

# Using the collective impact framework to increase educational attainment in our community




## 2017/2018 Annual Report



## Our Purpose:

- Build a college-going culture within Muscatine.
  - Improve post-secondary education attainment and completion.
  - Deliver a coordinated set of services to students to master key fundamentals necessary for academic success.
  - Enable a workforce capable to sustain and grow Muscatine's economy.
  - Improve training and retraining opportunities for adults already in the workforce.
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## Our Goals:

-  Increase the percentage of MCSD students who graduate from High School.
  -  Increase the percentage of post-secondary completion.
  -  Increase training opportunities for adults to address unemployment and underemployment.
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## Strategy Networks:



**Early  
Education**



**Academic  
Success**



**Post-Secondary  
Completion**



**Adult Education  
& Training**



# Early Education Strategy Network

Too many Muscatine Community School District students enter Kindergarten behind. Children need an early foundation of strong language development to set the stage for their success in reading, math, and social interactions. Research (1) shows that the spoken language that babies and toddlers experience, particularly in the early years of their life, helps build their brains cognitively, emotionally, and socially. Children who experience less spoken words can be behind in readiness for school. Even more important than words for brain growth, are the back and forth interactions between child and adult. When a parent talks to their baby and the baby coos back, that is building the child's brain.

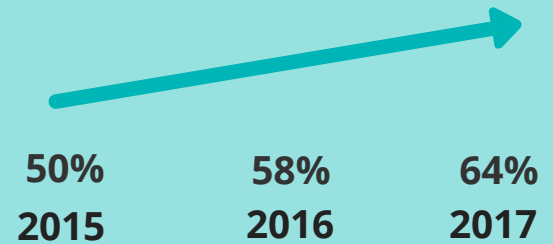
The Muscatine County Family Effectiveness Coalition is acting as AIM's Early Education Strategy Network. The early education strategy network's goal is to increase the percentage of children who enter Kindergarten ready. To reach their goal the strategy network is working to:

- increase the enrollment in 3-year-old and 4-year-old preschool
- increase participation in Imagination Library
- encourage parents to participate in early literacy activities at home and in the community

(1) Beyond the 30-Million-Word Gap: Children's Conversational Exposure Is Associated With Language-Related Brain Function, Rachel R. Romeo, Julia A. Leonard, Sydney T. Robinson, Martin R. West, Allyson P. Mackey, Meredith L. Rowe, John D. E. Gabrieli, February 2018

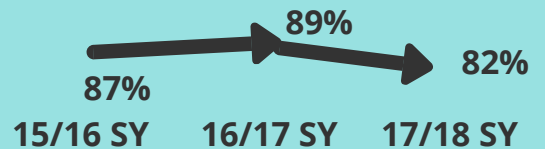
## Kindergarten Fall FAST Assessment

*Percent of proficient students*



## Indicators

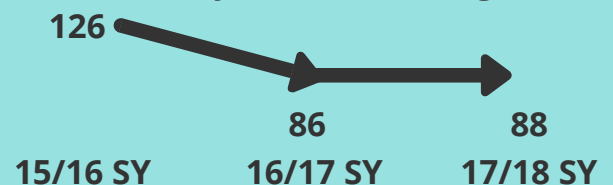
**% of Kindergarten Class Attended 4 Year Old Preschool**



**Imagination Library % of eligible population enrolled**



**Utilization of Preschool Scholarships by September (Primarily 3 Year Old Programs)**



# Early Education Strategy Network Continued

After seeing a decrease in the percentage of Kindergartners who attended preschool, a subgroup of the network formed to address barriers families had to enroll their children in preschool. In an effort to reach the most families possible, the group surveyed daycare providers about the families they serve. The survey results showed that transportation was one of the biggest barriers to preschool enrollment. The group partnered with Muscatine Charities to provide transportation scholarships during the spring of 2018. Unfortunately, the daycare who was contracted to provide the transportation was not able to continue providing transportation services, therefore, the pilot program only lasted a month. A new transportation company has joined the group and will be providing transportation to community preschools for the 2018/19 school year.

The network continues to promote preschool registration and scholarships via print, electronic, and video media. The Everything You Need To Know About Enrolling Your Child In Preschool brochure is still provided during 3-year-old well checks at UnityPoint Clinics and the University of Iowa Clinic in Muscatine and has recently been translated into Spanish. Volunteers from MP&W put together a preschool commercial that aired on MP&W cable.

The network also decided to promote all types of early literacy activities available to families, not just the Imagination Library program. They created publications about early learning activities that promote interactions between children and adults. These documents are available in English and Spanish.

