

2020: no one saw it coming, but the impacts have been a long time coming. The flaws in our systems that have come to light didn't just happen out of nowhere; they were amplified when our community was in a time of intense need and crisis. This coalition has been dedicated to eliminating educational disparities through collective impact. Now, more than ever, we must re-commit to changing the drivers and determinants of the disparate outcomes we see in our community.

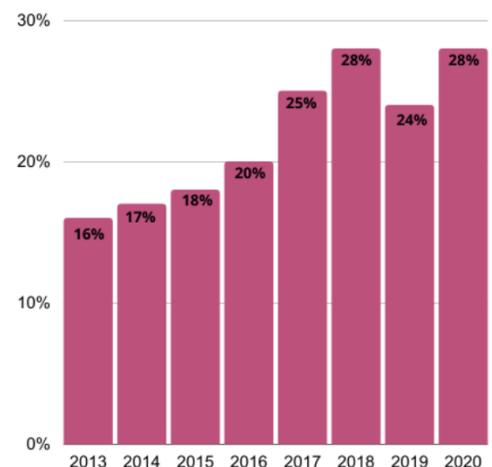
Priority Area Accomplishments

Early Childhood Quality & Access

Even in the midst of crises of health, education, and racial injustice, screening partners continued to come together to eliminate disparities in early readiness. Through the Generation Next-convened, Greater Twin Cities United Way-funded screening collaborative, they tracked data, lifted up best practices, identified shared challenges, and committed to solutions. Their commitment to quality improvement delivered results with innovative approaches that were both planned - increasing vision screening through new technology - and unplanned - quickly adapting to distanced outreach and virtual approaches to screening and supporting families through the shutdowns of 2020. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, both Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) and Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) had increased their vision screening as well as their total monthly screening rates for African American and American Indian children in both the 0-3 and 3-5 year old groups.

We saw the impact of continuing collaboration in the percentage of entering Kindergartners who had been screened at age 3. In both MPS and SPPS, this indicator of readiness continued to rise through 2019-20. This number will undoubtedly go down due to COVID.

Entering Kindergartners Screened by Age 3 - MPS & SPPS



Source: Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)



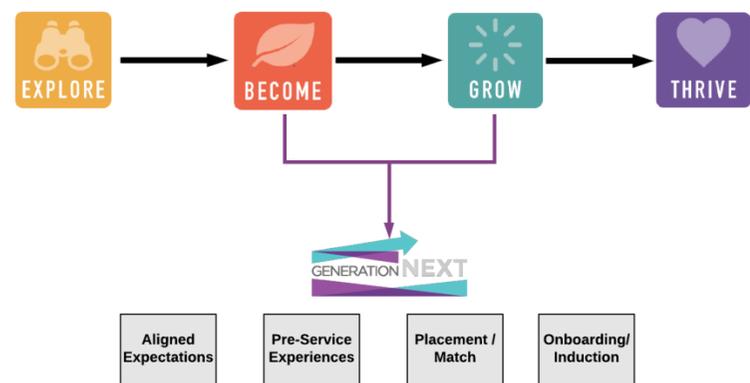
WHAT'S NEXT?

We are committed to supporting our communities to get back to this promising trend. Through our systems data hub partnership with Minnesota Compass, our Coalition's partners are exploring the race and place-linked contributing factors of early childhood education to address root causes of readiness disparities.

Teacher Diversity & Teaching Diverse Learners

Amidst a racial reckoning sparked by the killing of George Floyd, our work in this priority area has come into even sharper focus as we work collectively to rebuild the field of education in a more equitable and responsive manner. At the 2020 Generation Next Annual Event, we invited our broader network to contribute to the key findings from the Teacher Diversity Network (TDN), which we convened with the Minnesota Education Equity Partnership (MnEEP). Building on the recommendations of the TDN, Generation Next and MnEEP formed the Teacher Diversity Leadership Group (TDLG). Leaders of MPS and SPPS Human Resources, and leaders of teacher preparation programs, met on a regular basis to address specific challenges of their systems in the transition from "Become" to "Grow," based on MnEEP's ImprintU Teacher Journey Framework. This transition space is where Generation Next can make a unique impact because most of these leaders are already in our coalition.

The TDLG identified gaps in the "Become" to "Grow" transition and recommended ways to collectively address these gaps as a network. The group worked to align expectations across systems (K-12 and Teacher Preparation Programs/Higher Education), including sharing data and promising practices with one another.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Generation Next will build on the efforts of the TDLG to prioritize and strategize ways to address systems change that will strengthen how BIPOC teacher candidates transition into teaching in MPS or SPPS.

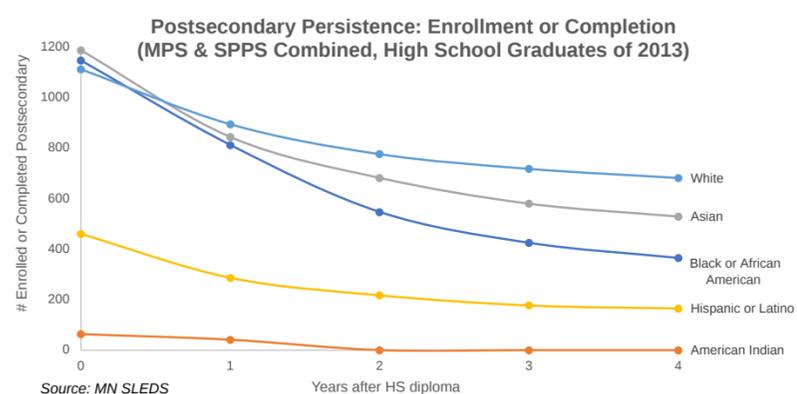
Postsecondary Preparation & Persistence

Postsecondary data shows disparities in persistence for Black, Latinx and low-income students. To meet this challenge, Generation Next was invited to StriveTogether's national Postsecondary Transitions Action Community (PTAC), to take action on shared priorities identified by numerous communities. Brought together by Generation Next, leaders from Saint Paul College, Minneapolis College, Youthprise, and the Minnesota Office of Higher Education committed time and expertise toward the adaptive and technical challenges of postsecondary persistence. This virtual network afforded us the opportunity to learn from peers in other communities and continuous improvement expertise from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.



WHAT'S NEXT?

A result of the relationship growth through PTAC is Generation Next's comprehensive data request to the Minnesota Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS), which will provide more detailed insights on where and when our local community loses students on their postsecondary journey. In addition, Generation Next has launched an effort with partners to hear directly from parents what postsecondary persistence means for both themselves as well as their scholars. Initial conversations surrounded college costs and preparedness, impact of a parent's credit and the importance of focus on academics. In 2021, we look forward to more opportunities to bring voice and lived experience to the attainment data.



Source: MN SLEDS

The only cradle-to-career backbone organization addressing systemic disparities in Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Generation Next convenes a coalition of partners to create collective impact to close the opportunity and achievement gaps facing students of color and lower-income students. Generation Next was founded to unify cross-sector leaders around shared goals. To that end, our collective impact approach uses the nationally recognized StriveTogether model, with our partners agreeing on common goals, analyzing data to track progress, and directing resources toward what works best for kids.

We are proud members of:

