WACY’s Common Agenda for Children and Youth in Washtenaw County

Our community, Washtenaw County, believes that children and youth growing up should have the resources and supports in all domains of life that enable them to thrive in and contribute to our community. By working together, we can ensure that all children and youth, regardless of their background or circumstance, are provided the best chance of success in Washtenaw County.

The Washtenaw Alliance for Children and Youth (WACY) is a community collaborative of agencies that support the county’s children and youth to help them acquire the skills and competencies necessary to be successful in college, work, and life by age 21. While WACY supports and advocates for the healthy development of all children and youth, we pay particular attention to increasing opportunities and supports for economically disadvantaged children and their families. To accomplish this, we support a community-wide collective impact approach to addressing the critical academic and social benchmarks that positively impact a young person’s ability to achieve their unique potential. To accomplish these goals, WACY will build relationships and foster partnerships between schools, community agencies, government agencies, and institutions.

WACY’s vision is that Washtenaw County youth will be ready for college, work and life by age 21. Therefore, all elementary, middle, and high school-age children and youth will achieve or exceed academic proficiency benchmarks, will be physically and emotionally safe, and will develop social emotional competencies that foster self-efficacy, positive relationship building, communication skills, optimism, and positive conflict management skills. More specifically, by 2025, WACY aims to increase the percentage of youth who are economically disadvantaged that graduate from high school within 5 years to least 80%.

Shared Priorities and Leading Indicators:
Together, partners of WACY share accountability for the following Community Progress Report Priorities and work together to accelerate the positive development of children and youth who are economically disadvantaged as related to the key indicators.

Social Emotional: Children and youth will develop the skills and knowledge to grow into thoughtful, caring, responsible, and contributing leaders of our community.

- Middle School:
  - Positive relationships with adults, including school personnel.
  - Family involvement in a young person’s life and school.

- High School:
  - Percentage of youth with optimism and positive outlook for the future.
  - Percentage of youth indicating the ability to manage and regulate emotions.

Social emotional indicators will be measured using a standardized survey tool.
Healthy and Safety: Children and youth will experience and contribute to physically and emotionally safe homes, schools, and communities.

- All Children and Youth:
  - Increase youth reporting safe home environments.
- Middle School:
  - Reduce percent of youth reporting physical or verbal abuse by peers.
  - Reduce percent of youth with feelings of depression.
- High School:
  - Increase percent of youth who frequently feel safe in school and their community.
  - Increase percent of youth reporting they have seen a doctor within the last 12 months.

Safety indicators will be measured on Kids Count, the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) and the WISD Senior Exit Survey.

Academic & Career Readiness: Children and youth will be engaged, life-long learners who value education and pursue mastery of core academic competencies, as well as career exploration and preparation. Academic and career readiness indicators will focus on accelerating the learning of economically disadvantaged children and youth.

- All Children and Youth:
  - Increase daily attendance for the overall student body with a particular focus on students with chronic and severe absenteeism.
- Elementary School:
  - Reading proficiency in 3rd grade as measured on the Michigan state assessment.
- Middle School:
  - Proficiency in math and reading in 8th grade as measured on the Michigan state assessment.
- High School:
  - Proficiency in math and reading as measured on the Michigan Merit Examination (MME).
  - Percentage of youth who graduate from high school within 5 years.

Measures for the elementary level are not included for areas other than academic because they are not currently available.