

# WE ARE ONE



Coming Together to Build  
One City Schools





# A new home for growth







Dear Friends,

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\*One City Parent

Now more than ever, we need your support and partnership! In October 2021, we will launch the We Are One capital campaign to establish a world-class K-12 education campus in South Madison/Monona that will enroll children residing in Wisconsin. The Pleasant T. Rowland Leadership Campus will include a fully renovated 157,000 square-foot school facility, outdoor playgrounds and recreational space and a new 165,000 square-foot athletic center that will be open to community use beyond school hours. Because of its location, the campus will primarily serve one of Wisconsin's most racially, ethnically and socio-economically diverse communities. It will offer a dynamic and transformational education program that will prepare young people to succeed in core subjects, while also engaging them in early college and career learning opportunities before they graduate from high school.

One City Schools, Inc. was established in 2014 to seed a new model of public education that ensures young children are on track to succeed in a college or career preparatory program from birth through high school graduation. Our schools have been purposely designed to ensure that our young scholars are able to (a) read and compute at grade level and overcome learning difficulties, (b) successfully complete a rigorous and inspiring education program, (c) develop healthy and life-supporting habits of character, and (d) complete significant credits, coursework and field experiences towards earning college degrees, apprenticeships and professional certifications before they graduate from high school.

One City is focused on eliminating achievement and opportunity gaps in education among children at risk of school failure, and helping all of our scholars achieve their full potential. We also want Wisconsin to become the #1 state in the nation for cultivating knowledgeable, skillful, talented and driven young people who are ready to be tomorrow's parents, leaders, teachers and innovators.

By supporting our campaign, you'll contribute to the renovation and construction of our education campus, and help us realize the totality of our vision for children. We need financial contributors, programmatic partners and volunteers to make this vision come to life. To date, we've used our resources to deliver on our promises. With your support, we will provide the facilities and educational program that will produce tomorrow's leaders.

We look forward to speaking with you and thank you for your interest and support.

**We Are One. One City. Onward.**

**Kaleem Caire**  
**Founder & CEO**  
**One City Schools, Inc.**

**Noble Wray**  
**Chair of the Board**  
**One City Schools, Inc.**



# OUR MISSION

To seed a new model of public education that ensures young children are on track to succeed in a college or career preparatory program from birth through high school graduation.

# OUR VISION

One City's 21st Century Equity Vision is focused on two ideals:

(1) Breaking the cycle of longstanding achievement and opportunity gaps that have symbiotically undermined the goals, aspirations and potential of generations of children of color and under-resourced children in Wisconsin and across the United States, and

(2) Creating a new system of public education that effectively prepares all children, from birth through higher education, to tackle today's challenges, solve tomorrow's greatest problems and lead successful, happy and enriching lives as adults and parents in a rapidly changing and globally competitive economy.

## OUR CORE VALUES

### Academic Excellence

We emphasize helping our scholars develop the knowledge, skills, character traits and behaviors they will need to cultivate new ideas, solve problems, earn opportunities, build and maintain relationships and persist through life's challenges.

### Inspired Learning

Our focus is not on rote instruction, but rather on the quality, consistency and vibrancy of our scholars' learning experiences and their ability to perform tasks and apply what they learn.

### Great Teaching

It is imperative that children are taught by patient, talented and loving adults who possess the capacity and commitment to provide appropriate levels of structure, discipline, guided learning and safety and security.

### Engaged Families & Partners

We educate, engage and partner with our parents through our curricula, extended learning strategies, family programs and volunteer activities in our schools. We also connect our families to valuable community resources.

