Invest in Education Pathways to Good Jobs

Education For All ARPA Initiative

CITY OF CLEVELAND

Mayor Justin M. Bibb

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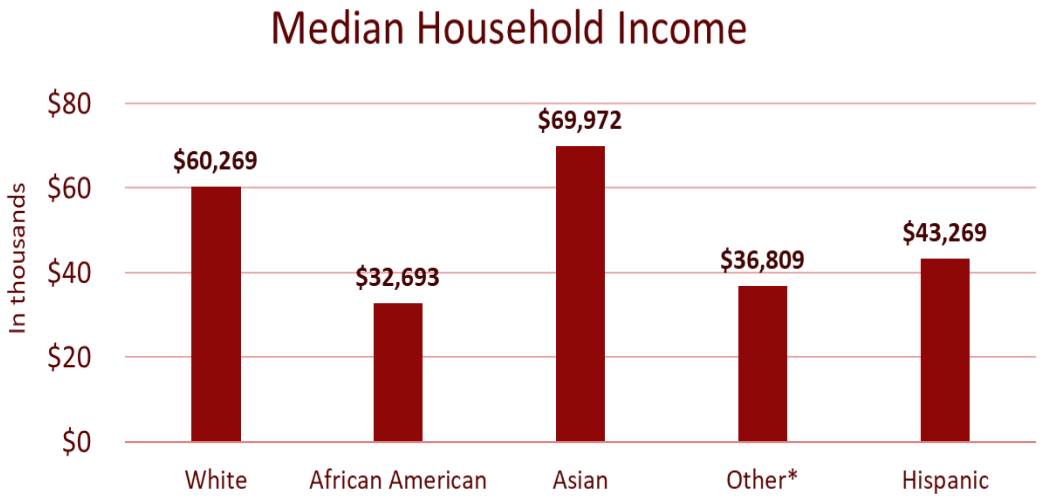
The Need for Education Pathways to Good Jobs

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

GCCC 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

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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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