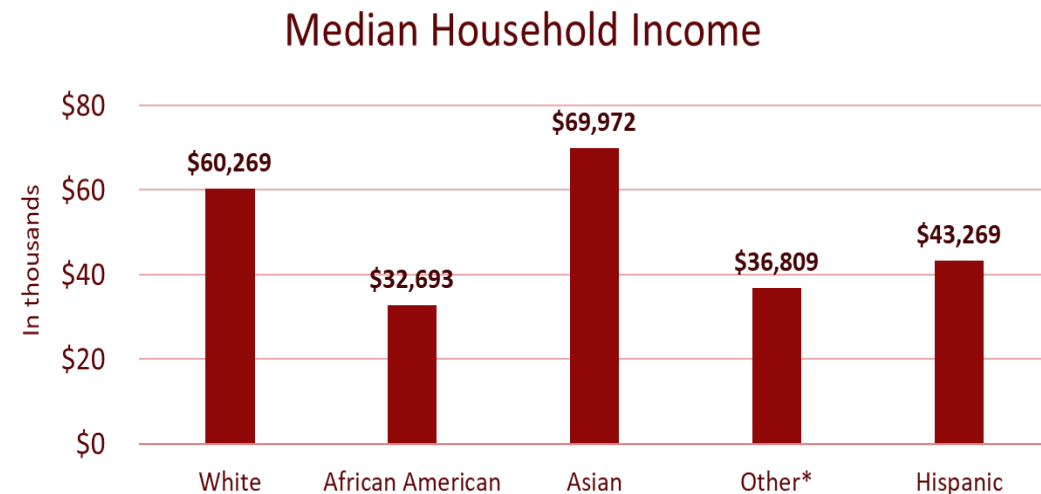


The Need for Education Pathways to Good Jobs

Unless Cleveland students are offered new opportunities and participate in robust experiences, they will continue to be shut out of the high-pay, high-growth jobs available in Northeast Ohio

There are wide disparities in median income by race

This is partly due to racial disparity in education levels, with white Northeast Ohioans achieving 4-year degrees at significantly higher rates than Black and Latinx citizens in the region



Greater Cleveland Career Consortium: PACE Implementation

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The Goal:

Link all Cleveland students to their chosen career pathway and living wage job so that they graduate with a career vision and plan, and the confidence, knowledge, education, skills, and networks they need to own their future and contribute to a competitive regional workforce



Initiative Background

CMSD and the Cleveland Foundation convened a three-year design process focused on linking CMSD students to career pathways and living wage jobs

This design process culminated in recommendations focused on two foundational pillars:

- PACE: Design and implement a grades 6-12 structured career exploration, advising, and work-based learning curriculum to ensure every Cleveland student graduates from high school with a career direction and plan aligned to the local labor market
- GCCC: Establish a consortium of those multi-sector partners critical to coordinating, implementing, aligning, and sustaining this work county-wide

GGCC will support CMSD's scale-up and adaptation of the PACE curriculum, partnerships, implementation strategies, and structure based on a robust feedback loop from stakeholders in participating sectors



Initiative Overview

The initiative will invest in education pathways to good jobs through:

- **Career oriented curriculum** – work with youth development partners to bring a career-focused curriculum (PACE) to classrooms
- **Career-focused experiences** – partner with employers to provide students with grade appropriate work based learning opportunities (e.g., informational interviews, site visits, internships, etc.) in careers of interest

Impact Measures: PACE is designed to reach 17,100 6-12 graders each year

- **System impact**
 - Career exploration and planning will be deeply embedded in a CMSD student's experience
 - Nonprofit and employer partners' engagement will continue to deepen
- **Student impact**
 - Increased career awareness that leads to the identification and exploration of career interests
 - Students graduate from high school with a career vision and next steps plan (e.g., postsecondary education, direct to workforce, etc.)
 - Increasing number of CMSD students have access to and successfully pursue a career path leading to a family sustaining wage job



Initiative Implementation

Timeframe (Annual)

Initiative Actions

March – May	Design Continuous Improvement Plan
June – August	Run Goal Setting/Action Planning Workshop for Key Partners
June – August	Convene School-Level PACE Partners for Goal Setting/Action Planning
September – October	Release PACE Progress Report
January	Hold Mid-Course PACE Summit
July – August 2026	Publish Final Report

PACE has the robust support and participation of the following partners:

- Greater Cleveland Career Consortium: Provides technical support to CMSD
- Youth-Serving Partners: Four youth-serving organizations originally involved in the planning and design of PACE are serving as anchor partners
- Employer Partners: Several industry and employer partners develop and provide meaningful, quality virtual and hands-on work and career-based opportunities for students

Initiative Funding

Total funding request: \$2.1M to help fully develop, implement at scale, and institutionalize PACE across all CMSD schools and beyond over 3 years

Sub-Initiative	ARPA Request
Continuous improvement of PACE implementation	\$120,000
Career oriented curriculum and advising – Youth development partners	\$1,140,000
Career-focused learning opportunities – Student access and employer partner recruitment/onboarding	\$840,000

PACE has been designed to exist in perpetuity, or for as long as it is needed and relevant. The \$2.1M requested ARPA funding would complement and leverage an additional \$50.9M over the three-year grant period, with funding coming from a variety of sources including CMSD, government funding, foundations, and employer-related sources.

Questions?



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