

ONE x ONE 2014 community progress report

MOVING PUBLIC EDUCATION FORWARD

THE POWER OF ONE

It all began with the belief that everyone should have a voice and everyone has a role to play:

In the fall of 2011, the Jacksonville Public Education Fund, in partnership with community organizations across the city, set out to spark a movement for better public schools in Duval County, Florida, called the ONE by ONE campaign.

ONE by ONE, an initiative of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund, launched with ONE in THREE, a compelling photography exhibit lifting the faces and stories of 20 current and former public school students who all faced great obstacles to obtaining an education. The exhibit sparked a sense of urgency to improve public education, motivating citizens from all over the city to get involved in a process to identify the top priorities of the community for their public schools, and then rally citizens to take action on those priorities.

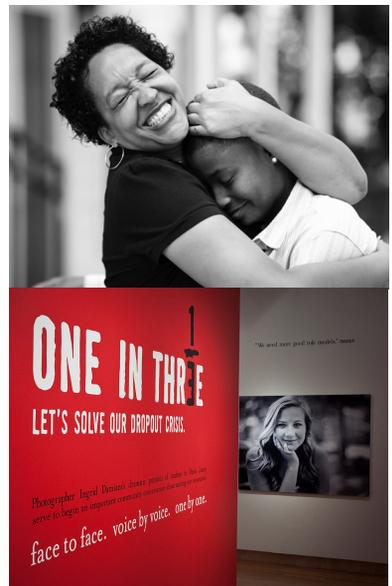
The initiative generated enough interest to hold 169 small group conversations with nearly 1,700 people to elicit their aspirations for public education in Duval County. Hundreds more volunteered with the campaign. The exhibit, which traveled to 16 venues throughout the community, was seen more than 75,000 times and was extended by special request at several venues.

The first ONE by ONE Convention

The citizens of Duval County spoke with ONE voice about their priorities for public education on January 5, 2013, when 170 people from every part of the city gathered for the first ONE by ONE Convention. Working together, the delegates voted on the top four priorities that emerged from the conversations held the year before, incorporating

“I’ll speak my mind to as many people as will listen.”

— ONE by ONE delegate



the themes into a Community Agreement with four priorities: Policy & Political Reform, Family & Caregiver Involvement, Whole Child, Great Educators & Leaders.

It was an ideal time for community and district alignment: Just two months prior, a new superintendent, Dr. Nikolai Vitti, appointed, and four new school board members were elected, all with a commitment to community involvement. In April 2013, the Duval County School Board voted unanimously to adopt a new strategic plan that incorporated three of the four priorities identified in the ONE by ONE Community Agreement, representing unprecedented alignment and greater momentum for improving public schools among a newly-energized public. The five combined district-community priorities are:



				
CAREGIVER & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	GREAT EDUCATORS & LEADERS	DEVELOP THE WHOLE CHILD	EFFICIENT & EQUITABLE RESOURCES	POLICY & POLITICAL REFORM

Since then, the pace of change has been swift — and yet this is just the first chapter of a story that has just started to unfold. The Jacksonville Public Education Fund, as an independent organization dedicated to informing and mobilizing the community to advocate for universally high-quality public schools, will publish this ONE by ONE Community Progress Report every year. The goal of this report is to combine hard data and the views of community members on progress and challenges we face together. Working in concert with one another — as an orchestra does — we can all play a role in ensuring that all students are prepared to succeed in the future.

WRITING A NEW NARRATIVE IN 2013



“A new narrative is being written about Duval County Public Schools, and everyone in our community has the chance to be a co-author.”

— Travis Pinckney
ONE in THREE featured student

A chance for citizens in Duval County to co-author the story:

Fueled by a sense of common purpose, a jointly held set of priorities and a strong sense of urgency, the community and school district in 2013 embarked on an ambitious and perhaps unprecedented year. Both in the community and within Duval County Public Schools, the agenda for change led to action.

