



**GARY
COMMUNITY
INVESTMENTS**

Working together
for Colorado's children



YOUTH SUCCESS



Low-income children graduate high school job or career ready, and are prepared to become successful members of their communities.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

Low-income youth graduate high school post-secondary ready.

Low-income youth are prepared for a job or career.

Physical, mental and oral health outcomes for low-income children and youth are improved.

Low-income children and youth live in safe, stable and supportive families and communities.

RATIONALE

After children enter the public school system, they still need the continued support and nurturing of their families and communities to achieve success. Parent and caregiver engagement, school-community partnerships and strong systems that support healthy development continue to be vital components for youth success.

Graduation from high school offers a lifetime of greater economic opportunities, higher employment rates, and consistently higher incomes on average. Along with quality academic support and equity in the education system, an emphasis on the whole child is important for high school completion and post-secondary and career readiness. In addition, child and youth social, emotional and physical wellness, as well as the development of 21st century skills, are essential factors for life success.



AREAS OF FOCUS

To make progress toward our long-term Youth Success outcomes, we are focused on achieving the following short-term goals.

Supported and Supportive Families: Parents and caregivers are supported and have the knowledge and skills to promote their children's healthy development and later success in school. Supporting young children's development requires a two-generation strategy to support parents and other relatives caring for children.

Supporting Social Emotional Wellness of Young Children: Young children in metro Denver enter kindergarten socially and emotionally prepared and continue to be supported for success.

Literacy Success in the Early Grades: Children enter school with optimal language development and ready to read, and are grade-level proficient in reading through at least fourth grade.



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Our current work within the Youth Success areas of focus include the following strategies and activities:

STRATEGIES

Supported and Supportive Families

Strategies include investing in efforts that increase parents' knowledge of child development, improve parenting skills and facilitate the development of positive relationships, and promote resilience among families with young children. We believe providing supports for families will require a coordinated, multi-faceted approach that may include public awareness, home visiting and other services.

Supporting Social Emotional Wellness of Young Children

Strategies include growing the professional pipeline for a workforce in early childhood mental health and increasing training and

development of those working directly with children; increasing integrated behavioral health into primary care and utilization of a medical home for comprehensive care; and broadening access to mental health consultation, especially in early childhood settings.

Literacy Success in the Early Grades

Strategies include increasing language development and early literacy, along with literacy success in the early grades, by engaging and informing parents and caregivers, encouraging community-school partnerships and evidence-based programs, and implementing practices to increase reading proficiency in the early grades.

FEATURED INVESTEEES

The following are two organizations we have invested in as part of our Youth Success strategy. For a list of more recent investments, visit www.garycommunity.org/investments.



Aurora Public Schools: Working in partnership with community providers, teachers and school leaders to support students' needs.



Children's Literacy Initiative: Transforming literacy instruction in pre-K through third grade.

SCHOOL READINESS • YOUTH SUCCESS • FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY • COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

