

A Path to **SUCCESS**



WHEELER

From the beginning, Project Impact has been defined by collaboration and partnerships. Together, we can enable Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools to implement innovative programs proven successful in similar school districts, to address critical student achievement gaps, and to improve third-grade proficiency in reading and math.

Today, over 40% of all third-grade students in our school system read below grade level. The greatest gaps are among children of poverty. Many students entering our schools also face a second barrier—limited English proficiency.



JONES

In addition to significant literacy gaps among the students within the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, there remains a sizable gap in our district in comparison to other urban North Carolina school districts. Taken together, these are obstacles to our community's children reaching their potential—and these gaps are likely to widen if not addressed.

In Project Impact, we have a unique opportunity to face these challenges head-on. Through the additional operating funds Project Impact injects into Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, we can expand resources for early intervention among at-risk groups. Despite the ever-growing demands on our schools, we can accelerate progress and place disadvantaged children on a path to success. Education is necessary to break the cycle of poverty, and is key to local economic development.

In response to these challenges, the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system has set three ambitious goals:

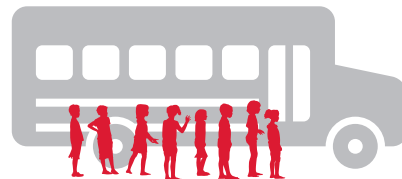
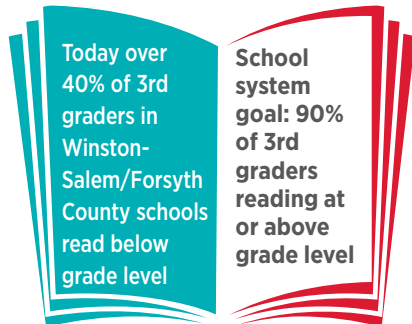
- By 2020, 90 percent of third-grade students will read at or above grade level.
- By 2018, our graduation rate will be 90 percent.
- By 2018, we will close the achievement gap between subgroups by 10 percentage points while increasing the performance of all subgroups.

By working in tandem with other local initiatives, we can help our community's children reach their full potential in school and in life.

In Project Impact's first year, we've reached over 2,600 of the district's highest-need students. Thanks to the support and generosity of Project Impact's many partners, we will touch thousands more over the next five years.

Janet Wheeler
Chair, Project Impact
Advisory Board

Dana Caudill Jones
Chair, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County
Schools Board of Education



Poverty is an obstacle to education.
Over half of our public school students qualify for free or reduced lunch.