



## **Evansville Promise Neighborhood: Year 2 Success Highlights**

The Evansville Promise Neighborhood (EPN) has demonstrated strong progress in its second year, showing measurable improvements that have garnered national recognition for efforts in workforce development, economic growth, educational outcomes, and community engagement.

### **Educational Outcomes**

- Kindergarten readiness rose sharply with 71% of incoming students meeting or exceeding benchmarks, up from 58% the prior year. Students who attended EPN's K-Camp outperformed peers by sixteen (16) percentage points on reading assessments.
- Chronic absenteeism decreased across all focus schools, with some improving by up to 17%. Middle school attendance improved to 92%, surpassing the prior year.
- Out-of-school programs engaged 294 regular participants, with 87% maintaining or improving reading performance and 85% maintaining or improving math performance.
- Updated National Student Clearinghouse data shows an increase in college enrollment from EPN census tracts, with 47% of Bosse High School graduates entering 2- or 4-year post-secondary institutions.
- Early education access expanded by enrolling 267 students in high-quality early learning programs, 527 children receiving monthly literacy resources, and 342 families working with case managers to support school readiness.

### **Workforce Development & Economic Growth**

- A new \$2 million partnership with Toyota's Driving Possibilities initiative expanded STEM opportunities for students and teachers, strengthening the regional workforce pipeline.
- The Goodwill Excel Center opened in Evansville, IN, providing adults with accelerated pathways to earn high school diplomas and industry-recognized credentials with 30% of enrollment from the EPN census tracts.
- To address a local skills gap, EPN launched nine (9) college and career readiness initiatives, including Youth Career Exploration, employability programs, and the UE Explorers program.

### **Community Partnerships & Recognition**

- Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC), EPN's anchor partner, strengthened family and community engagement through the Kindergarten Blitz, completing 184 home visits and providing welcome kits—prompting one EPN principal to remark that it was the most prepared they had ever felt for the start of school.
- EPN was asked by U.S. Department of Education to train seven (7) new Promise Neighborhood planning grants.
- Promise Neighborhoods in Alaska, Missouri, and California asked EPN to serve as a mentor and provide follow-up training for their existing Promise Neighborhoods.
- EPN is the only Promise Neighborhood to create a Sustainability Council in the first year of the grant. The Sustainability Council consists of the sixteen (16) of the most influential Southwest Indiana business leaders committed to EPN sustainability and continuity of work.
- Federal evaluators at Westat and the Urban Institute praised EPN's "hard work and dedication," noting significant progress across multiple indicators.