



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.

## 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

## 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.

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