

YOUTH MASTER PLAN



2017 FINAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

WILSON COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA



A Message from the Co-Chairs

We are excited to share the incredible work that has been accomplished to enhance the lives of youth in Wilson County. When we began our partnership in 2014 to create a Wilson Youth Master Plan, Wilson 20/20 and Wilson County Schools had no idea the amazing level of support we would receive from the community.

After identifying five major areas of focus - **Education and Workforce, K-12 Academic Achievement, Health and Wellness, Out of School Time and Safety** - we asked educators, parents, community members, nonprofits, businesses, churches, law enforcement and government agencies to come together and help us formulate the Wilson Youth Master Plan. The response was overwhelming as hundreds of stakeholders stepped forward. They were divided into five Impact Teams and given the task of enhancing existing work and identifying areas for new goals and opportunities.

This report summarizes the three-year implementation phase of the Wilson Youth Master Plan and all of the accomplishments that align with the five major areas. In the future, we will continue to work together to build on the foundation set forth in the Plan and to strengthen the partnerships created because of it. Many opportunities are ahead of us as Wilson becomes an even better place for our youth to learn, grow and achieve their dreams. Our work is only just beginning, and we are grateful to all of our stakeholders for joining us on the journey.



Paula Benson
Executive Director
Wilson 20/20 Community Vision



Dr. Lane Mills
Superintendent
Wilson County Schools

We offer a special thank you and tribute to the following community organizations and leaders:

Health and Wellness Team Leaders: Candice Rountree and Mary Mallory, Wilson County Department of Social Services

K-12 Academic Achievement Leader: Susan Bullock, Wilson County Schools

Out of School Time: Numerous Youth Program Leaders in Wilson

Safety Team Leader: Scott Biddle, Wilson Police Department

Transition to Workforce Leader: Wendy Winslow, Merck

Transition to College Leader: David Lyndon, Wilson County Schools



301 Taskforce of Wilson • 3C Store Fixtures • 4-H Youth Development • Anthony Tabb PA • Area LAHEC • Arens-Webb Insurance
Barton College • BB&T • BB&T Insurance Services • Bikers United to Defend Driving Safely (B.U.D.S.) • Block of Hope
Boy Scouts - Eastern Carolina Council • Bridgestone Americas • Bruce Beasley • Bucky Robbins • Carolina Forge • Carolina Radiology
CHEW • Christy Proctor • City of Wilson • City of Wilson, Downtown Development • City of Wilson, Human Relations
City of Wilson, Inspections • City of Wilson, Parks and Recreation • City of Wilson, Planning and Development Services
City of Wilson, Youth Council • Communities In Schools • Cornerstone Bank • Cott Beverage • Dail Turner • Diversified Opportunities
Dr. Scott Via • Eastern Carolina Pediatrics • Eastpointe MCO • Families in Action • Farmington Heights Church • Farris and Farris
First Media Radio • Fresenius Kabi • Gang Task Force • Girl Scouts - NC Coastal Pines • Greenfield School • Greenlight • Hackney Agency
Healthcare Foundation of Wilson • Industrial Management Council (IMC) • Integrity Unlimited Community Development Corporation
Jackson Chapel Baptist Church • JC Harris • Joyner's Funeral Home • Ken Jones • Kenly Savings • Mediation Center of Eastern Carolina
Men's Civic Group • Merck Pharmaceutical Company • Merrill Lynch • NCSU/UCPLC • NC Cooperative Ext Agency • NC Works
Office of G.K. Butterfield • Office of the Wilson County Sheriff • OIC of Wilson • Peace Church Youth • Preservation of Wilson • PRIDE
Rick Hudson • Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club • Sharp Farms • Smart Choices for Youth • Smart Start of Wilson • Southern Bank
St Johns CDC Save A Youth • Stephenson's Millwork • Strengthening Families Children's Group • Success in School Teen Parents
Teresa Pope • The SPOT • Thomas Law • Turning Point Workforce Development • UCPDC Wilson • United Way of Wilson County
Watson Electric • Wells Fargo Bank • Wesley Shelter • White Herring Tractor and Truck • Willie Williams • Wilson 20/20 EWC
Wilson 20/20 Board of Directors • Wilson 20/20 Board of Advisors • Wilson Arts Council • Wilson City Council
Wilson Chamber of Commerce • Wilson Community College • Wilson Community Health Center
Wilson Community Improvement Association • Wilson County Board of Commissioners • Wilson County Cooperative Extension
Wilson County Department of Social Services • Wilson County Emergency Management • Wilson County Government
Wilson County Health Department • Wilson County Public Library • Wilson County Schools
Wilson County Substance Prevention Coalition • Wilson County Youth Athletic Association • Wilson Crisis Center
Wilson Economic Development Council • Wilson Education Partnership Wilson Family YMCA • Wilson Family YMCA Junior Board
Wilson Housing Authority • Wilson Interfaith Services, Inc. (Hope Station) • Wilson Medical Center • Wilson Police Department
Wilson Police Department Safe Routes to School Committee • Wilson Times • Wilson Visitors Center
Woody Harrison • Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

TRANSITION TO COLLEGE

Wilson youth will have expanded access to college through increased support avenues, effective communication channels and funding opportunities.

