CINCINNATI COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Annual Report 2025–2026

CLIMBING HIGHER TOGETHER

One School. One Family. One Mission.

















THE CCPA WAY

Care Collaboration Positivity Accountability

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear CCPA Learning Community,

When we helped establish Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy in 1999, we believed that Cincinnati families deserved a public school committed to their children's potential. As a member of the founding team and now Superintendent, I remain committed to that purpose.

Climbing Higher Together is the theme of this 2025–2026 annual report. The CCPA Way—Care, Collaboration, Positivity, and Accountability—connects our students' academic progress, opportunities across K–12, and the people supporting their education. Together, these themes express our commitment to continuous improvement and preparation for life beyond school.

The academic results reported for 2026 show progress. Our Performance Index increased from 61.2 to 72.4, and our Early Literacy rating rose from three stars to four. These gains reflect important movement, while the proficiency results remind us that many scholars still need stronger support to meet grade-level expectations.

Students also learned through the arts, athletics, tutoring, and experiences beyond campus. Families joined us for school celebrations and learning activities. Community partners helped provide books, food, clothing, and resources for graduates preparing for college. Our alumni gathering celebrated 26 years of serving the CCPA learning community and the connections that continue after graduation.

Our next priority is to build on academic growth through strong instruction, regular review of student work, and support matched to individual needs. We must also strengthen the way we track and communicate attendance, progress across grade levels, and graduates' next steps so our community can assess the results of our work.

Thank you to our teachers, staff, families, board members, alumni, and community partners. Your commitment helps us provide the education and opportunities our scholars deserve.

Guyton Mathews
Superintendent



School Board and Governance

Our board brings experience in education, law, finance, technology, the arts, and community service. Its priorities address academic standing, college and career pathways, life skills with AI, and financial sustainability.



Ron Gore

President

Community volunteer and mentor with over 30 years in marketing and business development, plus nonprofit board and finance committee experience.



Marvin Butts III

Board Member

Cincinnati entrepreneur and community advocate whose business leadership and Butts Family Foundation support local families and community opportunities.



Cindy Jones

Board Member

Higher education professional and University of Cincinnati adjunct instructor focused on college success for first-generation and underrepresented students.



Charles H. Maguire III

Board Member

Former Merrill Lynch leader and South Carolina government adviser with experience in school trusteeship and nonprofit governance.



Donna Robinson

Board Member

Criminal justice professional with over 30 years of experience, advanced study, police department service, and community involvement.



Tamara “Tamie” Sullivan

Board Member

Social entrepreneur with over 30 years in nonprofit leadership and strategic communications. Founded Girls with Pearls Cincinnati and supports community partnerships.



Jack Rubenstein

Finance Chair

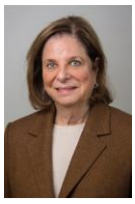
Retired attorney and board member since 2010. Brings legal expertise, nonprofit leadership, financial oversight, and years of school tutoring.



Kenneth R. Kabel

Board Member

Former manufacturing business owner with an MBA from Columbia University and extensive service on education, housing, and community boards.



Arlene Katz

Board Member

Community volunteer with two decades of juvenile court experience and service across family support, youth development, and arts organizations.



Robin Walker

Board Member

Technology business leader and BYOC Camps and Clubs executive director, expanding students’ technology experience and interest in IT careers.



Cedric Cox

Board Member

Cincinnati artist and UC fine arts graduate whose paintings and public murals connect creative practice with schools and community spaces.



Doug Mangen

Treasurer

Leads Mangen & Associates, providing charter school finance, operations, and academic support. Brings expertise in financial administration and organizational leadership.

