

Hamilton County Schools

Major Initiatives to Improve Student Achievement

Benwood Initiative (2000-present)

- The Benwood Foundation contributed \$5 million to the district to improve literacy and teacher effectiveness in the District's 8 lowest performing elementary schools
- The Public Education Foundation contributed another \$2.5 million
- Focused on quality of teachers, professional development and training
- Results are dramatic:
 - Literacy proficiency has jumped 20 percentage points since 2003
- The District has submitted a proposal to expand the program to an additional 8 elementary schools in 2008

High School Reform (2001-present)

- The Carnegie Foundation funded an \$8 million grant, matched by \$6 million from the Public Education Foundation
- Reform efforts center on four common goals: relevant and rigorous curriculum, professional development for teachers, personalized experience for students, flexibility to meet individual student needs
- Each school created their own plans tailored to their student population
- Academies were born out of this effort
- Hamilton County is a national role model for academies
- Red Bank High School Teaching Academy and East Ridge Construction Academy have been named National Career Academies of the Year
- Results are dramatic:
 - Increased graduation rate to 73.7%
 - Increased scores on Gateway exams
 - Increased Composite ACT score to 20.0 (21.7 = national average)
 - 9th grade promotion rate increased to 89.1%

Middle School Reform (2006-present)

- The Lyndhurst Foundation contributed \$6 million to the district to implement comprehensive reform at all 21 middle schools
- The National Education Association Foundation contributed another \$2.5 million to the effort
- Reforms are underway in each middle school, patterned after the successful high school reform
- Plans are created by teachers, parents and students and tailored to individual school needs

Magnet Schools (2001- present)

- Hamilton County Schools boasts 16 magnet schools, each with a different theme and philosophy toward education
- The district received 3 consecutive federal grants to implement magnet schools as schools of choice
- The Center for Creative Arts is nationally renowned for its Performing Arts program
- Normal Park Museum Magnet School was the top Magnet School in America in 2005 and was a National School of Excellence in 2006 and 2007
- Battle Academy is a National School of Excellence and a NASA partner school