- Established partnerships between Wilson County Schools (WCS), Barton College and Wilson Community College (WCC) to assist local high school students with the college application process
- Enhanced the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) programs in WCS by recruiting local college students to tutor AVID students; establishing a fall and spring AVID Day at Barton and WCC for AVID students; and recruiting former AVID students currently enrolled in college to share their college transition experiences with local high school students
- Implemented College Application Week for college-bound high school students to learn resume-writing techniques, interview skills and test-taking strategies
- Established financial aid workshops at WCC and Barton College for local college-bound students and parents
- Expanded and enhanced the College Matters event for Wilson high school students and parents to learn more about the college application process
- Established WCC as a local ACT test administration site
- Waived the Barton College registration and application fee for WCS students
- Created a page on all WCS counseling center websites to provide information about financial assistance and scholarships for college



TRANSITION TO WORKFORCE

Wilson youth will be prepared for employment after graduation from high school or completion of a high school equivalency exam.

- Established Wilson Academy of Applied Technology (WAAT) to teach students specific manufacturing skills needed by local employers (Note: Graduates from WAAT will earn a high school diploma and an Associate of Applied Science degree in Applied Engineering Technology from Wilson Community College at no cost.)
- Established Career and Technical Education (CTE) elective options (such as Family and Consumer Science and Agricultural Science) for 7th and 8th grade WCS students
- Implemented Groundhog Day, an opportunity for WCS students to “shadow” an employee and visit related work sites for a day
- Developed and distributed marketing materials to local businesses (through the Chamber of Commerce) to describe the opportunities needed for students to experience work-based learning opportunities; developed materials to share at high school orientations so parents and students would become familiar with work-based learning opportunities; and included all information on appropriate websites
- Increased student participation in work-based learning opportunities from 10 students in 2016 to 34 students in 2017
- Placed Career Development Coordinators in the three WCS traditional high schools
- Identified soft skills needed for the success of high school students and established a partnership between WCS and Barton College to offer appropriate workshops in two high schools

K-12 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



1. Students will be prepared to enroll in rigorous courses.
2. Students will be aware of the importance of being lifelong learners.
3. Students will have social, civic and academic responsibility.

- Developed and shared curriculum frameworks with all teachers based on the NC Standard Course of Study
- Conducted Data Bootcamps with principals to review pertinent school-level data
- Implemented The Gentlemen's Agreement, a mentoring program for minority males in each of the comprehensive high schools to reinforce academic capacity
- Trained school teams in NCStar and aligned all School Improvement Plans with the district improvement plan
- Conducted monthly Professional Development/Professional Learning Communities meetings with principals to analyze student achievement data and to monitor the instructional program at each school
- Implemented a Multi-Tiered System of Support
- Continued to support the implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention Support in all schools
- Created a plan for the district implementation of the Learning Focused® Instructional Framework
- Monitored and analyzed student attendance, tardies and discipline incidents with principals
- Created a plan to address writing skills across the curriculum
- Offered Parent Academies focusing on academic needs of students at home
- Implemented 90-minute reading and math blocks in grades K-5
- Trained and supported principals on creating and implementing Mandatory Improvement Plans for teachers
- Provided support for all beginning teachers through the teacher mentor program including mentors, super mentors and a district beginning teacher coach
- Supported the Aspiring Administrators Program for teachers to build leadership capacity
- Partnered with Barton College to create a cohort for aspiring administrators



HEALTH & WELLNESS



Children and youth will make responsible healthy decisions.

