

MAYOR GREG FISCHER, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY AND  
DR. DONNA HARGENS, SUPERINTENDENT, JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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NOVEMBER, 2013

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**JOINT COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE EDUCATION OUTCOMES**

An educated workforce drives innovation, development, and the creation of opportunity.

Education is the cornerstone of the economy and the basis on which we reach our full human potential.

The more than 100,000 students who attend Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) are the foundation of our city's future – the success of Louisville's economy and the future quality of life in Louisville depend on them.

To win in the 21st century global economy, Louisville students need to be competitive with their peers throughout the world.

Louisville Metro Government and Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) have joined forces to create a mutually accountable partnership that helps fulfill the vision set out in the Greater Louisville Education Commitment and to work toward its ambitious goal –

**VISION:** To provide a world-class, seamless and coordinated education system that provides ample opportunities for developing creativity and critical thinking, skilled workers, engaged citizens, and civic leaders.

**GOAL:** To move Louisville into the top tier among its peer cities by raising education attainment so that by 2020 at least 40% of working adults hold a bachelor's degree and 10% an associate's degree. This goal represents 55,000 more degrees by 2020.

This partnership also works to fulfill the JCPS vision that “all JCPS students graduate prepared to reach their full potential and contribute to our society throughout life.”

To this end, the city and JCPS will work together to make sure more children and young people are successful in school and life by ensuring that they are:

**READY FOR SCHOOL** – More children enter kindergarten ready to learn.

**SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL** – More youth graduate from high school ready for college and careers.

**PREPARED TO SUCCEED** – More youth enter college (postsecondary education) and complete certificates or degrees.



**LOUISVILLE METRO GOVERNMENT** pledges to work every day to raise educational attainment and build a college-going and college-completing culture. While JCPS is governed by an elected school board, the city is a partner in education, a supportive friend and conscience of the community for education. It is in this spirit that we will work with JCPS and other community partners in a variety of ways to improve outcomes along the education pipeline, from making sure children enter kindergarten ready to learn to increasing the number of associate's and bachelor's degrees in our community. This effort includes working to increase family involvement in education, creating strategic partnerships with businesses and service providers, and improving access to quality out-of-school time programs, which have been shown to improve academic outcomes for students who participate on a regular basis.

Because education is the surest path to economic prosperity, and developing and deploying human capital is the most important factor in growing the regional economy, Louisville Metro will devise and employ more effective ways to retain and match talent to education, training, and employment opportunities. Concurrently, Louisville Metro will work with business and industry to anticipate their workforce needs in order to shape the current and future activities and course offerings of educational institutions and training providers.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**, the nation's 28th largest school district, pledges to focus on the goals and strategies that will best prepare all of its students for college, career and life in a globally competitive environment. The JCPS Strategic Plan Vision 2015 lays out a framework to fulfill the district's mission "to provide relevant, comprehensive, quality instruction in order to educate, prepare, and inspire our students to learn." The success of this plan relies on a commitment from the community and families to work as partners to ensure that every student gets the extended learning time and the support needed to master the learning that is expected of each of them.

Designated by the Kentucky Board of Education as a District of Innovation, JCPS has pledged to embrace innovative practices and programs, increase partnerships with business and community to expand learning opportunities, and focus on personalized learning with a mastery approach to boost student achievement and college/career-readiness for all students.

In this spirit of partnership, Louisville Metro Government pledges to support JCPS through partnerships and programs that support children and their learning along the education continuum. JCPS pledges to work with the city to maximize the effectiveness of that support and report the results of the efforts. Both parties pledge to communicate regularly with each other – and with the community – the ways in which such support is effective and how citizens, businesses and others can help youth become successful.

## OVERARCHING GOAL: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL AND LIFE.

To this end, the city and JCPS will work together to make sure more children and young people are successful in school and life by ensuring that:

COMMUNITY GOALS	METRICS	2012 BASELINE	2013 PROGRESS
More children enter kindergarten ready to learn	<p>↑ % of JCPS entering Kindergarteners deemed “Ready” on statewide Brigance Screen</p>	35.5% (FALL 2012)	
More youth graduate from high school ready for college and careers	<p>↑ % of JCPS students who graduate on time (in 4 years)</p> <p>↑ % of JCPS students scoring college ready on state test</p>	<p>67.8% (2011)</p> <p>45.2% (2012)</p>	
More youth enter college (postsecondary education) and complete certificates or degrees	<p>↑ % of JCPS graduates who enroll in postsecondary education</p> <p>↑ % of JCPS graduates who complete certificates, associate’s degrees and/or bachelor’s degrees</p>	<p>62.4% (2010)</p> <p>30.9% (2006 HS GRADS)</p>	

The partnership also lays out the intentions of the two partners to:

- Collaborate on legislative agendas in support of public education
- Hold regular (quarterly) joint-meetings of the Superintendent’s Cabinet and the Mayor’s Cabinet
- Hold biannual public joint-briefing to report on progress
- Better coordinate (explore) the joint use of facilities, particularly parks and recreation facilities
- Improve and expand Learning Places which are sites/programs throughout the community, which will extend learning time for students beyond the traditional classroom
- Work together on grant development opportunities
- Develop data sharing agreements that allow for higher quality service delivery that leads to better outcomes for children

This joint commitment is made with the knowledge that it takes us all (home, community, school) working together in order to provide every child the opportunity to succeed.

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Greg Fischer, Mayor  
*Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government*

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Date

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Dr. Donna Hargens, Superintendent  
*Jefferson County Public Schools*

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Date