Horizon Education Alliance

Horizon Education Alliance is a nonprofit organization that is based in Elkhart County.

**Our History:** HEA has emerged from a long history of community conversations. These conversations began in 2002 with the Horizon Project, a community initiative to reshape Elkhart County’s future. In 2009, Elkhart County became the county hardest hit by the recession, with an unemployment rate of over 18%. In response, more than 200 community leaders came together and identified education as the single most effective strategy for strengthening Elkhart County. HEA was launched in 2012, and now includes all seven public school superintendents, local business leaders and other community leaders on its board.

**Our Mission:** Horizon Education Alliance exists to strengthen collaboration, increase innovation, and move everyone from hope to belief that Elkhart County will be transformed through education.

**Our Vision:** Elkhart County will be a world-class place to live, learn, work and play.

**Our Values**

**Community & Diversity:** HEA believes that communities are stronger when working together. Diversity adds richness and complexity to community, making it hum with vitality.

**Excellence & Equity:** HEA strives for excellence in everything it does, while working to ensure that the pursuit of excellence is experienced by all member of our community.

**Opportunity & Responsibility:** HEA values a community where each person is presented opportunities to realize his or her dreams. HEA also recognizes the individual’s responsibility to realize those dreams and “pay forward” the opportunities they were provided.

**Imagination & Grit (Perseverance):** Imagining a better future is the first important step in the change process; once imagined, grit and perseverance will make individual and collective goals attainable.

**Innovation & Collaboration:** Innovation is often thought to be the work of lone geniuses. HEA believes that collaboration creates synergy that catalyzes the greatest innovation.

**Action & Research:** Progress comes from balancing understanding and doing, research and action.

**Overarching Goal**
Create a COLLABORATIVE culture within Elkhart County that engages each major sector toward the goals and measures laid out in HEA’s strategic plan (6 years; 2018)

**Six Strategic Goals**

1. Each child is socially, emotionally, cognitively and physically ready for success in kindergarten by age 5 (ten years; 2022)
2. All children are prepared with the academic and 21st century skills needed for success in high school (and beyond) by the end of 8th grade (13 years; 2025)
3. All students will graduate from high school and attain a post-secondary credential or degree within six years of high school graduation (15 years; 2027)  
4. Elkhart County has a creative, educated and skilled workforce (20 years; 2032)  
5. Elkhart County has a culture of lifelong learning (20 years; 2032)  
6. Each child has a parent/caregiver engaged in their learning journey (20 years; 2032)

**Our Results:** HEA is committed to tracking the results and impact of our work at every stage. HEA collaborates with our partners to collect quantitative and qualitative data on the effectiveness of our programs. Each of our programs has a rigorous monitoring and evaluation plan in place to enable us to monitor program implementation, measure short-term results and track long-term impact. HEA is also tracking population-level metrics for Elkhart County to measure our progress toward our goals and vision. Our full Community Dashboard will be available January 2015.