2024
2025
ANNUAL
REPORT

2000-2025

Intergenerational
SCHOOLS

25 Years Countless Moments Transformative Impact

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2024-2025 Highlights

Academic & Student Growth

NEAR WEST

4.5 stars
for the second year in a row

#3
Ranked #3 out of 107 public schools in Cleveland

TIS-EAST IMPROVEMENT

From 2 to 2.5 stars overall

Outperformed
10 out of 11
neighborhood schools in achievement*

*Based on the School Quality Guide: mycleschool.org

Community & Model Highlights

Celebrating 25 years
of countless moments in learning

Near West's Tea Shop is 5 years old
brewing confidence and collaboration

27 Learning Partners volunteered across both campuses, meeting with students weekly to practice reading and math

INTRODUCTION

Dear Friends,

This year, as we celebrated 25 years of countless moments, our school communities continued to show what's possible when students, families, and teachers learn and grow together.

The 2024–2025 school year was one of both progress and pride. Our students demonstrated strong academic performance and meaningful growth across both campuses, while our classrooms and shared spaces reflected the joy and connection that define the Intergenerational Schools. From Near West's student-run Tea Shop to TIS–East's Earth Day Fair, students led with curiosity, creativity, and care—showing how learning extends far beyond the page.

We also welcomed new families, strengthened our culture of belonging, and deepened the intergenerational relationships that make our model so distinctive. Together, we continued to foster the school environment that makes space for the countless moments that shape a lifelong love of learning.

As you read the stories and milestones in this report, I hope you'll see the heart of our work reflected within them and feel inspired to remain part of this community that continues to grow, together.

Thank you,

Brooke King
CEO, Intergenerational Schools

Intergenerational SCHOOLS

The Intergenerational Schools are an award-winning, nonprofit public charter school model with two campuses in Cleveland, Near West in the Ohio City neighborhood and East in the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood.

For 25 years, the schools have offered innovative tuition-free, K-8 education that combines multi-age classrooms, intergenerational community partnerships and whole-child learning to foster bright futures for students and a stronger community for all.

Our Mission

We connect, create, and guide a multi-generational community of lifelong learners and spirited citizens as they strive for academic excellence.

Our Vision

To be a top choice in greater Cleveland for K-8 progressive education that transforms how children can learn and communities grow, and to be collaborators in improving and pushing the limits of public education from an outdated industrialized system to a learning community that sees every child on a unique path to success in the 21st century.

Our Community

We serve students and families across Greater Cleveland, supported by a dedicated network of teachers and staff, volunteers, donors, board members, and community partners, including senior centers and local organizations working together to make learning meaningful across generations.

Our Power, Our Planet:
Every Student Makes a Difference

At The Intergenerational School – East, learning about the environment isn't confined to a single unit or science lab. It comes to life through community connection and student leadership. In April, during Climate and Health Month, the school hosted an Earth Day Fair where Refining Stage (grades 5–6) and Applying Stage (grades 7–8) students created and taught their own interactive lessons to their K-5 peers, families, volunteers, and community partners on topics ranging from renewable energy to conservation and climate justice.

Emerging and Developing students (grades Pre-K through 4th in our multi-age classes) were deputized as Environmental Protection Agents

An Applying Stage (grades 7-8) student presents her lesson on Solar Energy to a younger student during the school's Earth Day Fair.

Younger learners were part of the effort too. Students in the Emerging Stage (grades K–2) and Developing Stage (grades 3–4) became "Environmental Protection Agents," recognizing classmates for everyday choices that protect the planet, such as refilling water bottles and recycling.

The fair reflected the school's guiding philosophy that real learning, and real change, happen when generations and communities learn together. "The Earth Day event is another great example of the cross-disciplinary, student-led and community-focused approach that makes our schools so special," said Brooke King, CEO. "It combined science, social studies and citizenship, and gave everyone who attended the chance to both teach and learn."

That commitment to shared learning extended beyond the school walls. Refining Stage student Antonio Pace was one of the students who presented his research at Case Western Reserve University's Undergraduate Society for Bioethics and Health Humanities for a dialogue on climate and health. Antonio's project focused on the Great Global Cleanup. Students made presentation boards from recycled cardboard.

Each project, conversation, and connection brought the same lesson to life: when students of all ages learn with purpose, they build a healthier world for generations to come.

ABOUT TIS – EAST

The Intergenerational School – East, located in Cleveland's Buckeye-Shaker neighborhood, is part of the award-winning Intergenerational Schools network. Students learn in small, multi-age classrooms at their own pace, supported by caring teachers and community Learning Partners. TIS–East fosters curiosity, confidence, and connection, helping every student grow as a lifelong learner.

2024 – 2025 School Year

By the Numbers

TOTAL ENROLLMENT	AVERAGE CLASS SIZE
218	15

2024 – 2025 PRINCIPAL

Aziz Ahmad

OUR STUDENTS ARE FROM:

Bedford	1.8%
Cleveland	82.5%
East Cleveland	0.9%
Euclid	1.8%
Garfield Heights	9.4%
Maple Heights	2.7%
Parma	0.4%
Warrensville Heights	0.4%

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS*

White	0.4%
Black	94.7%
Asian	0%
Native American	0%
Hispanic	0%
Multiracial	4.9%
Students with Disabilities	16%
Economic Disadvantage	67%

*As of the last day of the school year.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE & PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

15.8% Reduced chronic absenteeism by 3x state target

Gap Closing

★★★ Improved Gap Closing indicator by two full stars, reflecting significant progress in closing achievement gaps.

Outperformed 10 out of 11 neighborhood schools in achievement

TIS-East *outperformed 10 out of 11 neighborhood schools in key indicators like Early Literacy and Gap Closing.*

**For the Buckeye Woodhill neighborhood based on the school quality guide – mycleschool.org

FINANCIAL DATA**

Income	
State	$ 3,508,813
Federal	611,061
Tax Distribution	13,999
Other	604,756
Total Income	**$ 4,738,629**
Expenses	
Salaries + Benefits	$ 3,205,684
Purchased Services	1,520,104
Supplies & Materials	204,709
Other	77,248
Total Expenses	**$ 5,007,745**
Surplus/(Deficit)	**$(269,116)**

**Unaudited

SCHOOL BOARD

Stacy Miller
Board Chair, Education Advisory Council
Retired Academic Systems Administrator, St. Martin de Porres High School

Danielle Clark
Board Vice Chair
Director of Finance and Business Operations, ADAMHS Board

Joanna Lopez-Inman
Board Secretary and Governance Advisory Council
Magistrate, Cleveland Municipal Court

Richaun Bunton
Education Advisory Council Chair
Executive Director, University Settlement

Lynn Carpenter
Finance Advisory Council Chair
Director of Lending, IFF

Bob Nicolay
Governance Advisory Council Chair
Director, California Casualty Management

Brad Norton
Finance Advisory Council
Wealth Advisor + Portfolio Manager, MAI, Capital Management

Carolyn Wald
TIS Rep to the FIGS Board
National Strategic Account Manager, Progressive Insurance

SPONSOR STATEMENT

The Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West (ESCLEW) served as sponsor for The Intergenerational School during the 2024 – 2025 school year. ESCLEW monitored the school's academic and fiscal performance, as well as organization and operation of the school, and determined that the school was overall compliant.

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THE Intergenerational SCHOOL

Brewing Confidence and Collaboration: Lessons from the Near West Tea Shop

Now in its fifth year, the student-run Tea Shop at Near West Intergenerational School continues to brew more than tea. What began as a small indoor recess idea in Beth McAllister's Developing Stage classroom (grades 3-4 in typical schools) has become a hallmark example of how Near West empowers teachers and students alike to be creative and learn through real life experience.

Each week, students manage every aspect of the Tea Shop, from interviewing applicants and designing schedules to marketing, ordering supplies, preparing orders and delivering tea to staff. The shop's success lies not in perfection but in purpose. And every step of the way, students develop confidence, practice collaboration, and apply classroom lessons.

A Tea Shop employee organizes inventory at the year-end celebration for parents. Each year, Developing Students look forward to the opportunity to help run the Tea Shop, and seasoned workers proudly pass on their wisdom to the next generation of entrepreneurs.

"My essential question was, 'Why are communication and collaboration essential for organizations to run effectively'?" said Mrs. McAllister. "When children take on meaningful work together, they see how their words and actions shape the community they're part of."

That philosophy became the foundation for Mrs. McAllister's master's-level course project in spring 2025, part of the Curriculum and Methods class offered through the schools' partnership with The National Teachers College. She later shared her approach with colleagues, illustrating how student-driven enterprises can teach standards-aligned lessons in literacy, math, and social-emotional learning while cultivating a sense of responsibility and joy.

