CINCINNATI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26 IMPACT REPORT

THE BEST OF CPS FOR EVERY STUDENT

BY THE NUMBERS:

34,000+
Students

66
Schools

6,200+
Employees

3 Stars
Overall Ohio School Report Card Rating

4 Stars
Progress Rating

4.5 Stars
Career-Technical Planning District Report Card

#1
in Achievement among Ohio Urban 8

All 39 preschools earned gold medal rating



PREPARING STUDENTS FOR LIFE

HERE FOR KIDS



A **MESSAGE** FROM THE **SUPERINTENDENT**

Every day, Cincinnati Public Schools is Here for Kids–providing strong instruction, preparing students for successful futures and helping build a stronger Cincinnati. The 2025–26 school year gave our District meaningful evidence of progress.

Our students earned three stars overall on Ohio's School Report Card, up from 2.5 stars the previous two years. CPS earned four stars in Progress, a two-star increase, showing that students made greater academic gains than expected based on prior performance. Our career-technical students also earned 4.5 out of five stars, exceeding state standards.

These results reflect the work of students, educators, school leaders, families and community partners. They also came during a difficult financial period that required CPS to make challenging choices about spending and staffing while protecting the programs and supports students depend on.

Now, that progress provides a foundation for the work ahead. The District's new 2026–2030 Strategic Plan establishes a clear direction: strong instruction, meaningful opportunities beyond graduation, whole-child supports and the systems needed to deliver them consistently for every student.

Thank you for believing in Cincinnati Public Schools and in the future of our city.

Shauna Murphy
Superintendent



STUDENT PROGRESS + OPPORTUNITY

STUDENTS ARE MOVING FORWARD

3 STARS OVERALL
up from 2.5 stars

4 STARS IN PROGRESS
up two stars from last year

3 STARS IN GAP CLOSING
up from 2 stars

#1
IN ACHIEVEMENT
among Ohio Urban 8

ACHIEVEMENT IMPROVED IN 15 TESTED AREAS
including all six high school end-of-course assessments

13 HIGH SCHOOLS
met or exceeded state standards in College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness, including eight that earned four stars

Ohio Step Up To Quality GOLD AWARD

ALL 39 PRESCHOOLS earned gold ratings

MORE PATHWAYS. MORE POSSIBILITIES.

Success after high school starts long before graduation. CPS is expanding access to college credit, career experiences, internships, credentials and specialized pathways that help students see a clear direction to their future.

$11M CPS scholarships earned

315 Student internships

$2.5M College Credit Plus (CCP) tuition savings

13% Increase in CCP enrollment

2,500 Career awareness experiences

CPS expanded opportunities through the Zoo Academy and College Innovation Pathway, a tuition-free program that allows students to earn an associate degree while completing high school. CPS also added Automotive and Entrepreneurship pathways and developed pre-apprenticeship opportunities for students with disabilities.

4.5 STARS IN CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Cincinnati Public Schools CTE Career & Technical Education

Students are earning skills for their future. CPS earned 4.5 stars on Ohio's Career-Technical Planning District Report Card, reflecting strong results in student achievement, career and postsecondary readiness, graduation and post-program outcomes.

SUPPORT + STEWARDSHIP



THE BEST OF CPS FOR EVERY STUDENT

Students learn best when barriers to learning are removed. CPS invests in supports that help students attend school, stay connected and access the resources they need.





HELPING FAMILIES FIND STABILITY

Through Project Connect, CPS connects families experiencing homelessness with housing, transportation and essential services. This year, the program launched the region's first Safe Sleep Lot, providing a secure overnight option while connecting families with housing and community resources.

5,045 students served

97% graduation rate for students in foster care

54,883 direct services provided

87.5% reduction in transportation barriers

Opened new Montessori elementary school, adding **160** Montessori seats

Created Montessori Training Institute for teacher training and credentials

11 percentage-point increase in arts and athletics participation

85% participation in job development services for students with disabilities

DOING MORE WITH EVERY DOLLAR

CPS entered the year facing a projected $62 million budget gap. The District closed that gap through cost-saving measures, staffing reductions, operational changes and other solutions while working to protect classroom instruction, intervention, enrichment, transportation, extracurricular activities and student support.

$3.8M cost avoidance through strategic purchasing

$1M saved through in-house nursing

AA credit ratings maintained by Moody's Ratings and Fitch Ratings

100% of audit recommendations accepted

Responsible stewardship is part of student success. The new Strategic Plan calls for CPS to connect resource decisions to its priorities, evaluate investments based on results and make clear financial tradeoffs. The goal is not simply to spend less, it is to direct limited resources toward the work that matters most for students.

CINCINNATI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2026–2030 Strategic Plan



THE BEST OF CPS FOR EVERY STUDENT

BUILDING TOWARD 2030

With three stars overall, four stars in Progress and more pathways to college and careers, CPS enters its 2026–2030 Strategic Plan with measurable gains to build on.

ONE DISTRICT.
ONE PROMISE.
EVERY STUDENT.

THE CPS PROMISE
Every CPS graduate leaves prepared for a future of their own design.

THE 2030 COMMITMENT
By 2030, every CPS student will attend a school where they:

- Are known, valued and supported.
- Learn from excellent, well-equipped educators.
- Have equitable access to learning that prepares them for their future.

---

1. **EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY INSTRUCTION** High-quality instruction in every classroom.
2. **EQUITABLE ACCESS TO POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES** Preparation for life after graduation.
3. **EQUITABLE ACCESS TO WHOLE-CHILD SUPPORTS** Safe, supportive conditions for learning.
4. **DISTRICT SYSTEMS, STRUCTURES AND WAYS OF WORKING TO SUPPORT EQUITABLE STUDENT OUTCOMES** People, resources and systems aligned to results.

BY 2030, CPS AIMS TO SEE...	GOAL
Students attending schools rated at least 3 stars	90%
Third-graders reading at grade level	72%
Seniors who are college and career ready	94%
Students who are chronically absent	<39%
Students who say they belong at school	80%
Families who say their needs are being met	90%

WHAT SUCCESS WILL LOOK LIKE

Success means students can count on a strong education, the right support and meaningful opportunities at every CPS school. We will see it in what they learn, how connected they feel and how ready they are to take their next step after graduation.