## Active Family Effectiveness Coalition Members:

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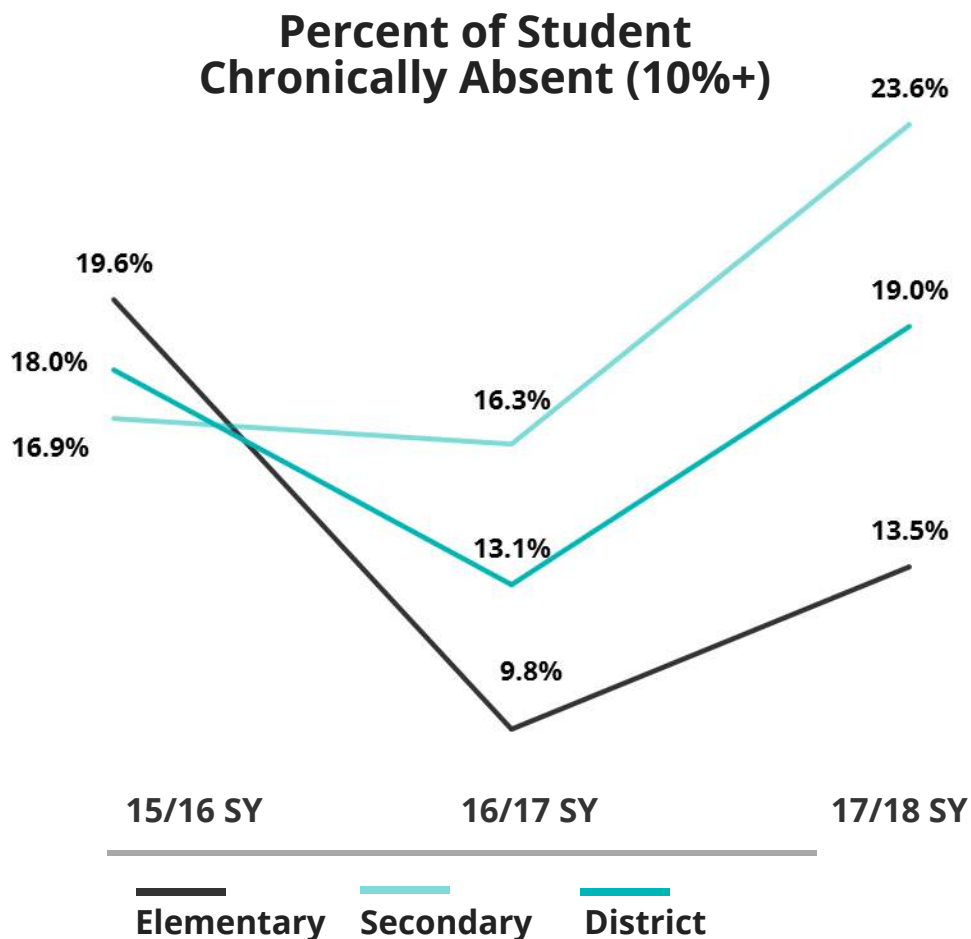
Muscatine Community YMCA  
Muscatine Community School District  
Early Childhood Iowa Muscatine County  
Trinity Muscatine Public Health  
Trinity Muscatine New Horizons  
Muscatine County Community Services  
Lutheran Services in Iowa  
Iowa State University Ext. & Outreach – Muscatine County

Mississippi Bend AEA  
Muscatine County Conservation  
United Way of Muscatine  
A Child's Place Preschool School  
Musser Public Library  
Muscatine Charities Inc.



## Academic Success Strategy Network

The Academic Success Strategy Network is focusing on reducing chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10% or more of the school year. The MCSD has made this a major focus of their internal operations. Many community organizations have come together to support the school district in their efforts after realizing the importance of school attendance to our community. According to Attendance Works (2), absenteeism contributes to high school dropout rates, because students don't have the academic credentials and skills needed. Regular attendance also prepares students for the "soft skills" needed to be a reliable employee.



(2) [www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org)

# Academic Success Strategy Network Cont.

During the 16/17 school year, the academic achievement strategy network was able to quickly align many community resources to start a pilot 4-H leadership program with 6th graders called Ricochet. During the 2017/18 school year, ISU Extension & Outreach Muscatine County expanded the program to be available to a targeted group of 6th and 7th graders at both middle schools. While these students aren't the typical students who are chosen for leadership opportunities, the school staff sees great potential in these students. The goal is to teach students leadership skills in a group setting with adult volunteers so that they are able to apply those skills to improve their school attendance and engagement.