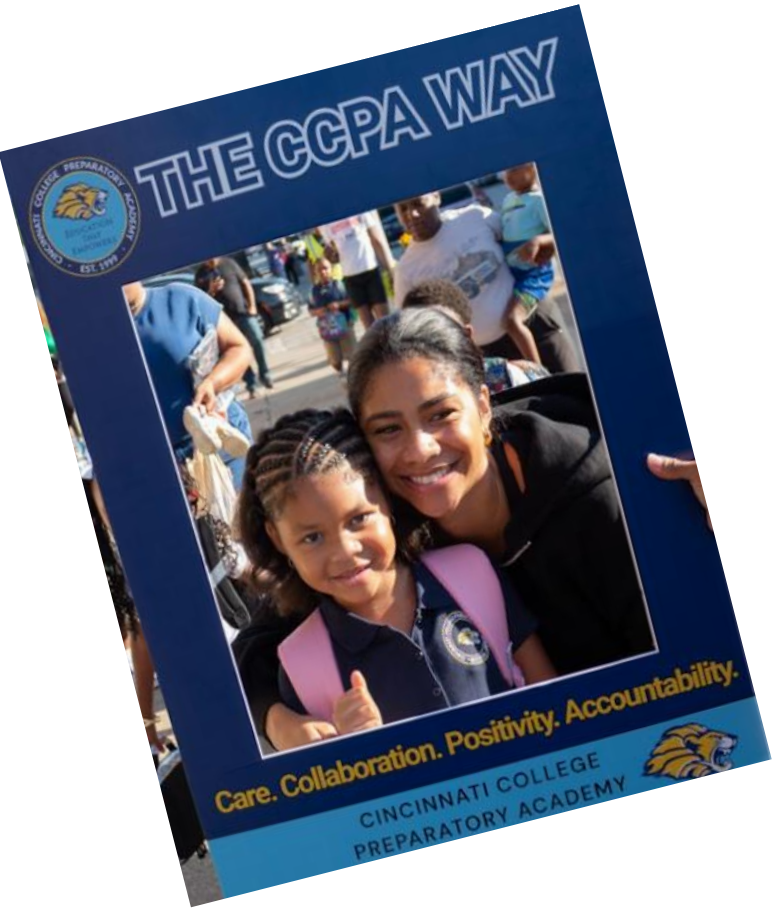
CCPA at a Glance

CCPA is a tuition-free public community school established in 1999, serving students from kindergarten through twelfth grade in Cincinnati. Our mission centers on high-quality instruction and support for the whole child, connecting foundational learning with preparation for college and careers.

School profile	2025–2026 overview
Educational pathway	Elementary K–5 • Middle 6–8 • High 9–12
Campus	Elementary, middle, and high school buildings, with aquatics and annex facilities
June 2026 funding enrollment	971 full-time-equivalent students
Year-over-year June FTE change	Approximately 30.6 more than June 2025

The CCPA Way

Climbing Higher Together connects our shared purpose with the CCPA Way: Care protects dignity, safety, and growth; Collaboration brings us together as one school and family; Positivity approaches challenges with purpose and belief in growth; Accountability means owning our choices, learning, and results. The examples in this report show these values through instruction, recognition, relationships, and family partnership.





Academic Growth and Achievement

The supplied spring 2025–2026 comparison reports increased proficiency in six elementary grade and subject areas. The Performance Index rose by 11.2 points, while Early Literacy improved by one star.

Measure	Previous result	2026 result
Performance Index	61.2	72.4
Achievement rating	2 stars	2 stars
Early Literacy rating	3 stars	4 stars

Proficiency gains by grade and subject

Grade and subject	Spring 2025	Spring 2026	Change
Grade 3 Reading	79%	84%	+5.0
Grade 4 Mathematics	40%	65.4%	+25.4
Grade 4 ELA	29%	50%	+21.0
Grade 5 Science	24%	46.8%	+22.8
Grade 5 ELA	43%	47.5%	+4.5
Grade 5 Mathematics	43%	49%	+6.0

What the results mean

The largest reported gains were in fourth-grade mathematics and fifth-grade science. Third-grade reading reached 84 percent. Progress remains uneven: fifth-grade proficiency in the three subjects shown remained below 50 percent. Continued improvement requires attention to both growth and the number of students meeting proficiency expectations.

Instruction and Progress Toward Goals

CCPA's instructional approach combines early literacy, mathematics, review of student performance, and targeted support. Teachers use collaborative analysis and the Quality Improvement model to identify learning gaps and adjust instruction. Science of Reading principles inform the early literacy approach.

State assessment and report card comparison

Spring 2026 high school proficiency was 45% in ELA II, 60% in Algebra I, 54% in Geometry, 76% in Biology, 70% in American Government, and 73% in U.S. History. Scores improved in four of six subjects; school average scale scores reached 705.



The Elementary Learning Journey

CCPA Elementary connects foundational literacy and mathematics with experiences that encourage curiosity, confidence, and belonging. Students learn in classrooms and through the arts, aquatics, and community experiences.

Foundations and Exploration

Free swimming instruction for kindergarten through third grade offers opportunities to develop water skills and confidence. At Shor Horse Farm, fourth-grade students explored outdoor learning through horse activities and fishing, connecting new experiences with the natural world.

