



2019
ANNUAL
REPORT

transforming
futures through
education

NEO overview

Neighbors' Educational Opportunities, Inc. (NEO) is built on the mission of providing quality adult and secondary education opportunities to those in need of an alternative pathway to meeting their educational goals. Our programs foster success for our diverse community of learners in an environment that supports and celebrates growth and achievement, and promotes respect and accountability to one's self, peers, and community.

NEO's New Vistas High School is a free public alternative charter school that offers a fully accredited high school diploma. Small class sizes, flexible scheduling, and a dedicated faculty help students address barriers that affect student success.

NEO's Adult Education offers classes and testing for the HSE (formerly the GED), career certifications, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, citizenship test preparation, and career counseling.

The 2019-2020 school year was one of growth for NEO. We also successfully weathered changes amid the pandemic. Our staff and students are resilient, and I am honored to be part of this journey with them.

Rebecca Reiner
NEO Executive Director

High School Enrollment

321



Porter County - 58.6%
Lake County - 40.2%
Other - 1.2%



Adult Ed Enrollment

256



Porter County - 52.7%
Lake County - 45.7%
Other - 1.6%



Total Graduates

198



Total HSE Test Takers

227

247

Volunteer Hours

*Equivalent to \$6,280
of giving.



8

New Citizens

NEO is more than...

...a high school

Tracey Layton-Dosen
Austin's Mom



Since attending New Vistas, Austin has blossomed emotionally. The teachers care for but also challenge him. The small class sizes create an environment where he is comfortable, and the school feels like family. After graduating this year, Austin plans to major in education and minor in math. Enrolling him in New Vistas was one of the best decisions I have ever made."

...a GED

Tina Ferrand
Adult Education Graduate



As a mom of four kids, I needed a place to study for the HSE test that was quiet and supportive. My life would be completely different without NEO. Not only did I earn my HSE, I also earned a paraprofessional license and a certified phlebotomist license. Shortly after leaving NEO, I landed a job as the lead phlebotomist in an OB/GYN office through Northwestern in Chicago."

...a new language

Dalilah Martinez
ESL student and
soon-to-be U.S. citizen



I came to NEO to learn English. I have a young son and I wanted to be able to help him. I used to go to parent meetings at his school, but was too shy to try speaking English. Thanks to NEO, my English is much better. I've completed my CNA license and ServSafe certification. I am taking the evening courses now to study for the U.S. naturalization test. I am much more confident now, not just speaking English, but also helping my son."

JACARE
Sessions One, Two
DEMONSTRATE TH
Necessary job skills that employers demand

I. Creativity

II. Cr

NEO is partner-driven

To expand our organizational capacity, we embarked on strategic partnerships in the 2019-2020 school year. With the help of other local organizations, we were able to serve more students throughout Northwest Indiana.



Ivy Tech

With Ivy Tech Valparaiso, we removed the barrier of attending college without a high school diploma through a program called Diploma+ NWI, a “reverse” model of dual credit. Students 22 and older who need 12 or fewer high school credits can finish an accelerated diploma from NEO while starting classes with Ivy Tech.



Welcome Network, Lake Station Library

Free monthly immigration nights provided legal guidance and social service information thanks to a grant from Legacy Foundation and partnerships with the Welcome Network and Lake Station Library. The grant likewise allowed us to expand our volunteer base, more than doubling our number of volunteers.



Valparaiso Alternative Learning Experience (VALE)

NEO provided professional development for educators at VALE in TASC testing and support for HSE testers and learners.



Communities in Schools (CIS) Lake County.

Increased student services and referrals to support organizations were provided to New Vistas students via a Resource Coordinator through CIS Lake County.



Duneland League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

New Vistas continued our student communications club, Phoenix Voices. The two-year program aimed to reduce dropout rates by exploring STEM projects, career paths, and activities for student engagement. Thank you to the Duneland League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), in partnership with a grant from Ford Driving Dreams.



New at **NEO**



New Vistas

We added Information Technology to our Career & Technical Education (CTE) pathway options for the new Indiana Department of Education graduation pathway plan. This is in addition to Advanced Manufacturing, Business, Art, and Health Science.

Staff were formally trained in Restorative Practices, a counseling strategy that places emphasis on solving interpersonal problems rather than punitive discipline to foster a culture of community, trust, and accountability.