District programs created, expanded

Following an administrative reorganization that freed up additional funds, the district in 2013 launched a series of initiatives aimed at the priorities, among them¹:

- A new Parent Academy to engage and educate community members and caregivers in new ways.
- County-wide expansion of customized educational and social services to students overage for their grade level.
- Addition of art, music and physical education teachers to all elementary schools.
- A new dean of discipline at secondary schools, a new bullying hotline and community review of the student code of conduct.
- A new budgeting process and staffing allocation plan to deploy resources more effectively.
- A new teacher academy, more teacher planning time and revised curriculum guides to support teacher success.

Community, government collaboration

The community and schools collaborated on a series of other initiatives aligned with the priorities, such as:

- The Quality Education for All Fund, a large private investment pool to strengthen the pipeline of teachers and leaders, especially in historically underserved schools.
- New collaboratives of community organizations

working in partnership with the district to expand students' access to the arts, and to address mental health care for children in Duval County.

- A federal technology grant leveraged with private investment to increase student's access to technology in low-income schools.
- Wraparound supports for students at risk of not graduating increased thanks to the work of many different community organizations.

In addition, Mayor Alvin Brown rallied support to create a college-going culture in the city through his Learn to Earn and Mayor's Mentors initiatives.

Challenges remain

Yet 2013 was only the first chapter — and obstacles remain, along with the challenges that rapid change can present. Some ongoing challenges were on the minds of many advocates as the year unfolded:

- Concerns over some class sizes in non-core classes.
- Issues in Tallahassee as decision-makers debated state standards, and the associated changes to assessments and school accountability.
- Unfunded state mandates, inadequate public school funding and a desire for increased budget transparency for public schools.
- Debate at the state and local level about how teachers are developed, evaluated and retained.
- Ongoing need to find more effective to engage more parents and community members in the work of improving public education, both for individual students and system-wide.

Many of these issues were taken up by delegates at the Second Annual ONE by ONE Convention on January 18, 2014. And they formed the basis for action teams in which delegates pledged to participate, demonstrating the power of an engaged community working together around common goals.

“There is an overarching sense that we are all in this together.”

— ONE by ONE delegate



PROGRESS BY THE NUMBERS

Taking stock of progress after a year of rapid change:

With the unleashing of so many new initiatives to improve public education for children in Duval County, there was no shortage of news about how the system was changing. But what if we wanted to take a step back to see the bigger picture? How were our schools performing? And how was our community evolving?

Academic indicators show improvement

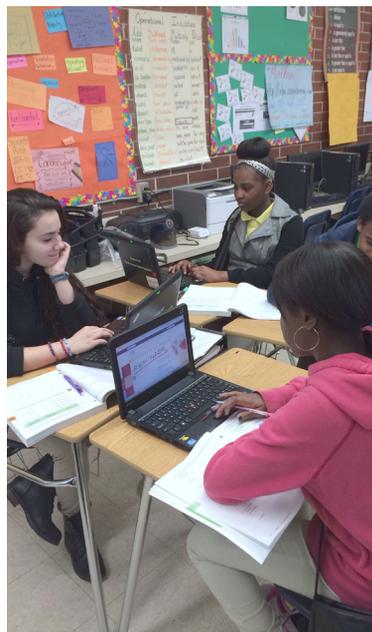
By most measures, Duval County Public Schools saw some key academic performance metrics increase over the last year:

- The federally-calculated graduation rate went up significantly in 2013 to 72.1 percent. It increased by 16.3 percentage points over the last five years — four times faster than the state-wide average.²
- The graduation rate increased faster for low-income students than for non-low-income students over the last year.³
- The percent of 10th graders reading at grade level or above has gone up by 17 percentage points since 2010.⁴
- Eighty-one schools earned A or B grades in 2013.⁵