The Be Fine Arts Smart framework introduced shared expectations across Art, Music, Dance, Physical Education, Library, and Swimming. Family productions connected performance with literacy, history, and opportunities for students to share their learning.



Fourth-grade students explore outdoor learning during a visit to Shor Horse Farm.

Support and recognition

Cub Club pairs qualifying middle and high school honor students with elementary scholars for academic help. Classroom support, shared reading, and student recognition reinforce the CCPA Way and students' participation in school life.





An adult supports a scholar using classroom technology. • Students receive recognition at a Principal's Award presentation.

Preparing for High School and Beyond

Middle school

Middle school connects elementary foundations with the demands of high school. Scholars have opportunities to develop responsibility, strengthen academic habits, and explore leadership and enrichment. The final building summary should pair these experiences with verified reporting-year academic outcomes.

Eight seventh- and eighth-grade students visited Xavier University Art Gallery on November 16, 2025, for Charismata: The Art of Cedric Michael Cox. Students toured the exhibition, met the artist, and attended a lecture. The Bike Riding Club, serving grades 6–9, combined bicycle assembly with opportunities to be active together; its reporting-year dates remain to be confirmed.



Mr. Berry and students work together to assemble a bicycle for the Bike Riding Club.

High school

High school scholars explored STEM at Xavier University's 100 Black Girls Breaking Barriers conference. National Honor Society scholars traveled to Washington, D.C., with Ms. McDonald and Mrs. Pineiro. Seniors completed scissor and boom lift training and certification, emphasizing workplace safety and responsible equipment operation.



CCPA students attend the 100 Black Girls Breaking Barriers in STEM Conference at Xavier University.

Source: High School Highlights newsletter, app.smore.com/n/u9efs. Confirm assessment comparisons, training records and trip dates; add College Credit Plus participation and credits.

Beyond the Classroom

Fine arts

Fine Arts launched Be Fine Arts Smart for all K–5 students in August and September 2025. Shared expectations—Be Kind, Follow Directions, Always Having Fun, and Safety First—connected instruction across disciplines.

Family Night productions included The Heart of Thanksgiving on November 20, 2025; Shine Bright. Share the Light on December 18, 2025; and Young, Gifted, and Black on February 26, 2026. The Black History production included fifth-grade research and a public exhibit. Cincinnati Ballet's five-week CincyDance! residency introduced all second-grade students to ballet and creative movement.

The band update reports 15 CCPA musicians in 2025–2026, representing 27 percent of ensemble membership. The band earned second place at the April 25 Bison Blowdown in Dayton. Literacy connections included 20 fifth-graders performing The Reading Song, 12 first-graders demonstrating music and literacy activities, and a book fair generating more than $2,000 in sales and over $1,100 in free books.

Athletics

Football won its fourth consecutive CMAC Blue Division championship, hosted a playoff game, and had four college signees. Basketball earned a district championship and regional runner-up finish in 2026. Volleyball won an OHSAA tournament game in 2025 and had two all-conference selections.

Jimere Furr earned district titles in the 100 and 200 meters, a regional 100-meter title, a state runner-up finish, and a Wittenberg University track scholarship. Boys' 4 × 100- and 4 × 200-meter relays won district titles. Cheer placed second at Who Run It in Dayton, one-tenth of a point behind first. Girls flag football finished its second season 6–4 with 15 players; college interest is separate from offers or signings.





Varsity cheer celebrates its second-place finish. • CCPA's 2026 girls flag football team.

The Class of 2026

The Class of 2026 celebrated with senior breakfast and commencement. All 50 students in the reported cohort applied to and were accepted by at least one college. Scholars completed 550 applications and received 373 acceptances. Scholarship offers totaled $11,055,152—approximately $221,103 per student. Offers are distinct from funds accepted or disbursed.

Graduation and next steps	Verified result
Graduating-class size	50 students in reported Class of 2026 cohort
Graduation rate	[Insert rate, cohort, and source]
Scholarship offers	$11,055,152 offered; confirm award duration and overlap
College and training destinations	100% accepted to at least one college (50/50); enrollment to confirm
Career and military plans	100% industry credential component complete (50/50); add career/military plans
College Credit Plus	[Insert participating graduates and earned credits]





Alumni and 26 Years of CCPA

CCPA alumni gathered to celebrate 26 years of serving the CCPA learning community. The event offered graduates an opportunity to reconnect, reflect on their school experiences, and recognize relationships that continue beyond graduation. Graduating-class displays honored the students who have shaped the school's history since its founding in 1999.