Long term, this network is looking at how all the needs of students and families can be met in a more coordinated way to help students be successful in school. Central Middle School and many community organizations came together the end of the 2016/17 school year to see how everyone can work together better to coordinate services around students and families in crisis. This group expanded to both middle schools in the 2017/18 school year. With the addition of Trinity Public Health Resource Navigators, the day to day crises of students and families are being addressed quickly. Starting with the 2018/19 school year this group will begin looking at and addressing systemic barriers and root causes of struggles students are facing.

Another cross-collaborative group of school district administrators and community organizations are looking at how to change the culture of Muscatine's community to value the importance of school attendance. They are looking to implement a community-wide marketing campaign.

## **Academic Achievement Strategy Network Members:**

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Muscatine Community School District  
United Way of Muscatine Women United  
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach –  
Muscatine County  
Trinity Muscatine Public Health  
Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and  
Industry

## **Middle School Coordinated Services:**

Muscatine Community School District  
Trinity Muscatine Public Health  
Robert Young  
Muscatine Center for Social Action  
Lutheran Services in Iowa  
New Horizons  
Muscatine Community YMCA  
Juvenile Court Services  
Iowa Department of Human Services



# Post-Secondary Completion Strategy Network

The post-secondary completion strategy network is focusing on increasing enrollment into post-secondary education. Currently, about 60% of seniors enroll in post-secondary education. However, by 2025 70% of jobs in Iowa will require a post-secondary degree or certification (3). To reduce barriers students are facing in college enrollment, Muscatine High School implemented Iowa College Aid's Course to College Program during the 2017/18 school year.

Muscatine is also a host site for an AmeriCorps member. This member works with high school counselors and administrators to implement the program. The program helps high schools promote post-secondary education and establish a college-going culture. The process includes a college application campaign, FAFSA completion initiative, a college decision day celebration, and summer transition activities.

## Post-Secondary Strategy Network Members:

- Muscatine Community College
- Muscatine Community School District
- United Way of Muscatine
- Iowa State University Extension and Outreach – Muscatine County
- Juntos Program (Together for a Better Education)
- Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency

(3) Iowa: Education and Workforce Trends through 2025, Georgetown University, 2015

## Post-secondary Enrollment

*Fall after graduation*



## Indicators

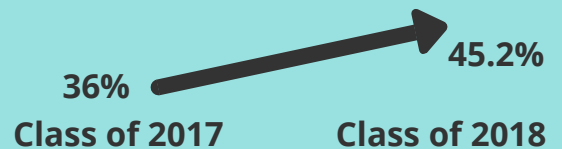
### High School Graduation Rate



### FAFSA Completion as of July

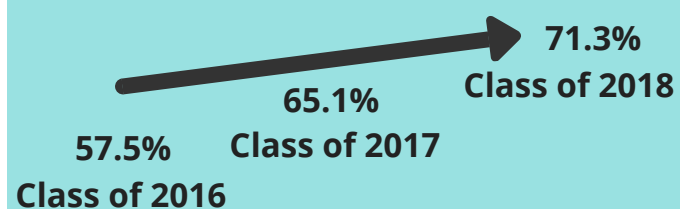


### Participation in College Decision Day



### Post-secondary Intentions

*Measured by Senior Exit Survey \*Includes military*





## Adult Education & Training Strategy Network

The adult education strategy network's main focus is to determine barriers adults are facing to increase their education and training. The group surveyed and conducted focus groups with adults enrolled in HiSET (formerly GED) and/or ELL classes, living at MCSA, and living at Sunset Park. The group has used these results to identify barriers adults have to increase their education and training to gain financially stable jobs.

The major barriers identified by respondents:

- Being out of school too long
- Needing help paying for expenses
- Staying focused when "life" happens

To address these issues the network created a small Career Mentoring program. Community members volunteer as a trusted guide to an individual who needs help achieving their education and career goals. Career mentors work with a community member that is a client of Muscatine Center for Social Action (MCSA) or a current Muscatine Community College (MCC) HiSET student.

The group also hosted a College and Career Summit with Muscatine Community College. This was tailored for service providers and provided them with information regarding all the programs and training opportunities at the college. They also learned about financial aid and other services that are available on campus. Over thirty service providers attended from a variety of local agencies.