- Expanded the Success in Schools program to serve more teen parents by securing a social worker through NC Division of Public Health grant funding to serve all local middle and high schools (Note: A social worker provides direct services at Beddingfield High School and implemented Partners for a Healthy Baby, which is an evidence-based model.)
- Secured grant funding through the Healthcare Foundation of Wilson to establish the community's first school-based health centers at Forest Hills Middle School and Beddingfield High School to provide on-site health and wellness evaluations and education for middle school youth to promote healthy choices (Note: The Health Center also addresses parenting education through co-location of a Wilson County Department of Social Services (DSS) prevention social worker and provides behavioral health support services through Eastpointe.)
- Established monthly clinic hours for teens at the Wilson County Health Department
- Expanded prevention efforts and awareness of youth substance use through a statewide multimedia campaign for Talk It Out NC, specifically addressing prescription drug misuse prevention (Note: The messaging focuses on how to properly use, store and dispose of Rx medications.)
- Created a complete prevention package between the Wilson County Substance Prevention Coalition (WCSPC) and a local private school to appropriately address youth, parents, faculty and staff in training/education, programming and policy (Note: Drug Information Training for Educational Professionals (DITEP) is being provided to the faculty and staff, and programming is being purchased for educating youth. A parent education series is being planned, and a comprehensive school policy is being developed to address substance use.)
- Recognized by the National Association of Counties (NACo) for our collaborative work with children and youth in 2016

HEALTH & WELLNESS {continued}



Children and youth will be physically healthy.

- Implemented the MATCH (Motivating Adolescents with Technology to CHOOSE Health) Wellness Program for all 7th graders in WCS to measure and monitor Body Mass Index (BMI) and childhood obesity
- Secured grant funding through the Healthcare Foundation of Wilson to establish and increase the number of walking tracks from 17 schools to all 26 WCS locations
- Secured grant funding through the Healthcare Foundation of Wilson for the Wilson Family YMCA to establish the Y SAY Fit gym to provide access to exercise for the students served in the SAY after school program
- Secured grant funding from the Healthcare Foundation of Wilson to implement the Eat Smart, Move More campaign at 30 locations throughout the community to encourage increased consumption of water and reduced consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages
- Established the Wilson Food Network (comprised of community hunger assistance groups) to address community needs and identify food gaps (Note: The access to community gardens within low-income neighborhoods and schools has increased, which includes new gardens within the Wilson Housing Authority properties, Hope Station, and the expansion of existing community gardens at White Oak Church and Wilson Community Improvement Association.)
- Established breakfast and lunch at no cost in WCS elementary schools and select middle schools through the federal Community Eligibility Provision
- Established health checks and dental and vision screenings for local youth who attend the annual Community Health Fair



Children and youth will be emotionally healthy.

- Established regular behavioral health screenings to administer to children during well visit check ups with local pediatricians
- Implemented evidence-based Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies (PBIS) at all 26 WCS schools
- Provided Youth Mental Health First Aid and Adult Mental Health First Aid to hundreds of community members and professionals (Note: This training provides a framework for responding to mental health challenges in the community and helps remove the stigma of mental health, substance use and developmental disabilities.)
- Implemented and installed mental health screening kiosks at four community health provider locations to promote awareness and provide treatment information for identified at-risk patients
- Established and routinely update a Community Resource Guide posted on the United Way of Wilson County website to increase access and awareness to resources and services
- Secured a tele-psychiatry unit for behavioral health illnesses at Wilson Medical Center
- Improved collaboration between WCS and Wilson County DSS for home visits to provide services for youth and families who are living in poverty
- Developed and implemented Darkness to Light training with multiple community partners, which provides a basic understanding of child abuse and neglect and the community's responsibility to be more proactive
- Implemented Project Broadcast at Wilson County DSS to provide trauma screenings for all children involved with child welfare (Note: Foster parents also receive trauma training to better understand and meet the needs of children in foster care.)
- Secured an Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) for Wilson County DSS to assist homeless families (Note: Through ESG funding and community collaboration of Wilson Energy, Wilson County DSS, Wilson Housing Authority and Hope Station, 92 families have been placed in safe and permanent housing.)

Children will have healthy beginnings.

- Secured grant funding for Healthy Families America through the Division of Public Health for Wilson County DSS to serve families with children ages 0-5 and focus on the prevention of child maltreatment

OUT OF SCHOOL TIME



Youth and parents will be aware of safe programs and activities offered during out of school time.

- Created and shared information on the City of Wilson website beginning in September 2014 to list and link all Wilson youth programs
- Connected students who were not selected for WCS middle school athletic teams with other sports programs (Note: Transportation was provided.)
- Created a central point on the Wilson 20/20 website to link all community calendars to enable citizens to have easy access to event information
- Created a network of youth program leaders to plan a program fair for all youth and parents (Note: The fair was not offered due to lack of interest, but alternate ideas are being considered.)
- Evaluated options and hosted discussions with community program leaders to identify a Smartphone app to connect youth with immediate opportunities during out of school time (Note: Development is pending available funding.)



