

# BREAKTHROUGH

CITIZENS

PREP

INTERGENERATIONAL

SCHOOLS

2013-2014



**Breakthrough Schools** is a nonprofit, nationally recognized network of high-quality urban charter schools located in Cleveland, Ohio. This free, K-8, college preparatory public school network was started by the founders of three successful charter schools in Cleveland – Citizens Academy, Entrepreneurship Preparatory School, and The Intergenerational School. Breakthrough’s vision is to further Greater Cleveland’s transformation by providing distinctive school options for no fewer than 7,400 children in 19 schools. Our work, in partnership with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and others, will help the city reach a tipping point towards providing a high-quality education for all.



*Breakthrough’s mission is to develop a growing network of distinctive school options that prepare Cleveland area students for success in life. Friends of Breakthrough’s mission is to perform the fundraising and advocacy activities that exclusively support the operations and growth of the Breakthrough Charter Schools management organization and all its member schools.*



## Our Goals

- Provide a free, high-quality education to Cleveland’s children and more quality school options to every family in every neighborhood
- Offer our schools a strong operational platform for future growth so that more students can be served
- Prepare students for post-secondary education and beyond
- Increase and broaden awareness and public support of the network and its schools
- Help the schools become more financially sustainable over time

## Our Students

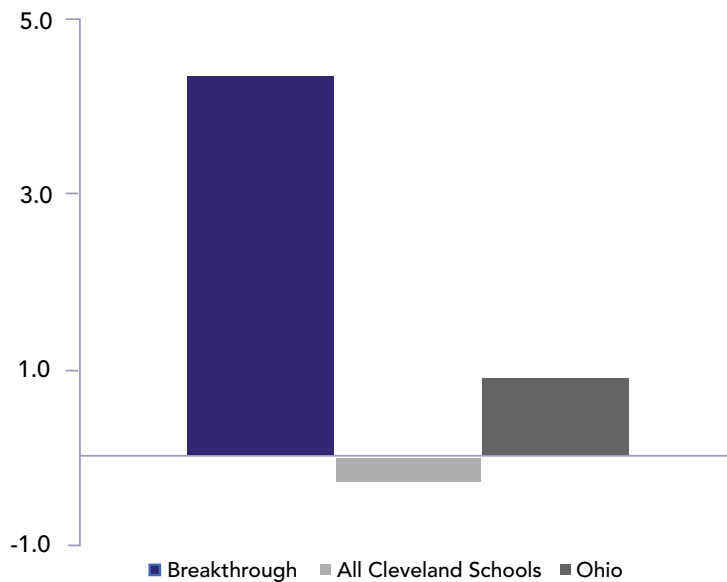
In 2013-2014, Breakthrough educated an underserved student population in Cleveland that is 97% minority and 83% low income.

## Our Results

For a fourth consecutive year, Breakthrough is one of the highest performing charter school networks in Ohio. Once again, our schools have closed the 19 percentage point achievement gap between African American students and the state average.

After Breakthrough, our students continue their education at a variety of college preparatory high schools where they better understand and appreciate learning as a life long process, and graduate ready for college and life beyond.

## Student Growth



**Latest 2013-2014 Results:** Breakthrough students surpassed all of Cleveland and the state of Ohio in student growth last school year. This measure, also known as Value-Added, measures student growth over the school year based on the Ohio Achievement Assessments.

Ohio Department of Education Student Data, 2013-2014



## Revitalizing Communities in Our City

Breakthrough's broad and innovative facility strategy has already impacted a number of neighborhoods. So far, we have: purchased and revitalized four closed Cleveland Metropolitan School District buildings, built out a warehouse in an up and coming revival village, located a school in a wing at the revitalized Saint Luke's Manor, co-located one of our schools in a District high school, leased a building from the District, and leased a building from the Catholic Diocese.

Through the transformation of these locations, the neighborhoods surrounding them are beginning to flourish. Families are moving in to abandoned houses around the schools, promoting business growth and uplifting the neighboring communities.

## Advocating for Cleveland's Children

Breakthrough works hard to protect and improve charter school funding for high-performing schools by advocating at the state and federal levels. Most recently, Breakthrough was one of only two charter operators testifying before the Committee on Education and the Workforce at their hearing, *"Raising the Bar: The Role of Charter Schools in K-12 Education."* Breakthrough was gratified to have the opportunity to represent all high-quality charter schools to the United States House of Representatives.

## The Path to Sustainability

Despite being one of the highest-rated public charter school networks in the state, Breakthrough receives less than two-thirds of the funding that district schools receive. Until state laws are amended and equitable funding is received, our per pupil "gap dollars" in the foreseeable future will continue to come from foundations – family, local and national, individuals, and businesses.

Breakthrough is working to dramatically reduce the per pupil philanthropic gap by 2020. By increasing the number of students in our schools, acquiring facilities at a low cost, and sharing services as we continue to grow, the network is already starting to realize the savings.





## Who We Are

The Breakthrough Schools charter management organization, in partnership with Friends of Breakthrough, supports the network in a variety of ways. These two support teams provide shared services including: human resources, accounting, facilities management, compliance, alumni engagement, a college access program, fundraising, awareness, and advocacy for all Breakthrough schools. The consolidation of business services maximizes efficiencies and is designed to drive costs down while facilitating growth to meet the needs of the families in our communities.

## How You Can Help

There are three ways that you can help us provide a high-quality education to the children of Cleveland:

### 1. Donate

- Please support Breakthrough and, if possible, increase your support.
- Help us introduce at least 500 new individuals to Breakthrough per year.
- Spread the word about Breakthrough and invite your friends to one of the many events we host each year!

### 2. Advocate

- Add your voice and support critical legislative initiatives that benefit our students. Reach out to legislators to encourage them to support equitable funding for high performing charter schools.
- Educate your friends and associates about the impact Breakthrough is making in Cleveland.
- If there is a legislative or local education issue that you want to know more about, please contact us!

### 3. Volunteer

- Join one of our many boards or committees.
- Tutor or mentor students and alumni on an ongoing or one time basis.



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