



September 16, 2016

Robin Rennells
Interim Executive Director
Youth Thrive

Dear Ms. Rennells,

Wake County SmartStart wishes to express our support for the following **Strategic Goals** and **High Five Actions** of Youth Thrive. By working collectively to achieve these goals, our community can improve outcomes and opportunities for Wake County youth.

Strategic goals:

- 95% of third grade students read on grade level
- 95% of students graduate high school ready for college and career
- Eliminate youth bullying and suicides

High Five Actions:

- Collect and Share Data:
 - Administer a survey to youth on outcomes in the Blueprint (provided by Youth Thrive)
 - Measure and provide data on program capacity, and participation with demographics of participants
- Ensure all staff in the organization are trained in Mental Health First Aid and attend at least one additional Youth Thrive networking event.
- Participate in local Bullying Prevention Initiatives.
- Promote all children and youth reading for at least fifteen minutes per day and provide grade level appropriate reading materials.
- Promote access to college by working to ensure that by 9th grade, all students have the opportunity to visit at least one college.

Youth Thrive's goals and actions align with Wake County SmartStart's following priorities and represent a continuum to our work in helping to prepare children to reach their full potential.

- Children are in **safe, supportive home environments**
- Children are in **high quality care** that contributes to positive child outcomes
- Children are **healthy and developmentally ready** for school
- Children and families are **supported by a strong, diverse integrated early childhood system**

We believe this alignment of collective work will have a positive impact in the local community, both now and for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela J. Dowdy".

Executive Director