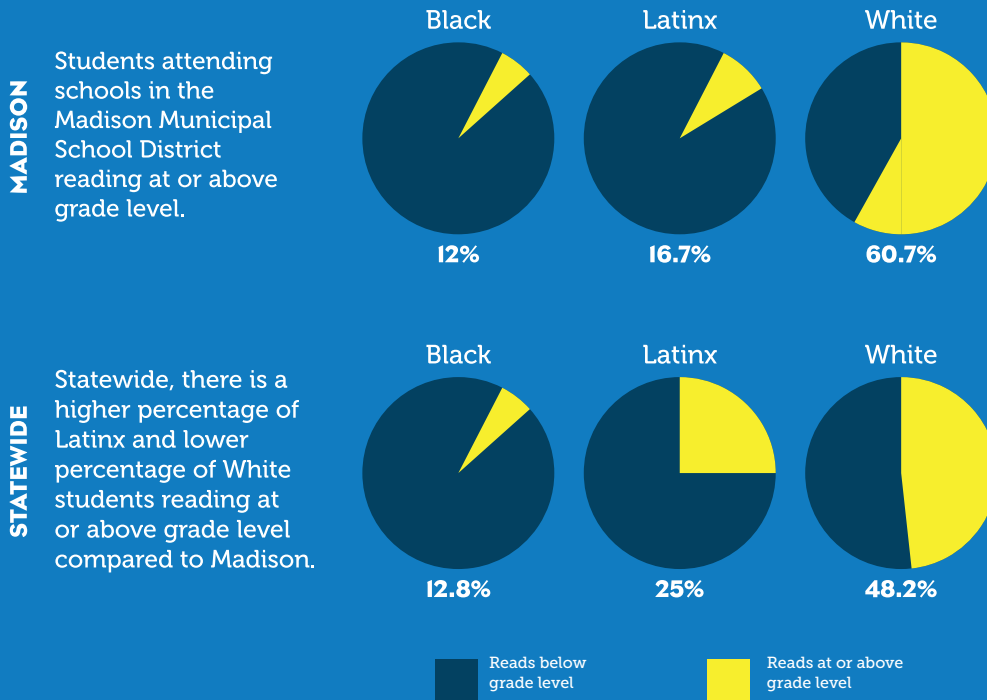


# THE CHALLENGE

High-quality educational experiences are critical for lifelong success. Unfortunately, there are multiple barriers to providing children with the opportunities they need throughout their development.

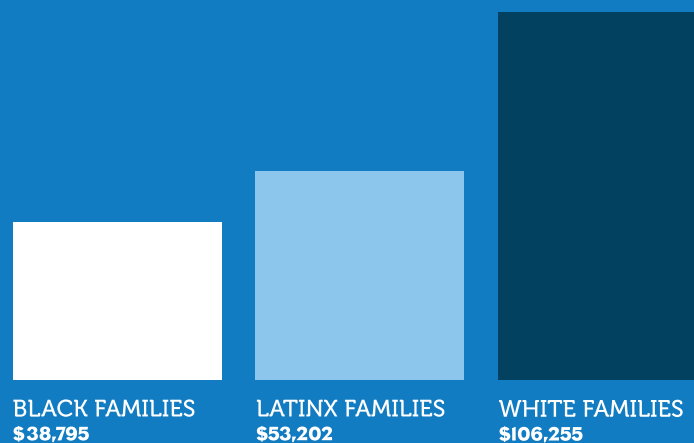


## % of Students Reading at or Above Reading Level



**In local public elementary schools, only 12% of Black and 16.7% of Latinx students read at grade level**

## Median Family Income in Dane County in 2019



**In Dane County, 58% of Black families and 55% of Latinx families live in poverty**

# THE APPROACH



## **OCPA - Grades 10-12**

Immerse students in college or career pathways, building competency and introducing opportunities to lead and deliver within career pathway



## **OCPA - Grades 8-9**

Increase depth of learning, including job shadowing and internship experiences



## **OCPA - Grades 6-7**

Begin exploration of careers and extend project-based learning



## **OCES - Grades 4K-5**

Build foundational skills and introduce project-based expeditionary learning



## **OC Preschool - Age 2-4**

Establish learning patterns that lead to success in grade school and beyond



# OUR STRATEGIES

One City's 1707 W. Broadway school facility will be highly conducive and adaptable to learning in different programs and contexts. It will offer flexible classrooms, state of the art technology and multi-use spaces tailored to inspire learning and help our scholars thrive.

## UNIQUE FEATURES OF OUR SCHOOLS

### 1. Year-Round School with Longer School Days

One City operates the only public school in Wisconsin with a longer school day and year. Our scholars attend school for 219 days versus 180 days in traditional public schools, and for 8.5 hours versus 6.5 hours per day. Our scholars' educational progress and outcomes show that this works.

### 2. Additional Instructional Support and Robust Student Support Services

One City provides two teachers in every classroom from preschool through second grade. We bulkload support in the early grades, and for scholars who are at risk of falling behind academically, so our students acquire critical early literacy, reading and social-emotional skills.

