



# sharing data to power change

Achieve Brown County (ABC) formed an innovative data-sharing agreement to improve youth outcomes in Green Bay, Wis. This case study shows how ABC built relationships and trust among large-scale institutions to access this data, leading to meaningful action for students of color.

**StriveTogether**<sup>®</sup>  
Every child. Cradle to career.

 **achieve** BROWN COUNTY  
ALL KIDS. OUR FUTURE.

## **“We’re committed to doing everything we can to be a model and resource for our colleagues and partners across the country.”**

– Spencer Bonnie, ABC’s executive director

Brown County students face an opportunity gap, particularly among Black and Indigenous students. Founded in 2011, ABC is committed to using data to close these gaps and advance cradle-to-career outcomes, working with community members, nonprofits, schools, businesses and government agencies.

“Data helps inform the decisions that drive the best possible actions, that drive the best possible results,” said Spencer Bonnie, ABC’s executive director.

ABC set out to combine student data with data from the three major health providers in Brown County to learn the baseline status of health and mobility conditions for young children. To access critical school data, ABC started conversations with each superintendent in March 2019. Then, the team shared their final research questions and developed a universal data-sharing and data use agreement. In January 2020, each superintendent signed on.

Brown County’s data-sharing partnership between the public sector, the health care system and the public school system is the first and only of its kind. For ABC, it all came down to relationships, trust and collective benefit. The team is well

positioned to share data with partners in all sectors, supporting data-driven action plans.

If the data uncovers a specific issue or set of issues for a group of young people, then ABC will decide on an action plan with its community partners and decide which entities are best positioned to address those issues.

“Painting that complete picture and identifying why some children aren’t being screened at well visits allows us to target our solution in ways that lift all ships,” said Bonnie.

The StriveTogether Theory of Action™ has been instrumental in advancing this work, creating a framework to move forward with data at the center. StriveTogether also provided ABC with a grant to pursue a project to build relationships with Brown County’s school districts, health care systems and state agencies.

One goal of StriveTogether’s grantmaking strategy is to fund local projects that could ultimately be spread across the national Cradle to Career Network. “As much as we’re doing this for young people in our communities, it can change the lives of children nationally,” said Bonnie.



Achieve Brown County followed StriveTogether’s Theory of Action™ to guide their efforts. StriveTogether helped fund the project with the hope it can be scaled across the Network.