



Richland Academy of the Arts
Education Program

ANNUAL REPORT

SY 2024 – 2025

RICHLAND ACADEMY OF THE ARTS (RAA)

is pleased to provide this SY 2024-2025 Annual Report summarizing the academic, fiscal, and operational/governance performance, and the legal compliance of our schools to the RAA Board of Trustees, school Governing Authority members, and parents of our schools.

WHO WE ARE...

Richland Academy of the Arts was established 34 years ago as a non-profit serving Richland and surrounding counties. RAA provides quality programming in the arts - offering programs in dance, music, theatre, visual arts, and martial arts.

RAA was authorized as a Charter School Sponsor in 2006, a natural extension of its educational focus. It embraces its mission to provide oversight, monitoring, technical assistance, resources and leadership to its sponsored schools.

MISSION

Our mission is to provide oversight, mentorship, monitoring, technical assistance, resources and leadership needed and wanted to our sponsored schools so the schools can provide their students with superior academic opportunities, while maintaining sound financial viability, without violating their autonomy.

VISION

Our Community Schools Program is committed to excellent instruction, character development, and artistic culture in all that we do. Our staff is committed to excellent service and oversight and creating a friendly educational experience. We strive to provide a positive, and professional environment in all of our sponsored schools.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brian Hamilton, President
Joann Hipsher, Vice President
Jim Henry, Treasurer
Jason Metzger, Secretary
Don Hoover, Immediate Past President
Dr. Julie Chaya
Leah Gesouras

Edwin Gutchall
Scott Heimann
Tim Hilterman
Jessica Hiser
Kimberly Miller
Ashley Pifer
Michael Thomas

STAFF

Dr. Michael Benson, Executive Director
Sheri Hughes, Director, Community Schools Program
Pam Madore, Business Office & Community Schools Program
Dr. India Ford, Curriculum & Instruction
Dr. Pam Schreiner, Special Education
Catherine West, Communications
Ann Dettmer, Support Staff

HIGHLIGHTS

- **ACHIEVEMENT COMPONENT:** the measure of how well students performed on state tests **INCREASED** in all RAA schools (excludes 1st year school, Columbus Bilingual West)
- 5 of the 7 schools (excludes CBW) outperformed the local school district
- 4 of the 7 schools improved their Chronic Absenteeism
- 3 of the 7 schools obtained 2 Stars on the Early Literacy Component
- All RAA schools have a higher percentage of economically disadvantaged students than the state average

OUR SCHOOLS & ENROLLMENT

- 8 Schools in the following locations in Ohio:



- 2,005 total enrolled students which is a 5.3% increase from the prior year

SCHOOL PROFILES

Bridges Preparatory Academy

75 S. Sandusky St., Tiffin, Ohio

Sponsored by RAA since SY 2023-2024, founded in 2003

Grades Served: K-8

Enrollment: 108

Student Demographics:

- 83.8% - White
- 16.2% - Other
- 21.1% - Students w/ Disabilities
- 100% - Economically Disadvantaged
- 88.9% - Attendance Rate

Report Card Results (5 star component ratings)

| Achievement | Progress | Gap Closing | Early Literacy | Overall |
|-------------|----------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| 2 Stars | 3 Stars | 3 Stars | 1 Star | 2.5 Stars |

Case Preparatory Academy

107 S. Arlington St., Akron, Ohio

Sponsored by RAA since SY 2020-2021

Grades Served: K-8

Enrollment: 302

Student Demographics:

- 86.3% - Black
- 7.3% - Multi-Racial
- 4.9% - White
- 1.5% - Other
- 13.9% - Students w/ Disabilities
- 100% - Economically Disadvantaged
- 81.6% - Attendance Rate

Report Card Results (5 star component ratings)

| Achievement | Progress | Gap Closing | Early Literacy | Overall |
|-------------|----------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| 1 Star | 3 Stars | 1 Star | 2 Stars | 2.5 Stars |

Cesar Chavez College Preparatory School

2400 Mock Rd., Columbus, Ohio
Sponsored by RAA since SY 2008-2009

Grades Served: K-8

Enrollment: 402

Student Demographics:

- 89% - Black
- 0% - Multi-Racial
- 0% - White
- 10% - Hispanic
- 6% - Students w/ Disabilities
- 100% - Economically Disadvantaged
- 72% - English Language Learners
- Goal Met - Chronic Absenteeism

Report Card Results (5 star component ratings)

| Achievement | Progress | Gap Closing | Early Literacy | Overall |
|-------------|----------|-------------|----------------|---------|
| 3 Stars | 5 Stars | 5 Stars | 1 Star | 4 Stars |

Columbus Bilingual Academy - North

2100 Morris Rd., Columbus, Ohio
Sponsored by RAA since SY 2010-2011

Grades Served: K-8

Enrollment: 519

Student Demographics:

- 91.5% - Hispanic
- 6.3% - Black
- 2.0% - Other
- 9.7% - Students w/ Disabilities
- 100% - Economically Disadvantaged
- 90.2% - Attendance Rate