Alumni gather beneath the CCPA Lion mural for the 26-year celebration.



The Mary-Bob & Jack Rubenstein Center for Academic Excellence

Student support brings academic assistance, well-being, and practical resources together so scholars can participate in school. CCPA works with families and community partners to connect students with help.

Academic and well-being support

Volunteer tutoring is organized around individual student needs, with teachers identifying scholars who would benefit from targeted assistance. Cub Club gives older honor students opportunities to tutor elementary scholars and practice leadership. Beech Acres Parenting Center is identified in CCPA's program information as a partner for counseling, therapy resources, parent peer support, and The Character Effect across K–12.





Friends of CCPA

Partnership in Action



The **Friends of Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy (FoCCPA)** continues to be an important partner in advancing opportunities for our students and supporting the long-term mission of CCPA.

Our collaboration with FoCCPA has helped strengthen relationships with donors and community partners while providing resources and experiences that extend beyond what traditional school funding can provide.

A major focus continues to be the development and support of the **Mary-Bob & Jack Rubenstein Academic Center for Excellence**, with an annual operating target of **$350,000** and a commitment to helping CCPA graduates successfully transition into college, career, military service, and other postsecondary opportunities.

Donations to the Academic Center continue to be received, tracked, acknowledged, and deposited as we strengthen the infrastructure supporting this important initiative.

FoCCPA Priorities

Academic Center for Excellence • Alumni Support • Donor Engagement • Student Opportunities • Community Partnerships • Long-Term Sustainability

Families and Community Partnerships

Reported support	2025–2026 activity
Santa Initiative	More than 280 students; more than 1,120 gifts
Family gift baskets	More than 50 baskets
Food boxes	275 distributed at Back-to-School Night
Winter coats	More than 200 provided
Thanksgiving meals	50 families supported through Crossroads
School supplies	1,000 supply pouches through Crayons and Beyond

CCPA Food Pantry: Supporting Our Families

The **CCPA Food Pantry**, led by **Erika Slusher**, continues to be an important resource for our students, families, and the entire CCPA learning community. Through regular food distributions and community partnerships, the pantry helps ensure that CCPA families have access to food and essential resources when they need them.

Our most recent distribution was another great example of **CCPA Lions helping CCPA Lions**, with families receiving food and support in a welcoming and caring environment.

We extend a special thank you to **Erika Slusher and everyone who helps make the CCPA Food Pantry possible**. Their dedication reflects what **One School. One Family. One Mission.** truly means. **Serving our families. Strengthening our community. Climbing Higher Together.** 🦁



Financial Stewardship

Fiscal year 2026 covers July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Mangen & Associates' FY26 End-Year Fiscal Review describes funding and cash disbursements supporting instruction and operations. Treasurer Doug Mangen's confirmation of this summary was reported by the Superintendent.

Measure	FY2026 management-report figure
Total disbursements	$15,834,934
High-Quality funding	$2,382,941
Instructional share of disbursements	Approximately 57%
State Foundation share of core receipts	Approximately 79%, excluding High-Quality funding
June funding enrollment	971.71 FTE, versus 941.15 in June 2025

How resources were used

Disbursement purpose	Reported share
Instructional staff	49%
Instructional services and supplies	8%
Administrative and operations staff	14%
Administrative and operations services and supplies	8%
Facilities	11%
Food services	6%
Capital	2%
Other	2%


THE STATE OF OHIO

KEITH FABER
OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE AWARD

Presented to

Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy

award is presented for excellence in financial reporting in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and compliance with applicable laws for the fiscal year ended 2025.

The citizens you represent are well-served by your effective and accountable financial practices.

Keith Faber, Auditor of State


CINCINNATI COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY
WE CARE 100
Supporting Students on the 1st Day of School!
Education is the cornerstone of our students' future, and as a community, we deeply value their educational journey. To jumpstart the school year on a positive note, we are thrilled to invite you to be part of "We Care 100" at Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy!
CCPA
CCPA













Our Focus Moving Forward



The opening of school is only the beginning. As we move through 2026–27, we will continue measuring our progress against the four priorities established through our 2025 Board Retreat:

Expand Upon Our High-Quality (HQ) Status & Academic Standing
College Acceptance & Career Placement
Preparing Students for Life — With AI Integration
Financial Sustainability & Independence

Our responsibility is to ensure that these goals move beyond words and are reflected in the daily experiences of our **students, employees, families, alumni, and community partners.**
Climbing Higher Together
One School. One Family. One Mission.