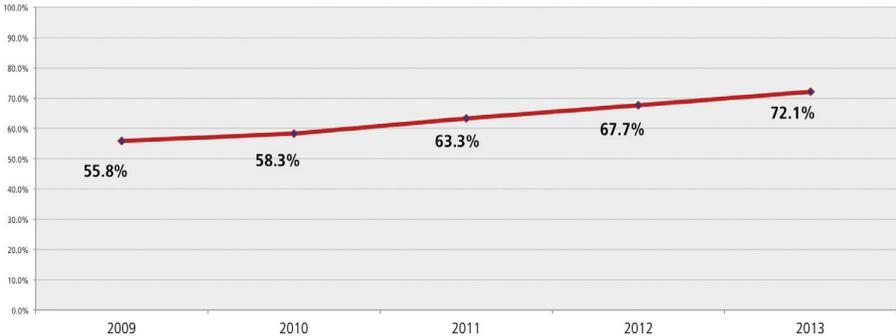
Overall, 53 percent of students in Duval are at or above grade level in reading and math as measured by the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).⁶ The 2013-14 school year will be the last where the current math and reading academic standards are in place and the FCAT is administered. Starting in the 2014-15 academic year, schools throughout the state will transition to new, more challenging standards and a different assessment, bringing a new set of challenges and opportunities.

Two-thirds of Duval County residents support a property tax increase if it goes to education.

— Annual Public Education Perceptions Poll



Duval County Public Schools Graduation Rate

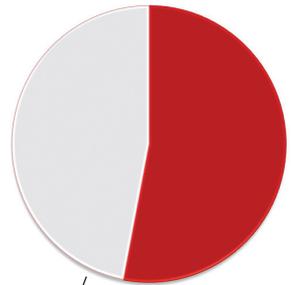


New poll takes the pulse of the community

Academic performance measures are commonplace — but what about community performance measures? With a goal of learning how Jacksonville’s citizens assess the state of public education and its own efforts, the Jacksonville Public Education Fund issued a new annual poll.

More than half of respondents rated the Duval County School Board and Superintendent Nikolai Vitti as effective,⁷ a more than 30 percentage point increase over a similar 2011 JCCI poll question,⁸ demonstrating a sharp increase in community confidence. Other findings included:

- Parents with students in Duval County Public Schools rated public schools even more highly and were much less concerned about safety issues than non-parents.
- One-third rated the priority to “Recruit, develop and retain great teachers and leaders” as most important.
- Respondents, especially parents, indicated strong support for focusing on the whole child by providing a well-rounded education that includes art, music, physical education and health services.
- Few respondents rated using resources fairly, effectively and efficiently as the most important priority. Two-thirds said they would support a property tax increase for education.
- Two-thirds of respondents, including 75% of parents, said that every student should be given a laptop or iPad to use in the classroom.



53% of Duval County students were performing at or above grade level in reading and math in 2013

“**Graduation rates are continuing to grow; [this is] proof of growth in a number of areas.**”

— ONE by ONE delegate

2014 CONVENTION RESULTS

A reflection of the voice of the community on progress made and challenges that remain:

On January 18, 2014, delegates once again gathered from all neighborhoods in Jacksonville. This time, there were 400 — twice as many as the previous year. They were diverse: 45 percent African-American, 43 percent Caucasian, 6 percent Asian and 4 percent Hispanic. The group, which included parents, students, educators and citizens, took stock of what happened over the last year, hearing from Superintendent Vitti, Mayor Brown, Jacksonville Public Education Fund President Trey Csar, students and Community Advisory Team volunteers.

Key insights on progress and challenges

In addition to presentations, the delegates examined much of the data in this report, as well as other information. They spent time talking in small groups about the top takeaways from the last year as we move from rhetoric to action. Here are the key themes that emerged from the 2014 delegates:

- Public education is becoming a community effort, and it's important everyone has a role because academic growth equals community growth.
- There is a sense of progress and accomplishment in public education and confidence in the district and school board, yet a recognition that although progress has been made, it is a long-term struggle.
- We are moving from rhetoric to action.
- There is evidence of alignment in the community.
- Student voices should be prioritized.
- There is excitement about advances in whole child development and technology.

Following the discussion, delegates composed “talking points” they felt best reflected the state of public education in Duval County that they could use throughout the year.

“I leave inspired by the Jacksonville community and the investment in our public education system!”

— ONE by ONE delegate



What delegates say about progress and challenges:

"We believe a high quality public education system for all students must include ..."

"... high-quality teachers trained and equipped with the resources they need to customize education and prepare students to be global citizens."

"... engaged community members, parents, teachers and students operating in a culture of high expectations and equal opportunity."

"Duval County Public Schools has made great strides in ..."