Report Card Results (5 star component ratings)

| Achievement | Progress | Gap Closing | Early Literacy | Overall |
|-------------|----------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| 2 Stars | 5 Stars | 3 Stars | 2 Stars | 3.5 Stars |

Columbus Bilingual West

680 Harrisburg Pike, Columbus, Ohio
Sponsored by RAA since SY 2024-2025, 1st Year School

Grades Served: K-6

Enrollment: 63

Student Demographics:

- 96.4% - Hispanic
- 3.6% - Other
- NC - Students w/ Disabilities
- 76.5% - Economically Disadvantaged
- 41% - English Language Learner
- 81.3% - Attendance Rate

Report Card Results (5 star component ratings)

| Achievement | Progress | Gap Closing | Early Literacy | Overall |
|-------------|----------|-------------|----------------|---------|
| NC | NC | 1 Star | NC | 1 Star |

Lorain Bilingual Preparatory Academy

307 W. 7th St., Lorain, Ohio

Sponsored by RAA since SY 2018-2019

Grades Served: K-8

Enrollment: 251

Student Demographics:

- 67.4% - Hispanic
- 22.4% - Black
- 5.1% - Multi-Racial
- 5.1% - Other
- 8.1% - Students w/ Disabilities
- 100% - Economically Disadvantaged
- 88.5% - Attendance Rate

Report Card Results (5 star component ratings)

| Achievement | Progress | Gap Closing | Early Literacy | Overall |
|-------------|----------|-------------|----------------|---------|
| 2 Stars | 4 Stars | 4 Stars | 1 Star | 3 Stars |

Northside Preparatory Academy

4750 Winton Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio

Sponsored by RAA since SY 2020-2021

Grades Served: K-8

Enrollment: 257

Student Demographics:

- 90.5% - Black
- 5.2% - Multi-Racial
- 4.3% - Other
- 9.2% - Students w/ Disabilities
- 100% - Economically Disadvantaged
- 74.3% - Attendance Rate

Report Card Results (5 star component ratings)

| Achievement | Progress | Gap Closing | Early Literacy | Overall |
|-------------|----------|-------------|----------------|---------|
| 2 Stars | 4 Stars | 2 Stars | 1 Star | 3 Stars |

Springfield Sports Academy

501 S. Wittenburg Ave., Springfield, Ohio

Sponsored by RAA since SY 2023-2024

Grades Served: K-6

Enrollment: 105

Student Demographics:

- 69.1% - Black
- 19.2% - White
- 11.7% - Other
- 17.2% - Students w/ Disabilities
- 98.7% - Economically Disadvantaged
- 78.3% - Attendance Rate

Report Card Results (5 star component ratings)

| Achievement | Progress | Gap Closing | Early Literacy | Overall |
|-------------|----------|-------------|----------------|---------|
| 2 Stars | 3 Stars | 4 Stars | 1 Star | 3 Stars |

ASSESSMENT OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Annually, RAA evaluates, summarizes, and provides each school with a report on the performance and compliance for the school year. The areas are as follows: academics, fiscal, operational/organizational, and legal compliance. Each area is assigned a rating from the highest, "EXCEEDS", to "MEETS", "DID NOT MEET", "FALLS FAR BELOW", and if applicable, NOT RATED. Performance expectations are outlined in contracts between the sponsor and school.

Academics is an important component of RAA's overall assessment of school performance. In addition to all Ohio report card ratings, RAA considers school performance as compared to the districts in which they are located, similar schools within the community, and other relevant metrics outlined in charter contracts.

RAA requires schools to administer nationally normed assessments and only use ODEW approved curriculum (found on the Dept website). Assessment data is required to be provided to RAA three times per year; fall, winter, and spring. RAA staff review and discuss the data with school leadership, and it is used for progress monitoring and intervention planning.

Fiscal evaluation of schools is based on board approved financial reports, monthly financial reviews conducted by RAA and information from outside sources including the Ohio Auditor of State and Ohio Dept of Education and Workforce. Metrics considered include cash flow, rate of assets to liabilities, enrollment variance, days cash, ratio of assets to liabilities, and three-year and total margin.

Organization and operational performance is based on a number of metrics including: maintaining the required number of board members, conducting the required number of board meetings, maintaining sufficient board meeting minutes, complying with open meeting laws, fulfilling all training requirements, and compliance with the board's Code of Regulations.

Legal compliance with all statutory requirements and terms of the contract between boards and RAA is also an important component of overall assessment of school performance, component "meets" or " does not meet".

| | Bridges Preparatory | Case Preparatory | Cesar Chavez | Columbus Bilingual North | Columbus Bilingual West | Lorain Bilingual | Northside Preparatory | Springfield Sports |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Academics | Does not meet | Does not meet | Exceeds | Exceeds | NC | Meets | Meets | Meets |
| Fiscal | Meets | Meets | Meets | Exceeds | NC | Meets | Meets | Does not meet |
| Organization Operations | Exceeds | Exceeds | Exceeds | Exceeds | Exceeds | Exceeds | Exceeds | Exceeds |
| Legal Compliance | Meets | Meets | Meets | Meets | Meets | Meets | Meets | Meets |