

BREAKTHROUGH

CITIZENS PREP INTERGENERATIONAL SCHOOLS



Choose Excellence.
Choose Breakthrough Schools.

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 for children in every neighborhood in Cleveland to have access to at least one high-quality public school. Breakthrough aims to open 20 schools by 2020, ultimately serving 7,000 children in our city.



Our mission is to provide sustainable, high-quality schools for children in Cleveland’s underserved neighborhoods, ensuring all students have access to an outstanding college preparatory education.



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

Breakthrough educated an underserved student population in Cleveland that is 96% minority and more than 84% low-income. About two-thirds of our sixth graders enter our schools up to three years behind grade level.

Our Results

Breakthrough is the highest rated network of public charter schools in the state

On average, Breakthrough students:

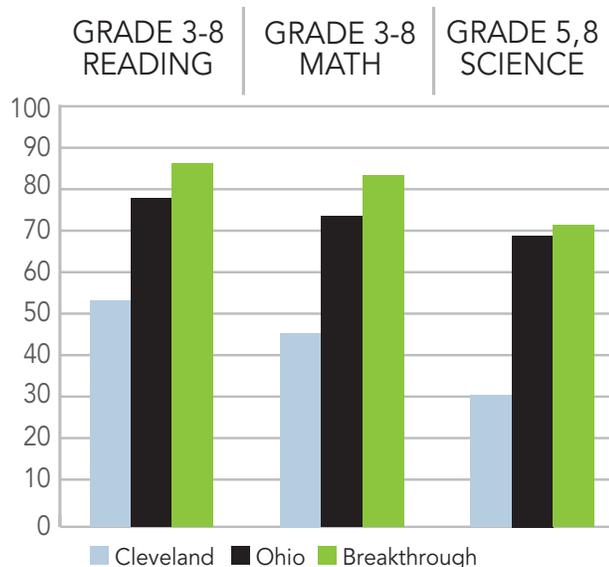
- Outperform their peers across the city and state in every subject
- Close the “Achievement Gap” through the hard work and dedication they demonstrate every day*

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
- Graduate ready for college and life beyond

*Defined as the gap in student academic results between African American and Caucasian students.

Breakthrough Student Performance by Subject on Average



Latest 2012-2013 Results: Across the network our students outperform the Ohio state average in every single subject.

Ohio Department of Education Student Data, 2012-2013



"In Breakthrough, we see a tremendous opportunity for a new collaborative model to replicate the highest performing urban charter schools."

- Kevin Hall,
CEO of The Charter
School Growth Fund

Revitalizing Communities in Our City

In 2011, rental costs were significantly raising the cost of operating the network's current schools. Breakthrough needed to own and operate its own buildings to cut facilities costs and enhance the network's overall sustainability. This, combined with a growth plan that called for the network to almost double in size by 2012-2013, led Breakthrough to take advantage of the unique opportunity to purchase four closed Cleveland Metropolitan School District buildings in the summer of 2011. Our school buildings are located in neighborhoods on the east side of Cleveland that have experienced the brunt of the real estate crisis and the city's population decline. With the purchase and occupancy of formerly closed neighborhood schools, Breakthrough now serves communities that had once lost all hope for revitalization. **Breakthrough opened five schools in those depressed neighborhoods**, contributing to the renewal of the areas our students and their families call home.

Standing Up for the Children of Cleveland

Breakthrough is at the forefront of advocacy efforts that benefit Cleveland's children. Partnering closely with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, the Mayor's office, and local community groups, Breakthrough seeks to improve access to high-quality, college preparatory schools and support our families' right to send their child to the school of their choice.

Working to protect and improve charter school funding for high-performing schools, Breakthrough advocates at the state and federal levels for its students and in support of public education in Cleveland. Most recently, Breakthrough played a key role in the passage of the Cleveland Plan, a set of proven strategies that will triple the number of children attending excellent schools in Cleveland and close failing schools. Breakthrough is also joining with national partners to preserve federal funding that supports the network's two federal discretionary grants and create new opportunities for future funding through other federal programs.



Our Funding Challenge and the Path to Sustainability

Despite being among the highest performing public schools in the state, as charter schools, Breakthrough only receives 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 – both corporations and entrepreneurial ventures.

By 2020, the current philanthropic gap of nearly \$3,000 per student, per year raised by Friends of Breakthrough will be dramatically reduced. The savings will be realized by increasing the number of students in our schools, acquiring or sharing buildings at low- or no-cost, and by overall synergies made possible through the growth of the network. While this is good news, as is the passage of the school levy in November 2012, state funding laws must still be changed as the total philanthropic gap continues to increase as we grow.





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 management, fundraising, awareness, advocacy, and a college-access program for all Breakthrough schools. This 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.

What We Ask of You

In order to provide an excellent education for the children of Cleveland in both the short- and long-term, we need your help in three ways:

1. Donate

- Please support Breakthrough and, if possible, increase your support
- Help us introduce 500 new people per year to the Breakthrough mission and vision by spreading the word about Breakthrough and inviting friends to one of the 50 events we host each year

2. Advocate

- Friends like you have been instrumental in supporting critical legislative initiatives that benefit our students. Add your voice to ours: answer our calls to action by reaching out to legislators to encourage them to support legislation that provides equitable funding for high-performing charter schools
- Stay informed! If there's a legislative or local education issue you want to know more about, contact us

3. Volunteer

- Join a board or committee
- Tutor or mentor students and alumni on an ongoing or one-time basis



"I believe A. Kelvin Smith, Lubrizol's founder, said it best, 'Education is crucial for our country, for success in business and for the dignity and growth of an individual.' This fundamental philosophy continues at our company today and in the significant investments The Lubrizol Foundation makes in our communities, including Breakthrough Schools."

- James L. Hambrick
Chairman, President, and
Chief Executive Officer
The Lubrizol Corporation

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