

# Increasing College and Career Readiness: Jefferson County's Master Plan Executive Summary

JCPS Executive Summary 2013–2016

In support of the district's Strategic Plan: Vision 2015 and four Focus Areas (Increased Learning, Graduation and Beyond, Stakeholder Involvement/Engagement, and Safe/Supported Schools), Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS), Louisville community leaders, and Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL) have created a three-year tactical plan to transform teaching and learning, redesign the 5-Star high schools, and sustain the changes through premier partnerships with industry, postsecondary, civic, and community leaders.

# Increasing College and Career Readiness

## JCPS Executive Summary 2013–2016

The beginnings of the JCPS Ford NGL Master Plan started in July 2012, when JCPS leaders convened with community leaders and Ford NGL coaches. The Ford NGL network had extensive experience and data showing the impact of the Ford NGL partnerships with other districts (JCPS is their eighteenth partnership) on their graduation rates, achievement, and other key indicators of success. Because of the foundational work already started by JCPS and its 5-Star Schools, the partnership with Ford NGL was a logical next step in solidifying a Master Plan to expand and improve upon the existing Professional Career Theme structure. By rallying community collaboration around the development of the plan, a multilayered and multifaceted Master Plan around three major strands (briefly described below) has been developed to support the success of the 5-Star Schools.

### Strand One: Transforming Teaching and Learning (Strategic Plan Focus Area 1: Increased Learning)

**Teacher Externships**—Support from the business community will be needed to help equip teachers with real-world projects to bring back to the classroom.

**Project-Based Learning**—JCPS must ensure that project-based learning is congruent with state standards, establishing a cross-walk to help align core curriculum concepts with project-based learning.

**Professional Development**—Standardized professional development and support resources for classroom implementation will be critical to ensuring teacher success.

### Jefferson County Public Schools: VISION

*All JCPS students graduate prepared to reach their full potential and contribute to our society throughout life.*

### Jefferson County Public Schools: MISSION

*To provide relevant, comprehensive, quality instruction in order to educate, prepare, and inspire our students to learn.*

## Strand Two: Redesigning High Schools (Strategic Plan Focus Area 2: Graduation and Beyond)

**High-Quality Schools of Study**—At the core of the Master Plan is ensuring that our 5-Star Schools have high-quality Professional Career Themes that engage students in experiential learning and result in students graduating credentialed. To ensure quality, schools will align work with the Career Academy National Standards of Practice.

**Individual Learning Plans**—Individual Learning Plans will be vital in helping to track and monitor student progress and success as they advance through the Schools of Study courses and experiences.

**Evaluation Data and Accountability**—Multiple quantitative measures are outlined in the tactical plan and will be essential to regularly monitor for quality assurance. As the tactics are being implemented, the evaluation results will allow school and district leadership to determine midcourse adjustments and develop a plan for professional development.

## Strand Three: Sustaining Change Through Business and Civic Leadership (Strategic Plan Focus Areas 3 and 4: Stakeholder Involvement/ Engagement and Safe, Resourced Schools)

**Industry Councils for Each School of Study Pathway**—Industry councils for each School of Study pathway will be formed so that real-time industry needs are communicated with high schools for continual improvements in their pathways so that they remain relevant to students and aligned with community needs.

**CEO Advisory Board**—The CEO Advisory Board will review results of the Community Master Plan regularly and will populate the industry councils and school advisory councils with members of their own businesses. They will establish and implement a campaign to increase broad-scale business “ownership” and involvement with the 5-Star Schools.

**Parent and Family Engagement**—Since parents are the first educators in a child's life, it is essential for parents and school staff to work together on their students' progression through school. Student ambassadors will be trained in each school to be leaders in communicating information about the 5-Star Schools to parents, other adults, and the broad community, with the goal of increasing parent and student engagement.

## Goals

In order to accomplish our vision and mission, JCPS has set forth the following overarching goals:

- 1) To increase the graduation rate from 76.5 percent in 2013 to 83.7 percent in 2016
- 2) To decrease the dropout rate to 3.8 percent by 2016
- 3) To increase the percentage of college- or career-ready students from 51.3 percent in 2013 to 72.4 percent in 2016
- 4) To have all students at the 5-Star Schools enrolled in a School of Study by 2016

Goals were written to be aligned with state accountability goals and 55,000 Degrees, Greater Louisville's education commitment to have an additional 55,000 postsecondary degrees by the year 2020.

## Next Steps

- The Implementation Team will be monitoring, executing, and refining the Master Plan over the course of the next three years and sharing progress with the CEO Advisory Board, the Jefferson County Board of Education, and the JCPS superintendent.
- Members of the Implementation Team will include representatives from 55,000 Degrees, Junior Achievement, postsecondary institutions, and other key groups to ensure that community leaders are part of the continuous monitoring of the plan.

In order for JCPS to accomplish its vision that "All JCPS students graduate prepared to reach their full potential and contribute to our society throughout life," the Louisville community must pull together to support the tactics outline in the Ford NGL Master Plan. JCPS will ensure that targeted professional development for teachers and increased experiential, hands-on learning for students are supported by district resources. The community and business engagement will ensure that high school students and teachers are receiving the most current and relevant experiences so that, ultimately, students are prepared for college and the workforce. The Ford NGL framework has proven that this approach works. Louisville must rush to implement this plan so that every student graduates college- and career-ready.