### 3. Project-Based Learning Elementary Program

One City Elementary School is an EL Education affiliate K-5 school that ensures scholars develop foundational knowledge, skills and abilities to solve complex problems, perform complex tasks, produce high quality work and engage in design-thinking, innovation and collaboration.

### 4. Early College and Career Secondary Program

One City Preparatory Academy will open in September 2022 and eventually serve grades 6-12. It will offer our project-based learning program in our upper grades, while immersing students in college credit-earning degree pathways, apprenticeships and professional licensing and certification programs beginning as early as 9th grade.

### 5. Extended Learning Academies

As part of our longer school day program, our scholars engage in extended learning opportunities in STEM, the arts, athletics and other fields that their parents might not be able to afford or access on their own.

### 6. Healthy Meals and Life-Skills Programming

One City employs a school nutrition team that prepares healthy meals daily, onsite, for our scholars and staff. Our secondary school will also ensure our scholars complete driver's education and receive a driver's license, maintain a bank account, develop financial literacy, and enter college or begin a career as self-sufficient members of their communities.

### 7. Grow-Our-Own Teacher Preparation Program

One City hires assistant teachers and student support specialists that are interested in becoming licensed teachers. Those who show promise in teaching are offered the opportunity to have their college tuition costs covered to earn their college degrees and certifications to teach in our schools.

### 8. Program Evaluation, Transparency and Accountability

Researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison have teamed up with One City to conduct a comprehensive longitudinal study of our schools. This study will evaluate the efficacy of our approach, report on our progress and success, identify lessons learned and disseminate research and results that will inform the fields of early childhood and K-12 education in Wisconsin and across the nation.



# PORTRAIT OF A ONE CITY GRADUATE

One City scholars will graduate from our school but always be a part of our community. They will emerge from our program as thinkers, learners, and problem-solvers ready to tackle life's challenges and provide effective leadership in our state and globally.



