Great Expectations, a new school and community initiative, is designed to bring effective programs and strategies to scale and heighten community-wide investment in the educational success of all kids from cradle to career.

Great Expectations goals are clearly stated
- All preschoolers are ready for kindergarten
- All children reach key benchmarks for 3rd grade reading success
- All children reach key benchmarks for 8th grade math success
- All students graduate from high school
- All complete post-secondary education
Who cares? It turns out a lot of people in our community do.

The achievement and opportunity gaps that exist for some of our children present persistent and complicated challenges. Orono and Wayzata School Districts work every day to meet the needs of every student, but what happens outside of the school day also profoundly impacts a child’s odds to be successful academically... and in life.

While there is no single, simple solution to address the gaps in kids’ lives, there are many proven ways we, as a community, can help change the trajectory.

Over the past months, Great Expectations' Action Teams (composed of parents, community volunteers, School District staff and Interfaith Outreach staff) conducted 51 listening sessions to gain the perspective and advice of parents, students, teachers, principals, social workers, police officers, early childhood experts, Neighborhood Program staff, faith community leaders, apartment managers and more.

What was learned? First and foremost, parents told us their children’s success in school is their highest priority. However, other experts also identified barriers that hinder these dreams, such as limited resources that restrict access to enrichment activities and academic support, the sense some students have that they don’t belong and the lack of transportation.

The rallying call from LaDonna Hoy, Executive Director of Interfaith Outreach, is that we live in a community filled with pent-up goodwill, that is ready to jump in and make a difference if a path were provided. Great Expectations is building that path with opportunities to work one-on-one with a child or group of students, donate resources or advocate for our community to be the best it can be wherever that opportunity presents itself.

It’s not “those” kids or “our” kids. These are ALL our kids. Every child deserves to benefit from high expectations and strong relationships and to grow to be a caring, contributing citizen. The future of our country depends on it.

Carol Bergenstal
Chair, Great Expectations

Our Kids

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistics</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13,977</td>
<td>Students enrolled in Wayzata and Orono Public Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>Different languages are spoken in our kids’ homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,604</td>
<td>Kids living in poverty in Orono and Wayzata Public Schools</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- White (74%)
- Asian (15%)
- Black (7%)
- Hispanic (4%)
- Two or more races (4%)
- American Indian, Hawaiian Native/Pacific Islander (<1%)
Our Process

Discover Barriers
66 teachers, parents, social workers and community leaders came together. They formed Action Teams and held listening conversations with nine groups of parents, 20 school staff and 22 community organizations.

Share Findings
Teams distilled what they heard from the community into areas of focus and added three new Action Teams to be launched this fall: Cultural Connections, Mental Health and Transportation.

Create Opportunities
Action Teams identified actions the community can do right now to help close the opportunity gap and decrease the achievement gap.

Our Framework

- Increase access to resources
- Increase kindergarten readiness
- Increase belonging in community
- Develop meaningful relationships
- Improve effectiveness of academics beyond the school day
- Strengthen family engagement
- Increase access to enrichment activities
- Facilitate relationship building
- Address barriers to student engagement
- Improve effectiveness of academics beyond the school day
- Build mentoring relationships
- Eliminate barriers to parent engagement
- Improve academic support for students
- Build relationships and networks
- Increase family engagement
- Build mentoring relationships

- Develop mentoring opportunities
- Encourage career exploration
- Promote post-high school training and education
- Promote community resources
- Connect students to services
- Increase communication
- Money management
Executive Committee

Carol Bergenstal  
Chair  
Community Member

LaDonna Hoy  
Executive Director  
Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners

Catherine Christiansen  
Coordinator  
Partners For Healthy Kids

Dr. Jill Johnson  
Executive Director of Teaching and Learning  
Wayzata School District

Melanie Deluca  
Director of Community Education  
Orono School District

Annie Doughty  
Director of Community Education Operations  
Wayzata School District

Matthew Miller  
Director of Great Expectations  
Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners

Aaron Ruhland  
Learning & Accountability Director  
Orono School District

Action Teams

O to 5 Action Team  
Donna Marget, Facilitator

Erik Aamoth  
Dr. Sandi Arndt  
Rachel Boettcher  
Welde Dubar  
Steph Ebert  
Fred Hegele  
Brenda Heim  
Heather Hudnut Page  
Elizabeth Anne Kahnke  
Jessica Koch  
Melissa Musliner  
Kokoe Noamessi  
Deb Ottman  
Barbara Reis  
Betty Schnettler

6 to 8 Action Team  
Barbara Carlson, Facilitator

Liz Antonenko  
Ann Brilley  
Gary Charles  
Brenda Hunter  
Annette Korolchuk  
Amy Krane  
Terri Landberg  
Nancy McCoy  
Valeta Moore  
Bugs Peterschmidt  
Katie Shepherd  
Beth Van Orsow

9 to 13 Action Team  
Martha Van de Ven, Facilitator

Pat Gleason  
Margy Herbert  
Mary Leadholm  
Stephanie Siewert  
Susan Strom  
Judy Stucki  
Kit Swanson  
Angela Trenda  
Dianne Vogen  
Becca Weber

471 Community member hours  
109 School staff hours  
30 Interfaith Outreach staff hours

66 Action Team members volunteered a total of 610 hours to discover what local kids need most

14 to 18 Action Team  
Brad Sleeper, Facilitator

Nick Aalbers  
Messen Agbemadon  
Kathleen Crawford  
Yvette Giles  
Judy Hanson  
David Hoy  
Deb Lande  
Tom Marshall  
Heather Rivera  
Ruth Ruffin  
Scott Tordeur  
Genna Torney

18 to 22 Action Team  
Doris Tuura, Facilitator

Terry Hardin  
Nancy Holden  
Anne Johnson  
Miriam Lejonvann  
Hannah Maertz  
Alice Peterson  
Glenda Prody  
Norrie Angel Thomas  
Charlie Weinzierl  
Tanya Williams

MAVA Volunteer Engagement Specialists

Kelly Halpin  
Ben Schneider

Share your ideas & sign up to be on our email list: GreatExpectations@iocp.org

Donate to Great Expectations: iocp.org/donate

Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners and the Wayzata and Orono school districts are anchor partners of the Great Expectations Initiative, which coordinates the goodwill and resources of our community to set all our kids on the path to success from cradle to career.

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