### **Adult Education Strategy Network:**

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Muscatine Community College

Iowa Works

Muscatine County Community Services

Goodwill of the Heartland

City of Muscatine Public Housing Department

Muscatine Center for Social Action

United Way of Muscatine

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach – Muscatine County



## 2017/2018 AIM Leadership Council

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Kathie Anderson-Noel, Muscatine County Community Services

Gary Carlson, HNI

Pam Collins, Musser Public Library

Jaimie Cruse, Trinity Muscatine New Horizons

Dr. Naomi DeWinter, Muscatine Community College

Rich Dwyer, Kent Corporation

Greg Jenkins, GMCCI

Bret Olson, Muscatine Community YMCA

Shane Orr, United Way of Muscatine

Krista Regennitter, ISU Extension and Outreach Muscatine County

Dr. Jerry Riibe, Muscatine Community School District

Christy Roby Williams, Trinity Muscatine Public Health

## AIM Staff

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The work of Aligned Impact Muscatine (AIM) is supported in large part by Iowa College Aid grant funds. Iowa College Aid provides funding, training and technical assistance to develop LCANs around the State of Iowa. Additional cash and/or in-kind funding is provided by United Way of Muscatine, the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine, and Muscatine Community College.

## Moving Forward

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In July of 2018 Aligned Impact Muscatine was awarded a Local College Access Network (LCAN) Launch grant from Iowa College Aid. This grant will allow AIM to expand services throughout the County. Community members from West Liberty and Wilton are already slated to join AIM's Leadership Council this year.




AIM is also working with Iowa Workforce Development to host a Future Ready Iowa Summit in Muscatine. This event will bring together key stakeholders in education, business, economic development, and the community to create local strategies that ensure all Iowans are future ready.






















# AIM 2018 Community Dashboard

Aligned Impact Muscatine

Our community dashboard exists to focus attention and spur action on our most pressing needs. It will show the trends for our results. Data is shown for the area of the Muscatine County and specific school district within the County. This is the baseline data that we are focusing on impacting. Achieving systemic change for children and families in our region will require a long-term commitment from all of us.

## Big Picture Goals:

-  Increase the percentage of Muscatine County students who graduate from High School.
-  Increase the percentage of post-secondary completion.
-  Increase training opportunities for adults to address unemployment and underemployment, to enable a workforce capable to sustain and grow Muscatine County's economy.

	BASELINE			
	STATE COMPARISON	2016 COUNTY	2018	
 HOUSEHOLDS STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY	37%	37%		
 Living in poverty	12%	12%		
	STATE COMPARISON	2015 COUNTY	2018	2025 NEED PROJECTIONS*
 WORKFORCE EDUCATION LEVEL				
HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR LESS	39.6%	46.7%		35.5%
Less than High School	8.7%	10.9%		Not available
SOME COLLEGE NO ASSOCIATES	12.5%	9.7%		7%
ASSOCIATES DEGREE	11.3%	13.9%		14.2%
CERTIFICATE/CERTIFICATION	9%	9%		13%
BACHELORS DEGREE	18.6%	14.6%		22.7%
GRADUATE DEGREE OR HIGHER	9%	6.1%		7.6%
	STATE COMPARISON	2015/16 SY MCSD	2016/17 SY	2017/18 SY
 KINDERGARTEN READINESS (FALL)	64%	50%	58% 	64% 
 ELEMENTARY CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM 10%+	N/A	19.6%	9.8% 	13.5% 
 SECONDARY CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM 10%+	N/A	16.9%	16.3% 	23.6% 
 DISTRICT CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM 10%+	8.3%	18.0%	13.1% 	19.0% 
	STATE COMPARISON	CLASS OF 2016 MCSD	CLASS OF 2017 MCSD	CLASS OF 2018 MCSD
 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE	91.3%	80.9%	83.3% 	
 FAFSA COMPLETION as of July	N/A	45.5%**	49.1%	58.8% 
 POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT Fall after graduation	N/A	60%	61.0% 	

\*Workforce 2025 projections provided by the Iowa College Aid Commission, State projections were used to help calculate certificates, and breakdown of Bachelor and Graduate degrees.

\*\*Federal Department of Education estimate, not accurate enough to use as baseline to compare to class of 2017

Data sources: Muscatine Community School District, United Ways of Iowa 2018 ALICE Report, Muscatine County Census American Community Survey 1-Year Supplemental Estimates posted October 20, 2016, Iowa: Education and Workforce Trends Through 2025, US Department of Ed.

AIM is supported by Iowa College Aid through grant funds, training, technical assistance and National Service members. Additional cash and/or in-kind funding provided by United Way of Muscatine, the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine, and Muscatine Community College.