



13,000

## Parent Engagement: A Proven Investment

According to the Ohio Department of Education, only 41% of Ohio's children enter kindergarten ready to learn.<sup>1</sup> The other 59% haven't yet developed the fundamental skills they'll need to succeed. And when a child starts school already behind, they may never catch up.

Fortunately, one investment makes a real difference: Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids, or SPARK, an in-home kindergarten readiness program. For fifteen consecutive years, independent evaluators have found that SPARK children—both those who attended preschool and those who didn't—start kindergarten far more ready to succeed.

SPARK's success lies in its philosophy: parent engagement is essential for a child's school readiness and long-term achievement.

When the parent is involved in the child's learning, magic happens: the child adjusts to the school environment more easily and student achievement soars.

SPARK parent partners focus on cultivating engagement by helping the parent become the child's greatest teacher, cheerleader, and champion. And SPARK helps develop the second most important relationship: the one between parents and schools.

**Since 2003, SPARK has given more than 13,000 Ohio children a readiness advantage.**

If all of Ohio's children had that same advantage, we believe they would be unstoppable. School readiness would increase, parent engagement would be the norm, and schools could shift from providing remedial help to offering enrichment opportunities that escalate success.

### Investing in families with confidence

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton is just one of more than 150 sources that have invested over \$32 million in SPARK.

Funders include seven United Way chapters and 60 foundations, as well as hospitals, corporations, and individuals.

That figure also includes \$8.8 million in public support for SPARK that has come from the State of Ohio, five local library systems, three local departments of Job and Family Services, and 17 school districts.

<sup>1</sup>Ohio Department of Education (2019). State Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Data 2018-2019. Ohio Department of Education. [online] Available at: <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/download> [Accessed 19 Dec. 2019].