The students created an Owner's Manual to pass down knowledge to future tea shopkeepers. Their guidance captures those lessons in their own words, advising their peers on leadership, creativity, and teamwork. As one student wrote, "We hope this handbook helps others make their classrooms and the world a better place."

For Mrs. McAllister and her students, that spirit of shared ownership and lifelong learning is the secret ingredient that has transformed one teacher's idea into a cherished community tradition.

ABOUT NEAR WEST

Near West Intergenerational School, in Cleveland's Ohio City neighborhood, is part of the award-winning Intergenerational Schools network. Students learn in small, multi-age classrooms at their own pace, supported by dedicated teachers and community Learning Partners. Near West inspires mastery, belonging, and a lifelong love of learning for every student.

2024 – 2025 School Year

By the Numbers

TOTAL ENROLLMENT	AVERAGE CLASS SIZE
211	15

2024 – 2025 PRINCIPAL

April Maimone

OUR STUDENTS ARE FROM:

Bay Village	0.9%
Brooklyn	1.9%
Cleveland	82.0%
Cleveland Heights	0.9%
Elyria	1.4%
Euclid	0.9%
Fairview Park	1.4%
Garfield Heights	1.9%
Lakewood	0.9%
Maple Heights	0.5%
Newburg Heights	0.5%
North Olmsted	1.9%
Oberlin	0.5%
Parma	1.4%
Parma Heights	0.9%
Twinsburg	1.9%

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

White	40.4%
Black	39.9%
Asian	0.5%
Native American	0.5%
Hispanic	11.3%
Multiracial	7.5%
Students with Disabilities	21%
Economic Disadvantage	54%

*As of the last day of the school year.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE & PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

#3 Near West ranked third out of 107 schools in Cleveland for achievement on state tests

Near West **exceeded** the state test proficiency averages in **13 out of 14** (93%) state performance indicators.

Overall Rating

4.5 stars
for the second year in a row

FINANCIAL DATA**

Income	
State	$3,267,017
Federal	286,047
Tax Distribution	419,239
Other	423,023
Total Income	**$ 4,395,326**
Expenses	
Salaries + Benefits	$ 2,808,904
Purchased Services	1,040,812
Supplies & Materials	159,409
Other	37,742
Total Expenses	**$4,046,867**
Surplus/(Deficit)	**$ 348,513**

**Unaudited*

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Near West Intergenerational School is proudly sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. For more information please visit:

www.clevelandmetroschools.org/Page/13633

SCHOOL BOARD

Stacy Miller
Board Chair, Education Advisory Council
Retired Academic Systems Administrator, St. Martin de Porres High School

Danielle Clark
Board Vice Chair
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Joanna Lopez-Inman
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Lynn Carpenter
Finance Advisory Council Chair
Director of Lending, IFF

Steven M. Lake
Near West Rep to FIGS Board
Executive Director, Reach Out and Read Ohio

Bob Nicolay
Governance Advisory Council Chair
Director, California Casualty Management

Brad Norton
Finance Advisory Council
Wealth Advisor + Portfolio Manager, MAI, Capital Management

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Near West Intergenerational School

Our Strategic Plan: Turning Shared Goals into Daily Action

The 2024–2025 school year marked the second year of work under our refocused Intergenerational Schools Strategic Plan, a roadmap that guides our progress toward providing every student with a high-quality, developmental, multi-age education in a joyful and emotionally safe environment.

Our plan is organized around four strategic goals: Student Experience, Staff Proficiency, Family and Community Engagement, and Operational Effectiveness and Governance. Together, these priorities reflect how we grow as a network: strengthening teaching and learning, supporting staff, deepening family partnerships, and building systems that sustain our model for years to come.