BOARD GOAL 1. Expand Upon Our High-Quality (HQ) Status & Academic Standing



Academic Excellence Committee
Focus
Maintain and strengthen CCPA's High-Quality designation and overall academic performance while maximizing opportunities associated with high-quality funding.
Monthly Reporting Will Include

Academic performance • Ohio Report Card indicators • Student growth • Instructional initiatives • Assessment data • Intervention • HQ status • Academic funding opportunities

BOARD GOAL 2. College Acceptance & Career Placement



College and Career Committee

Focus

Expand college access, career placement, and postsecondary readiness opportunities for CCPA students.

Monthly Reporting Will Include

College acceptances • Scholarships • Career opportunities • Internships • College visits • Career exposure • Alumni outcomes • Postsecondary partnerships

Our work in this area also extends beyond graduation. CCPA continues supporting alumni as they transition into college and careers, reinforcing our belief that **our commitment to our Lions does not end at graduation.**

BOARD GOAL 3. Preparing Students for Life — With AI Integration



Board Leadership

Focus

Strengthen students' life skills, critical thinking, technology proficiency, and responsible AI readiness to prepare them for success beyond graduation.

Monthly Reporting Will Include

AI integration • Student life skills • Financial literacy • Technology • Critical thinking • Career skills • Digital citizenship • Innovative learning opportunities

This priority provides an opportunity for CCPA to intentionally examine how emerging technology and artificial intelligence can enhance—not replace—strong teaching, critical thinking, creativity, and student preparation.

BOARD GOAL 4. Financial Sustainability & Independence


THE STATE OF OHIO

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE AWARD

Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy

Board Leadership:

Focus

Advance CCPA's financial stability, endowment growth, fundraising capacity, and long-term independence through strategic planning and partnerships.

Monthly Reporting Will Include

Financial performance • Fundraising • Endowment development • Grants • Donor engagement • Facilities investments • Enrollment impact • FoCCPA initiatives • Long-term financial planning

A major component of this work continues to be our partnership with **Friends of CCPA** and the continued development of the **Mary-Bob & Jack Rubenstein Academic Center for Excellence**.

Employee Retention & Staff Stability

Our Goal: Retain Great People

Employee retention continues to be an important organizational priority. Our goal is not simply to fill positions, but to **retain, develop, and invest in employees who understand our students, our families, and the CCPA mission.**

As we open the 2026–27 school year, we continue to benefit from experienced staff members while also welcoming new educators and leaders into the CCPA family.

This year's leadership team includes several individuals who have grown within the CCPA organization, demonstrating our commitment to developing and promoting talent from within.

2026–27 Retention Snapshot

Employee Retention Rate: 94%

Returning Employees: 120

New Employees: 12

Current Vacancies: 3 (Art teacher, Co Math Teacher, EMIS Coordinator)

Our Continued Focus:

Retention • Professional Development • Staff Recognition • Leadership Development • Competitive Compensation • Workplace Culture • Employee Support



Annual Teacher Tribute 2026-2027





Middle School Award



Elementary School Award



High School Award

At CCPA, **Teacher Tribute** is our way of starting the school year by recognizing and celebrating the people who make our mission possible—our teachers and staff. Before we ask them to give their best to our students, we take time to **honor their commitment, hard work, and impact** on our learning community. It also gives us an opportunity to reconnect as one team, celebrate accomplishments, welcome new staff, and set the tone for the year ahead.

Teacher Tribute reminds us that **student success begins with dedicated educators who feel valued, supported, and connected to our mission.**

Climbing Higher Together — One School. One Family. One Mission. 🦁



OSS Sponsor Statement

Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3314.03(D)(2) specifies that the sponsor of a school must "monitor and evaluate the academic and fiscal performance and the organization and operation of the community school on at least an annual basis." And ORC 3314.023(C) requires all sponsors of community schools to annually report the results of the evaluation to the Department of Education and Workforce and parents of students enrolled in the community school.

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, Office of Ohio School Sponsorship evaluates its sponsored schools on the performance of Ohio School Report Card indicators and on performance measures as listed in the school's community school contract.

The Office of School Sponsorship monitors the performance of its sponsored community schools through attendance at governing board meetings, on-site visits, and through the review of compliance surveys, monthly financial reports, and other reports related to the school's academic, financial and operational performance to ensure compliance with rule and law.