

An illustration of a school building with a red roof and a central entrance. In the background, a blue roller coaster is visible against a blue sky with white clouds. A large green tree is on the left side. A chain-link fence runs across the middle ground, separating the school from a green lawn in the foreground.

Critical Connections: Bridging the Gap between School and Community

Reframing Community Involvement in the
Poughkeepsie City School District

Presented by: Dr. Eric Jay Rosser, Superintendent of Schools



Poughkeepsie City School District Background

7 Schools

850 Staff

4154 Students

73% Economically Disadvantaged

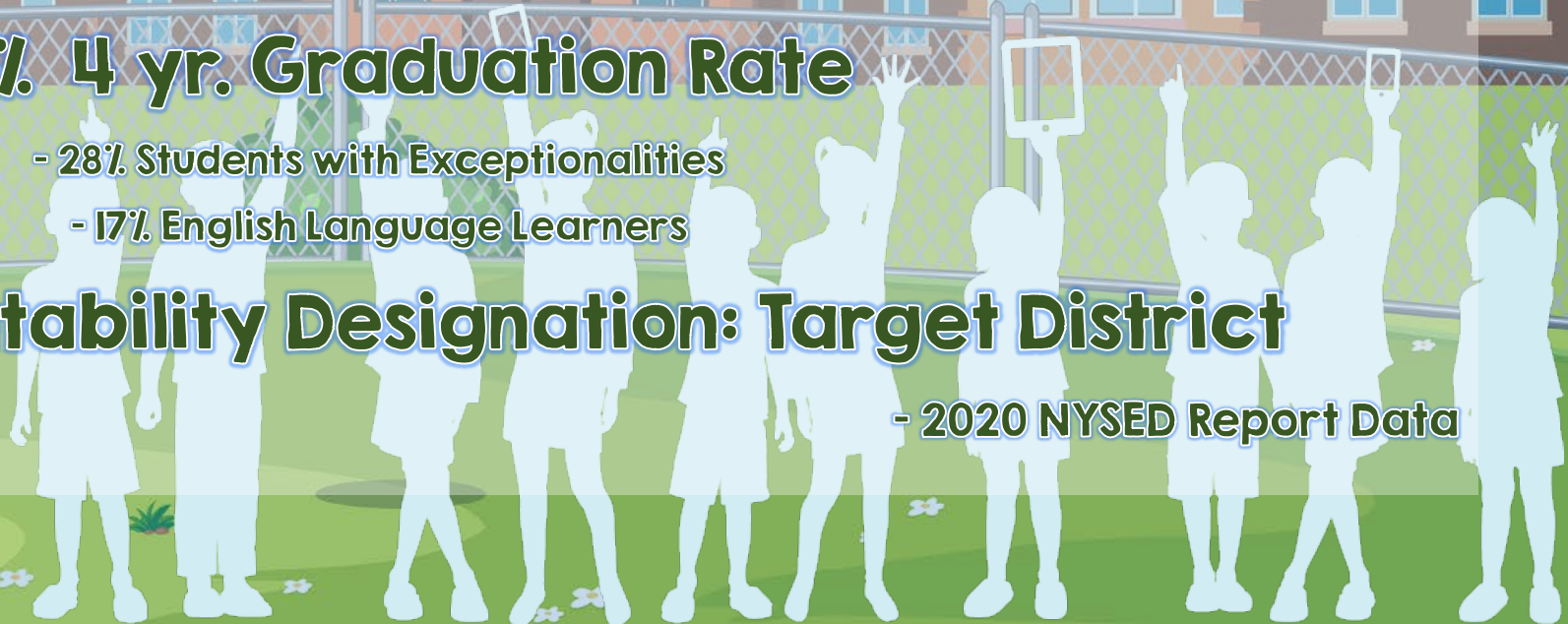
60% 4 yr. Graduation Rate

- 28% Students with Exceptionalities

- 17% English Language Learners

NYSED Accountability Designation: Target District

- 2020 NYSED Report Data



Understanding Today's Students Helps to Contextualize the need for Cross-Sector Collaboration