# ONE CITY GRADUATES ARE



**Transformational  
Leaders & Role  
Models**



**Equipped to  
Tackle Big Issues**



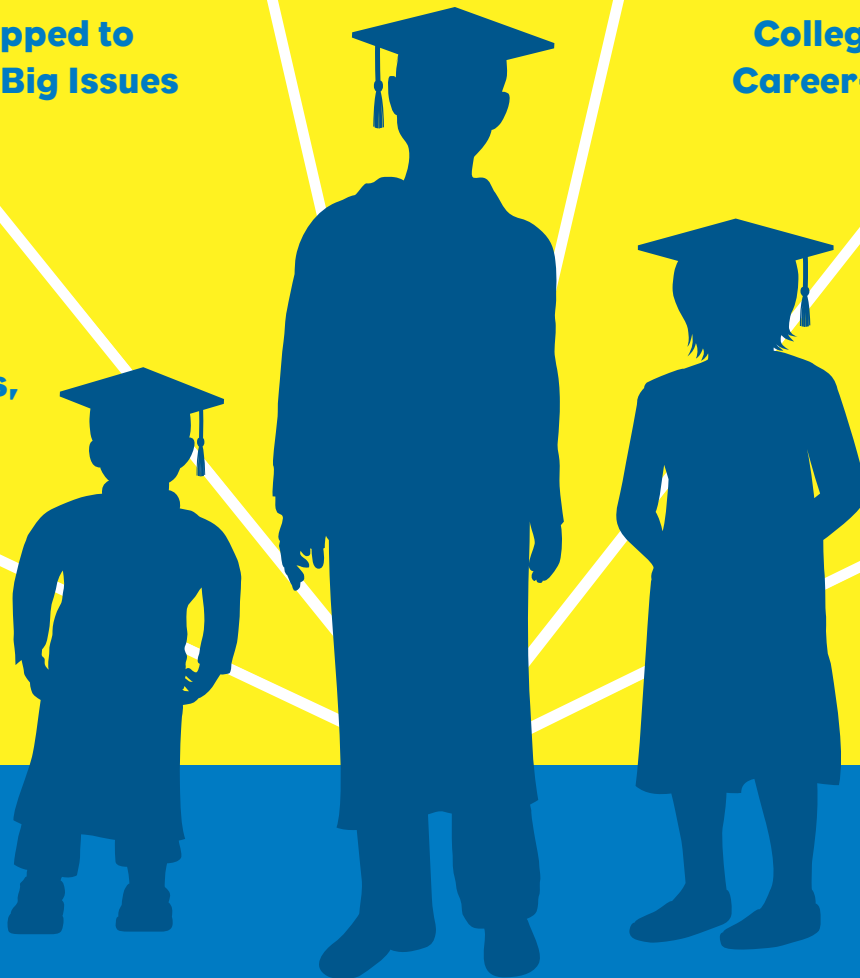
**College and  
Career-Ready**



**Learners, Thinkers,  
Problem Solvers**



**Prepared for  
Success in Life**



Our graduates will be prepared to lead in the local and global community and serve as role models, mentors and problem solvers. They will understand the importance of reflection, perseverance, compassion and risk-taking. One City scholars, to put it simply, will make the world a better place.

# QUALITY FOR ALL

**One City actually caters to how your child sees the world and how they want to see the world. And if they want to learn just a little bit more, or they want to incorporate their learning with their culture, One City allows it.**

*-Danyella Portillo, One City Parent*

**This is what's brilliant about One City Schools. If we can do it outside of the public school structure, then we can import what they're learning about it. So you need to take what One City Schools is and use it as applied research. The public schools should look at this as a resource for them, observing, and figuring out: what can they do differently to change the lives of this child?**

*-Kwame Salter, 1st Black President of Madison Metropolitan School District Board of Education*

**I think One City is an inspiring place. It motivates you to think, "What can I do? What can I do to make our community a better place?"**

*-Grace Trewartha, One City Parent*

**What we really need is more innovation around the country and in Wisconsin, more innovation like One City schools to find different ways to reach kids in different ways. And when we do that, everyone will do better.**

*-Kim Sponem, CEO and President of Summit Credit Union*

**Jailen has had a wonderful experience with One City. He felt welcomed when he walked in the door. He had great teachers from the beginning.**

*-Erica McNeil, One City Parent*





**Pamela Ferrill**  
**Director of Elementary Teaching  
 and Learning**

Pamela drives educational excellence by leading all teaching and learning activities at One City Elementary School. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary and middle school education, a master's degree in educational leadership and is currently completing her doctorate in educational leadership at Edgewood College.



**Sekani Caire**  
**4K Associate Teacher**

Having worked with One City for nearly five years, Sekani is truly living out his life's purpose to encourage, inspire and entertain the spirit of those around him. Teaching children as young as two and as old as five has taught him many important lessons about the value of early education and the significance of these formative years of development.



**Marilyn Ruffin**  
**VP of Family & Community Initiatives**

Marilyn joined One City in 2017 as the Director of Family & Community Initiatives, where she lead the effort to implement the award-winning Families and Schools Together (FAST) program. She leads admissions, registration and community outreach efforts. Marilyn served two terms as an elected member of the Sun Prairie (WI) Board of Education (2015-2021) the first Black person elected to this position in Sun Prairie's history. She has served as a substitute teacher in both Madison and Sun Prairie after spending 23 years as a degreed electrical engineer.



**Eamon Montgomery**  
**Assistant Teacher**

Eamon is an assistant teacher at One City, and is currently studying for his masters at Concordia University to earn a teaching certificate. He has worked with students as a camp counselor, director, teacher and tutor. Eamon is very excited about the focus on community at One City Schools and the effort to bring the best teaching strategies and techniques to their students.