Youth will be engaged in quality out of school time programs and activities.

- Established The Gentlemen's Agreement in 2015 to mentor at-risk minority males who are in high school and began a female equivalent called Her PRIDE in February 2017
- Created an opportunity for local youth to learn and experience volunteerism in the summer months through the United Way of Wilson County
- Expanded the YMCA Young Leaders Program to include representatives from all area high schools, including students in home schools and private schools
- Expanded summer art enrichment days in Wilson County townships and areas of underserved youth in the City of Wilson

Youth will be provided safe transportation enabling them to attend out of school time programs and activities.

- Trained and prepared local law enforcement officers to utilize school bus transportation when needed for out of school activities sponsored by the Wilson Police Athletic League
- Established conversations with appropriate community representatives to evaluate alternative options for the use of public transportation funding
- Improved specific areas of bike routes and public walkways used by youth who do not have alternative transportation to school and out of school activities

Youth will have quality tutoring programs in alignment with the NC Standard Course of Study.

- Created and distributed a comprehensive list of all after school tutoring programs available in Wilson
- Established Parent Academies in elementary schools to share tutoring information and to teach advocacy skills for parents to appropriately connect students with necessary support
- Expanded the services of Communities In Schools to appropriately connect underserved students with the talents and resources of community volunteers

SAFETY

Safe environments will be established for students in our schools.

- Received The Director's Award from NC Emergency Management in recognition of WCS being one of the safest school districts in the state
- Installed buzz-in systems at the front door of every WCS school allowing office staff to grant building access to visitors; updated school emergency plans; conducted safety assessments; distributed emergency bags to every classroom in the district filled with important documents and items needed in an evacuation; distributed picture ID badges to staff to identify school system employees; trained staff members in CPR/AED training at no cost; and installed panic buttons in all public schools to notify law enforcement in an emergency
- Held the first Active Assailant Training Exercise in the county in collaboration with WCS, law enforcement and other partners to simulate an active shooter in a school, and organized a Parent Reunification Training Exercise in collaboration with law enforcement to simulate reunifying parents and children (Note: This was the first exercise of its kind in the state.)
- Secured a bomb dog at the Wilson County Sheriff's Office (WCSO)
- Certified all WCS high school students in CPR through the health curriculum pathway
- Secured interior and exterior cameras on all WCS school buses, which includes audio
- Established a partnership between WCS and the Wilson Youth Council on an anti-bullying campaign for all students and created an anti-bullying webpage on the district's website
- Secured a mental health therapist in five WCS schools as a pilot program
- Partnered with law enforcement K-9 Units for regular visits to WCS middle and high schools



Safe environments will be established for the youth in our community.

- Established a mentoring program called Boyz to Men and Girls in Progress through the Wilson Police Department's Police Athletic League to address life choices such as etiquette, dating, hygiene, education and careers
- Established a prescription multimedia campaign for The Wilson County Substance Prevention Coalition (WCSPC) promoting safe use, storage and disposal of prescription medicines (Note: In collaboration with the Wilson Police Department (WPD), WCSPC provides prescription pill drop-offs twice a year and now has permanent prescription pill drop boxes in the vestibules of both the WPD and WCSO.)
- Distributed 100 intranasal naloxone kits between the WPD, WCSO and the Wilson County Health Department through the Lazarus Project
- Attained 501(c)(3) status for WPD's Police Athletic League, which has enabled them to raise funds to increase camps and activities (Note: In 2015-2016, they were able to hold 28 camps and activities and reach over 700 kids. All camps and activities are offered free of charge and include transportation and meals.)
- Developed a Violent Offender Task Force at the WPD to identify chronic violent offenders and gang members who are negatively influencing youth

A NOTE TO OUR COMMUNITY

The Youth Master Plan originated through a partnership of Wilson 20/20 Community Vision and Wilson County Schools to bring together educators, parents, community members, nonprofits, businesses, churches, law enforcement and government agencies to work together on five key focus areas where attention and action were warranted — Education and Workforce, K-12 Academic Achievement, Health and Wellness, Out of School Time and Safety. The many achievements recognized through the implementation of this plan have assured us that we are a community who cares about each and every child.

As stated in the original plan document, this Plan is not the end, but instead, it is the beginning of a journey for us to serve our youth and to provide a brighter future built upon strong community relationships. The Youth Master Plan Final Report highlights many of the goals achieved since the Plan's development in 2014. The success demonstrated by each team is the result of numerous community partners who are dedicated to improving the outcomes for all youth in Wilson.