- Students with Attendance issues (At-Risk, Chronic, Severe)
- Disconnected students with engagement issues (in school but not engaged academically)
- ELL students (New Americans) displaying adjustment issues
- Students who have been traumatized (i.e. victims of bullying, violence, domestic abuse, child abuse, sexual abuse, war, refugee camps, etc.)
- Students experiencing mental illness/drug and alcohol dependency
- Students who present behavioral issues that may result in suspension
- Students with medical, cognitive and/or behavior issues that may hinder academic success (Medically ill, 504 students, lead paint poisoning, etc.)
- Students experiencing homelessness
- Students who are pregnant and/or parenting
- Students with Disabilities (SWD) whose disability significantly impedes their success in school
- Students experiencing the combined consequences of abject poverty (homelessness, foster care, public assistance, over-aged and under-credited for their grade level, and/or combinations from list above)

WHY Cross-Sector Collaboration Matters

- ❑ Parent, family, and community involvement in education correlates with higher academic performance and school improvement.
- ❑ When schools, parents, families, and communities work together to support learning, students tend to earn higher grades, attend school more regularly, stay in school longer, and enroll in higher level programs.
- ❑ Researchers cite parent, family and community involvement as a key to addressing the school dropout crisis and note that strong school-family-community partnerships foster higher educational aspirations and more motivated students.
- ❑ Research shows parent involvement affects minority students' academic achievement across all races. The evidence holds true for students at both the elementary and secondary level, regardless of the parent's education, family income, or background.
- ❑ Supporting teaching and learning requires addressing students' social service needs, as well as their academic ones, and this broad-based support is essential to closing achievement gaps. There is a positive impact of connecting community resources with student needs. In fact, community support of the educational process is considered one of the characteristics common to high-performing schools.

Poughkeepsie City School District Student Success Framework



Critical Stakeholders

- Board of Education
- Parents/Parent Groups
- Teachers/Principals/Staff
- Mayor's Office
- Common Council
- Strategic Partners (local and national)
- Business Community
- Foundations and Philanthropy
- Higher Education
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Health Care Organizations
- Community-Based Organizations
- Law Enforcement
- The Local Judiciary
- NYS Education Department
- Mid-Hudson Legislative Delegation





**Poughkeepsie
Children's
Cabinet
Core Values**

Ensure Children
and Youth Come
First

Catalyze
Systems of
Opportunity
for All In and
Out-of -
School

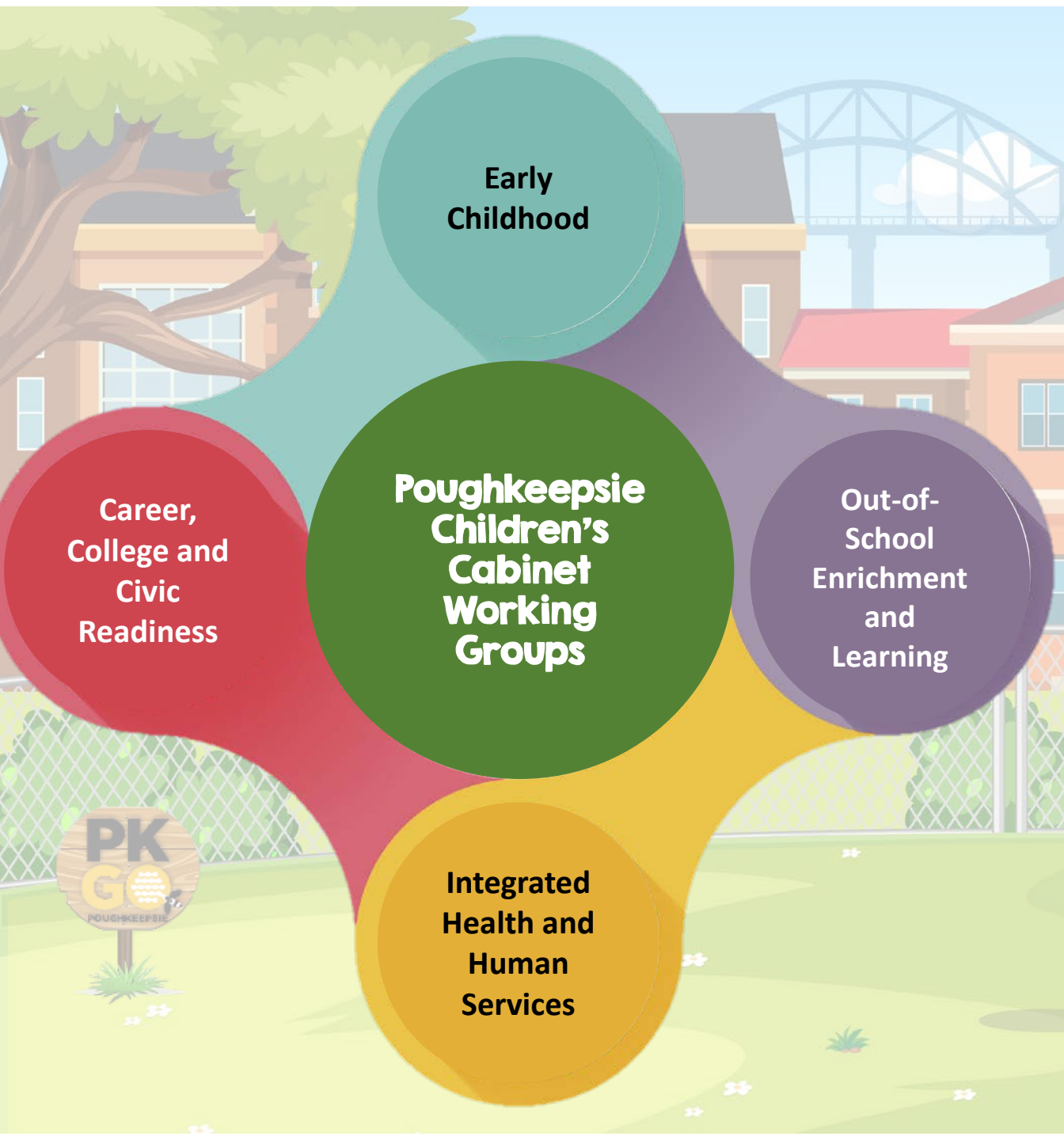
Cultivate
Sustainable
Leadership

Scale Impact
through
Citywide
Coordination
and
Alignment

Embrace
Equity, Joy
and Justice

Selected Children's Cabinet Accomplishments

- Increased school and community collaboration and public support of PCSD's direction and leadership.
- Access to effective practices being implemented across the country (By All Means Communities of Practice and Children's Cabinet network participation)
- COVID-19 Rapid Response Efforts
 - Cabinet Executive Committee Members donate \$60,000 + for initial purchase of student learning devices
 - Hotspot donations (Poughkeepsie Public Library District)
 - Distressed Community Wifi Access Project (Nubian Directions II)
- Approx. \$170,000 in funding from local philanthropic and businesses to support the infrastructure and administrative costs of the Cabinet.
- \$25,000 grant to fund a fiscal map of child and youth services spending.



Selected Children's Cabinet Accomplishments

- Cabinet Working Groups data to inform planning and direction
 - Early Childhood
 - Out-of-School Enrichment
- \$15, 000 from Forum for Youth Investment to support youth engagement work.
- Inter-municipal Agreements with City of Poughkeepsie
 - Bilingual family engagement shared position
 - Implementation of a city-wide Positive Youth Development Strategy (PCSD to spend up to \$200,000 to support implementation)
- City Connects Initiative with Dutchess County Youth services
- Developed proposal to create a Division of Youth Services in the City of Poughkeepsie government.
- Cradle-to-Career Community Dashboard in development.
- Lead for Poughkeepsie Fellows Program launched.

Additional Information can be found be accessing links below:

www.Pkchildrenscabinet.com

[Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet Year in Review](#)