# WHY NOW

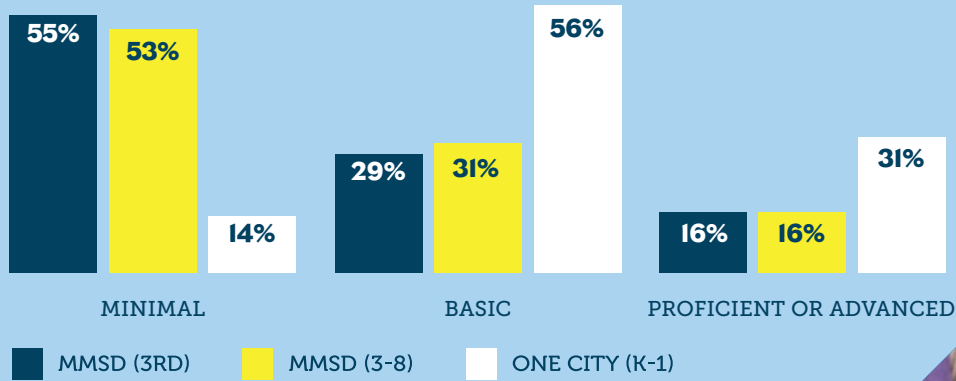
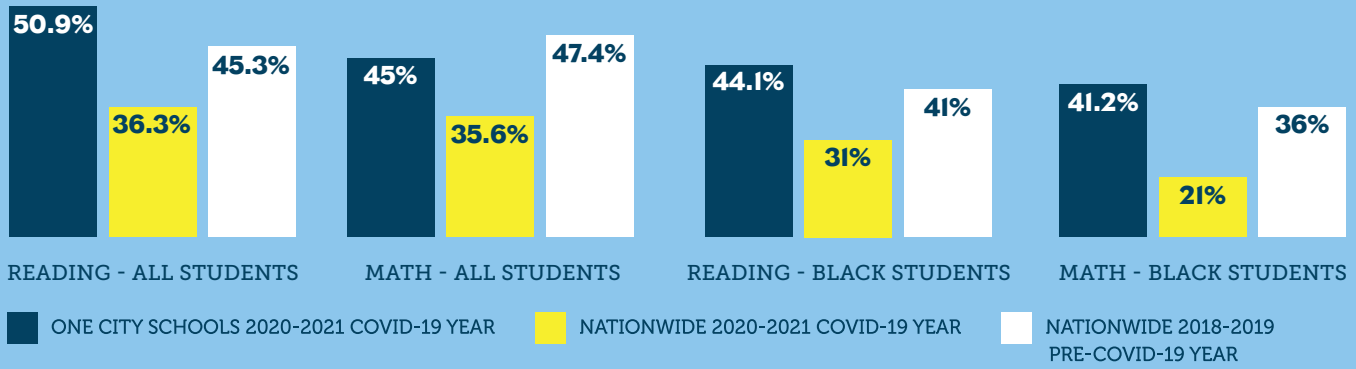
Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, child care and K-12 education were fragile industries. Most working families could not afford the high cost of quality child care. Tremendous teacher shortages, along with low retention rates among educators in early childhood and K-12 education, left schools operating in a state of emergency as they worked to provide high-quality instruction and learning opportunities for their students. Likewise, persistent low rates of school achievement, attainment and opportunity gaps among Black, Latinx and Southeast Asian youth in Dane County continued to define the educational outcomes of our region's most vulnerable young people, and predicted the challenges future generations

would have in benefiting from and contributing to Greater Madison's growing economy.

Furthermore, children across Wisconsin were in need of schools that provide cutting-edge learning experiences that will prepare them to succeed and lead in the future.

Our children need transformational learning environments and experiences right now. With your support, One City scholars will become the teachers, healthcare specialists, scientists, engineers, carpenters, plumbers, mechanics, inventors, policy makers, parents and community leaders we need to keep America and the world moving forward.

**One City Schools exceeded the nationwide 2020-2021 COVID-19 benchmarks based on percentage of scholars who met individual growth targets. Black scholars exceeded 2020-2021 COVID-19 benchmarks, and pre-COVID-19 benchmarks.**



**One City's Black kindergartners and first graders are more likely to have an increased reading proficiency score than their Black peers attending Madison Public Schools.**







# WHY US

In the midst of a global pandemic, One City's students exceeded 'pre-COVID' growth rates in reading among their peers nationally. We also relocated and opened our elementary school in three days (August 2020); stayed open the entire 2020-21 school year, provided \$120,000 in lost-income relief to our families; pushed our innovations forward despite the tremendous challenges we experienced; taught in a longer school day and year format; kept our learning community safe and secure with zero COVID transmissions at our schools; and recruited the most diverse staff among K-12 schools in South Central Wisconsin.

Developing great schools is not easy. Developing transformational schools is even harder. However, it can be done.

With your support, we will fulfill our mission. Moreover, we will demonstrate how communities of diverse but like-minded people who care about children can come together and create extraordinary learning environments that enable them to reach their full potential.

Join us. Partner with us. We are grateful for your interest and consideration of support.

**We can't do our work without you. To find out how you can join us, visit: [onecityschools.org/get-involved](https://onecityschools.org/get-involved)**

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**JOIN US**  
[onecityschools.org](http://onecityschools.org)