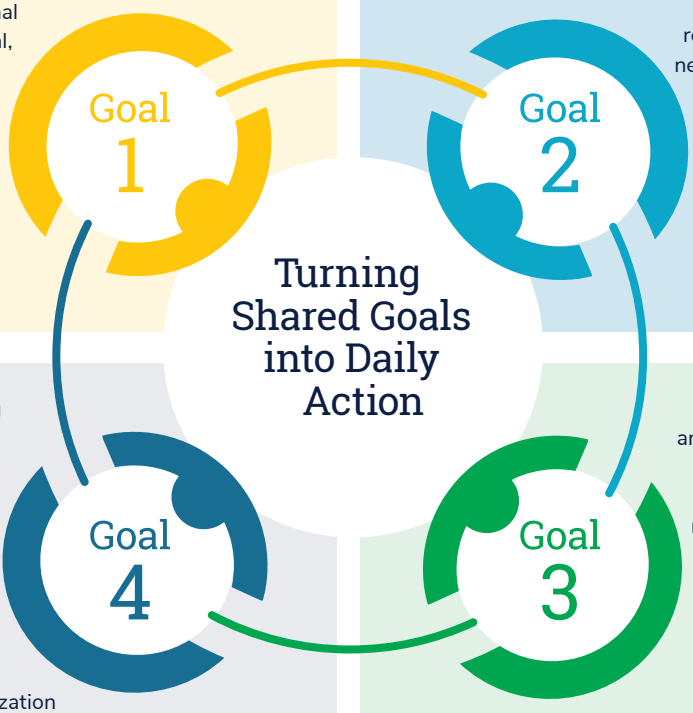
Every initiative, training, and community event described in this report connects to one or more of these priorities. From refreshed report cards and new literacy curricula to expanded family engagement and board development, our work this year demonstrates how progress happens one classroom, one conversation, and one partnership at a time.

Student Experience

We continued to strengthen the foundation of our model this year through responsive classrooms, intergenerational learning, and developmental, multi-age instruction. Our focus on social-emotional growth and individualized mastery helped every student feel seen, supported, and ready to learn.

Staff Proficiency

Last year we introduced full-time instructional coaches in each building, implementing ongoing coaching cycles. Staff responded positively, requesting more support. Our new professional development system logged over 1,400 records, and veteran staff participated in a free master's course on curriculum design as we grew staff capacity and increased retention.



Operational Effectiveness and Governance

Behind every great learning environment are strong, sustainable systems. We redefined governance structures to prepare for board growth and increased fundraising by 15%. Our Strategic Plan focuses on shared accountability and clear metrics, aligning our organization toward continuous improvement despite volatility in public education.

Family and Community Engagement

Families, learning partners, and community members play essential roles in student success. In-year retention reached 93% [state average: 85%]. Model-wide event attendance grew, and social media storytelling drew new families and partners. Deepened connections between home, school, and community strengthened opportunities for involvement and celebration.

25 Years. Countless Moments. Transformative Impact.

For twenty-five years, the Intergenerational Schools have thrived on community: the families, educators, volunteers, and supporters who believe that learning is stronger when generations come together. The Friends of the Intergenerational Schools (FIGS) carry that spirit forward by helping connect our classrooms to the wider community through philanthropy, advocacy, and volunteer engagement.

As we look ahead to the next 25 years of transformative school experiences, we will continue to engage the support of our community of individual donors, corporate and foundation partners, and volunteers. Together, we are strengthening the foundation that will sustain the next generation of intergenerational learning.

"I give to the IGS because I believe in their mission—connection, creativity, and lifelong learning. I encourage others to give, because investing in this model of education is an investment in a brighter, more connected future."

– Carolyn Wald, school board and FIGS board member

FIGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*24-25 school year +25-26 school year

Cena Hilliard*+
FIGS Board Chair,
Finance Advisory Council
Associate Dean of Finance, Administration, Case School of Engineering

Steven M. Lake*+
Near West Rep to FIGS Board
Executive Director, Reach Out and Read Ohio

Carolyn Wald*+
TIS Rep to the FIGS Board
National Strategic Account Manager, Progressive Insurance

Erin Figer*+
Founder, CORE Consulting LLC

Kelly Lytle*
Former Chair
VP Sales and Carrier Partnerships, Proformex

Bob Nicolay*+
Governance Advisory Council Chair
Director, California Casualty Management

Susan Paul*
Project Management Consultant
Confluence Project Management

Bikram Roy*+
Founder
Bonfire Digital Wellness

Amanda Yoho*
Chief Technology Officer, Proformex

There are many ways to be a Friend:

- Give a one-time or recurring gift, or make a contribution in honor or memory of someone special.
- Join the FIGS board or a committee to lend your expertise and leadership.
- Partner through a corporate giving, matching, or volunteer program.
- Share our story online, at work, or with a friend so more families discover the power of intergenerational learning.

Your generosity fuels joyful classrooms, meaningful relationships, and a model of lifelong learning that reaches far beyond our school walls. Learn more at igschools.org/donate

Transforming the School Experience

Multi-age Classrooms

Students learn in small groups based on developmental stage, not just grade level.