"... increasing the graduation rate and number of students ready for college, but still needs work improving the training and retention of high-quality, motivated teachers."

"... developing a strategic plan to move education forward, but still needs improved collaboration and communication with and among stakeholders and the public."

"... developing quality leadership and a culture of high achievement, but still needs more — and more equitable — resources."

"You can get involved or help support efforts to make sure all Jacksonville students have access to a top quality education by ..."

"... getting directly into schools by volunteering or mentoring, or joining the PTA or SAC."

"... voting or advocating for political or policy measures that will improve public education."

"... learning and being informed about education issues."

More than 1,000 pledges to take action in 2014

Finally, the delegates made pledges to take action in many different areas, from advocacy around standards and accountability to hands-on recruitment for Parent Academy and PowerUP Jax — overall, 1,090 distinct pledges to take action. And 94 percent agreed that they "feel more committed to actively staying involved in education improvement efforts."



“How do we enhance and increase community understanding of the system on a bigger scale?”

— ONE by ONE delegate

Today, citizens and leaders from all over the community are more unified than ever and committed to the joint and individual action that will move public education forward. This is but the first chapter in our story — what will you write? Take the pledge and take action!

COMMUNITY ADVISORY TEAM

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Mai Keisling
Co-chair

Simone Beans

Brittany Beans

Brandy Beans

Mickee Brown

Zak Champagne

PeDro Cohen

Christine Dahnke

Cindy Edelman

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ENDNOTES

1 - Duval County Public Schools. Duval County Public Schools 2013-2014 Strategic Plan Update. Presentation to the ONE by ONE Convention on January 18, 2014.
2 - For more information, see <http://www.jaxpef.org/news/2013/12/duvals-graduation-rate-goes-up,-outpacing-state-and-other-districts.aspx>

3 - Ibid
4 - Duval County Public Schools. Duval County Public Schools 2013-2014 Strategic Plan Update. Presentation to the ONE by ONE Convention on January 18, 2014.
5 - For more information, go to www.schoolfactsjax.org.
6 - Ibid
7 - Jacksonville Public Education

Fund (2013). Annual Survey of Education Perceptions in Duval County. Retrieved from http://www.jaxpef.org/media/1465507/jaxpef_2013_annual_education_perceptions_poll.pdf
8 - Jacksonville Community Council, Inc. (2011). 2011 Quality of Life Progress Report. Retrieved from <http://www.jcci.org/#!indicators/c1e39>

For links to all data used in this report plus extra information, visit www.jaxpef.org/progressreport.

THREE YEARS AFTER ONE IN THREE, THEY THRIVE



Mercedes

Today, Mercedes is close to earning her associate's degree and applying to colleges to get her bachelor's degree. She's stronger than ever, and more confident in her bright future.



Dominic

Dominic graduated from University of North Florida and is now a mortgage underwriter at Wells Fargo. Now married, he and his wife are expecting a baby girl in spring 2014.



Travis

Travis earned a master's degree from University of North Florida and today works as a guidance counselor at Jackson High School, while remaining committed to social justice and his family.



Allishia

Allishia graduated with an associate's degree from Florida State College at Jacksonville. She works to empower aspiring teachers at City Year. She and her fiancé will be married in spring 2014.

TAKE THE PLEDGE TO MOVE PUBLIC EDUCATION FORWARD

- I will attend a community meeting or event related to public education.
- I will give this report or an electronic copy of it to someone I know.
- I will speak out by sharing information on social media, submitting a guest blog post or writing a letter to the editor.
- I will host a guest speaker or presentation about public education at my organization, business, religious or civic group.
- I'd like to volunteer to support the work of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund.

Your pledge makes a difference! Join together with community members all over Jacksonville who are working together to move public education forward.

Name (please print): _____

E-mail address: _____

Phone: _____ ZIP: _____

TAKE THE PLEDGE ONLINE! VISIT WWW.JAXPEF.ORG TO GET STARTED.

ONE x ONE

MOVING PUBLIC EDUCATION FORWARD

About the Jacksonville Public Education Fund

The Jacksonville Public Education Fund is an independent nonprofit organization working to inform and mobilize the community to advocate for universally high-quality public schools for all children in Duval County.



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