

Buffalo Promise Neighborhood

Buffalo, New York



2011 Promise Neighborhood Implementation Grantee

Mission

The Buffalo Promise Neighborhood advances the healthy development of over 3,000 children and their families from birth through college to career. BPN uses a continuum of tested, evidence-based interventions, and builds upon the transformation of Buffalo's lowest performing school into the Westminster Community Charter School. BPN's partnership with M&T Bank Corporation has brought strategic, managerial, and financial resources to the initiative. Over the next 20 years, BPN expects to build a system of supports that will serve approximately 33,400 children.

Early Results

- Took on shared management with school district of low-performing K–8 school; implemented a rigorous, evidence-based curriculum; and instituted an early warning system to ensure students are immediately provided needed academic interventions or community supports.
- Increased percentage of children in early learning settings, from 62 percent (2013) to 73 percent (2014).
- Increased percentage of three-year-olds and kindergartners who exhibited age appropriate functioning, from 62 percent (2013) to 73 percent (2014).
- Improved school environment/behavioral issues as demonstrated through decrease in suspensions from over 300 (2012-2013) to 51 (2013-2014) and decrease in office referrals from 832 (2012-2013) to 330 (2013-2014).
- Decreased student mobility rate (students who transfer in/out of school) from 21 percent to 18 percent.

Timeline for the Work

2012

Whole school reform and early childhood education center construction; focus on 6th and 9th graders.

2013–2015

Expand services to one additional grade every year in each of the three schools in the neighborhood, focusing on 6th and 9th graders.

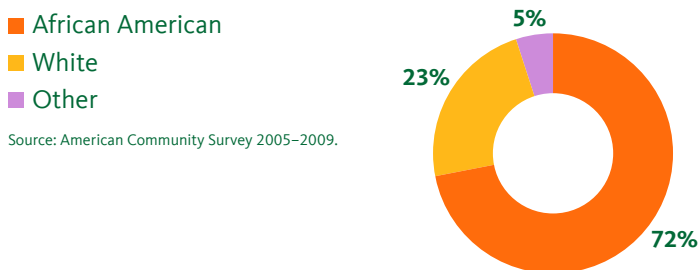
2016

Expand services to early grades, and serve all 3,000 K–12 students in the zone.

Community Served

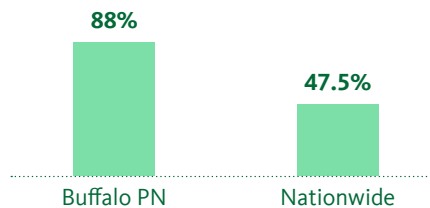
The Buffalo Promise Neighborhood is located in the northeast corner of the city. It is a predominantly African American community that is home to around 12,000 people, including 3,000 children.

Neighborhood Composition



Source: American Community Survey 2005–2009.

Children Qualifying for Free or Reduced School Lunch



Buffalo Source: Buffalo Public Schools 2011.
National Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey," 2000-01, 2005-06, 2008-09, and 2009-10.



Partners

Westminster Foundation

AmeriCorps

Bethel Head Start

Buffalo Public School District

Buffalo Urban League

City of Buffalo

Closing the Gap

Community Health Center of Buffalo

Council for Unity

County of Erie

Every Person Influences Children (EPIC)

Hillside Works Scholarship

John R. Oishei Foundation

Johns Hopkins University Talent Development

M&T Bank Corporation

Read to Succeed Buffalo

University at Buffalo

Westminster Community Charter School

What Is a Promise Neighborhood?

Promise Neighborhoods represent a 20-plus year commitment by local leaders to create communities of opportunity that allow children to learn, grow, and succeed. Based on the operating principles of the Harlem Children's Zone, Promise Neighborhoods build partnerships between schools, community organizations, local businesses, and community members to wrap children in high-quality, coordinated health, social, community, and educational support from cradle to career.

About the Promise Neighborhoods Institute at PolicyLink

The Promise Neighborhoods Institute at PolicyLink (PNI) helps build and sustain Promise Neighborhoods to ensure children are healthy, succeed in school, reach their full potential, and that families and neighborhoods support the healthy development, academic success, and well-being of their children.

PNI's system of technical assistance and disciplined approach moves communities from talk to action by:

- accelerating local leaders' ability to achieve results;
- building evidence that cradle to career systems are working across America; and
- supporting leaders' efforts to scale and sustain results.

From Promise Neighborhood Leaders

“The Promise Neighborhoods Institute’s support and guidance have been an important resource in our work to turn the curve on kindergarten readiness for children in the Buffalo Promise Neighborhood. Through PNI’s results-based accountability training sessions, our leadership developed valuable skills that allowed us to build capacity within our local network of partners.”

—Ezra Staley, Director of Finance @ Information Systems,
Buffalo Promise Neighborhood c/o M&T Bank Corporation

www.promiseneighborhoodsinstitute.org
www.policylink.org

Promise Neighborhoods Results & Indicators

The Promise Neighborhoods program is one of the most results-based and data-driven efforts in America focused on collective impact. Every Promise Neighborhood works toward making progress on the same 10 results and 15 indicators through a mix of solutions and strategies that include families, programs, policies, and systems.

Table 1. Education Results & Indicators

Results	Indicators
Children enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of children birth to kindergarten entry who have a place where they usually go, other than an emergency room, when they are sick or in need of advice about their health. • # and % of three-year-olds and children in kindergarten who demonstrate at the beginning of the program or school year age-appropriate functioning across multiple domains of early learning as determined using developmentally appropriate early learning measures. • # and % of children, from birth to kindergarten entry, participating in center-based or formal home-based early learning settings or programs, which may include Early Head Start, Head Start, child care, or preschool.
Students are proficient in core academic subjects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of students at or above grade level according to State mathematics and reading or language arts assessments in at least the grades required by the ESEA (third through eighth and once in high school).
Students successfully transition from middle school grades to high school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance rate of students in sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth grade.
Youth graduate from high school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduation rate.
High school graduates obtain a postsecondary degree, certification, or credential.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of Promise Neighborhood students who graduate with a regular high school diploma and obtain postsecondary degrees, vocational certificates, or other industry-recognized certifications or credentials without the need for remediation.

Table 2. Family and Community Results & Indicators

Results	Indicators
Students are healthy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of children who participate in at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily. • # & % of children who consume five or more servings of fruits and vegetables daily; or possible third indicator, to be determined (TBD) by applicant.
Students feel safe at school and in their community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of students who feel safe at school and traveling to and from school, as measured by a school climate needs assessment; or possible second indicator, TBD by applicant.
Students live in stable communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student mobility rate; or possible second indicator, TBD by applicant.
Families and community members support learning in Promise Neighborhood schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For children birth to kindergarten entry, the # and % of parents or family members who report that they read to their child three or more times a week. • For children in kindergarten through the eighth grade, the # and % of parents or family members who report encouraging their child to read books outside of school. • For children in the ninth through twelfth grades, the # and % of parents or family members who report talking with their child about the importance of college and career; or possible fourth indicator TBD by applicant.
Students have access to 21st century learning tools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of students who have school and home access (and % of the day they have access) to broadband Internet and a connected computing device; or possible second indicator TBD by applicant.