Adult Education

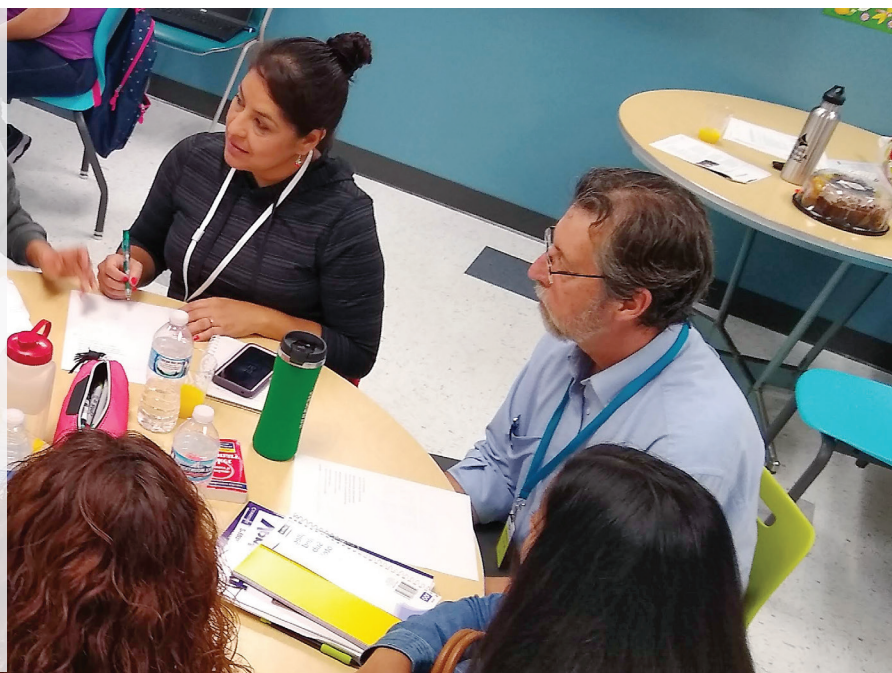
We began offering a new career certification, ServSafe. ServSafe is the restaurant and food service industry's leading certification. NEO offers four parts: food handler, allergens, food manager, and alcohol. It's available in English and Spanish, so many of our ESL students were able to become certified in their native language.



*Thanks to grants from **Dollar General** and the **Porter County Community Foundation**, as well as a donation from **Healthlinc**, NEO was able to upgrade staff and student technology throughout the building. Without these upgrades early in the year, we would not have been equipped to tackle remote learning during COVID.*

Neighbors' Educational Opportunities, Inc. Board of Directors

Deborah Birch, President - retired, Purdue Univ.
Paul Schreiner, Secretary - Project Neighbors
Marie Robinson, Treasurer - Centier Bank
Mark Lutze - retired principal
Isaac Carr - CCSK Law
Kimberly LaBarge - Ivy Tech
Alicia Rios - LULAC



NEO by the numbers

Funding Sources

New Vistas High School, like all public schools, receives per pupil state tuition for each student and comprises the bulk of funding. State and federal grants (Title 1, Special Education, Adult Education) also contribute significantly. Local funding (grants, donations, and rentals) rounds out the remainder of our income.

Annual Accountability

NEO has received a **“clean opinion”** from independent auditors and the State Board of Accounts every year since our opening in 2011.

Return On Investment

A community saves nearly

\$500,000

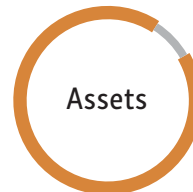
in public assistance each time a dropout (or potential dropout) finishes a high school diploma or equivalent.



Consumer spending and home ownership is higher among those who have finished high school.



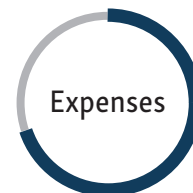
The poverty rate for those without a diploma is two times higher than those with a diploma.



Property/Equip. - 95%
Other - 5%



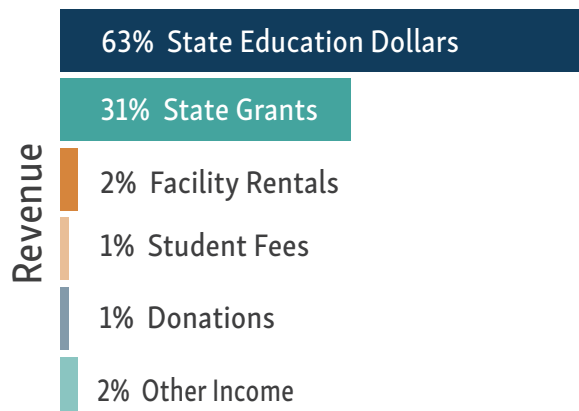
Long Term - 91%
Current - 9%



Program services - 73%
Mgmt. & general - 27%



New Vistas - 85%
Adult Ed - 14%
NEO - 1%





3 ways you can support NEO students

Volunteer.

Visit
neoadulted.org/volunteer

Give.

Visit
neoadulted.org/donate

Partner

Call us at
219-850-4448