Tuition-Free Education

As public charter schools, we're open to all, with no tuition cost to attend, and no selective admissions.

Intergenerational Community

Individualized Learning

Every student progresses at their own pace with support from licensed teachers, mentors and peers.

Volunteers and partner organizations connect with students through shared learning.

PARENT TESTIMONIAL

"The culture at Intergenerational Schools is built on acceptance, empathy, and true community. And the academic support has been just as remarkable."

– Melissa Jajko, parent of 3 students

Academic Performance

We offer high-quality, tuition free public education for students K-8. Our students learn in inclusive, multi-age classrooms that support mastery, that support mastery and joyful learning, not test-prep pressure.

- **For the 2024-2025 academic year,** both campuses were designated an **Ohio Community School of Quality.**
- **Intergenerational Schools students consistently outperform nearby non-selective* schools** in Cleveland. For the 2024–2025 Ohio School Report Cards:
- **Near West earned 4.5 stars overall** for the second year in a row, ranking #3 overall of 107 K-8 public schools in Cleveland on the achievement measure.**
- **TIS–East outperformed 10 of 11 neighborhood schools***** in key indicators like Achievement, Early Literacy, and Gap Closing (up two full stars from last year), and reduced chronic absenteeism by more than 3x the state target.

* We accept all students without entrance exams, academic or behavioral criteria.
** From school quality guide: mycleschool.org
*** For the Buckeye Woodhill neighborhood mycleschool.org

Culture & Community

We foster a joyful, safe, and inclusive community for all learners. Our model builds intergenerational community and fosters lifelong learning.

- **9 out of 10 eligible students re-enrolled** for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Research has found that our intergenerational programming **improves well-being** for older adults while benefiting students through **skill-sharing and community-building**.
- **We do more with less**—innovating education and growing community through the generous support of volunteers, grantmaking institutions and individual donors who believe in our mission. Join us!

High School & Beyond

Our graduates go on to top high schools across Northeast Ohio. For the 8th grade class of 2025, this includes:

Public & Magnet High Schools

- Cleveland School of the Arts
- Cleveland Early College HS at John Hay
- Cleveland School of Science and Medicine at John Hay
- Ginn Academy
- Ginn-Thompson School for Girls
- John Marshall School of Business & Civic Leadership
- Rhodes School of Environmental Studies
- Lincoln West HS
- Garrett Morgan School of Engineering
- Max Hayes HS

Private High Schools

- Benedictine HS
- Lake Catholic HS
- Magnificat HS
- Mastery School of Hawken
- Lutheran West HS
- Saint Edward HS
- Saint Joseph Academy
- Saint Martin de Porres HS

Enroll Your Child

""I really want to express how this school has helped us not only financially, since it's tuition free, but how it has helped my son grow intellectually. I have this school to thank for his social emotional health. ... This school not only focuses on getting kids academically prepared, but has cultivated a learning environment for community amongst their peers. I see the evidence in the smiles and laughs when I visit the school. I am inspired by and eagerly anticipating the future leaders that come from this school purely from the strong foundation that they are rooted in"

– Irlivia "Liv" Terry, TIS–East parent

Volunteer

"They are so clever and smart, and they are always happy to see you each time you come. ... They are a pleasure to be with."

- Josie, a senior Learning Partner, visits the primary (K – 1) classrooms at Near West every week.

Help students build reading, math and social skills as a Learning Partner, or join the Friends of the Intergenerational School board to lend your expertise and support our mission.

igschools.org/volunteer

Work with Us

"Since I started teaching here more than 20 years ago, I have had support and freedom to make choices and give students choices in their learning, so we can meet standards while helping students feel more engaged and likely to retain what they learn. Working here gives you a chance to shine, and that light is what our students need."

– Ms. Telissa Gamble, Refining Stage (grades 5 – 6) Teacher, TIS – East since 2001

Teach or join our support staff and grow your career in a school environment that supports lifelong learning and encourages innovation.

igschools.org/careers

Become a Partner

Across Cleveland, we're growing community through creative collaborations. Our partners help our students apply what they learn in class, explore new talents, exercise their civic voices and understand their role in the wider world.

igschools.org/partnerships

Donate

Our schools do. more with less. We receive less state and local funding than our district counterparts so we must raise funds to support our unique model of education. We are 501(c)(3) nonprofit public schools, and your support is valuable to our students!

igschools.org/donate

Intergenerational SCHOOLS

Near West Intergenerational School
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Cleveland, Ohio 44113
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