



Rising Scholars

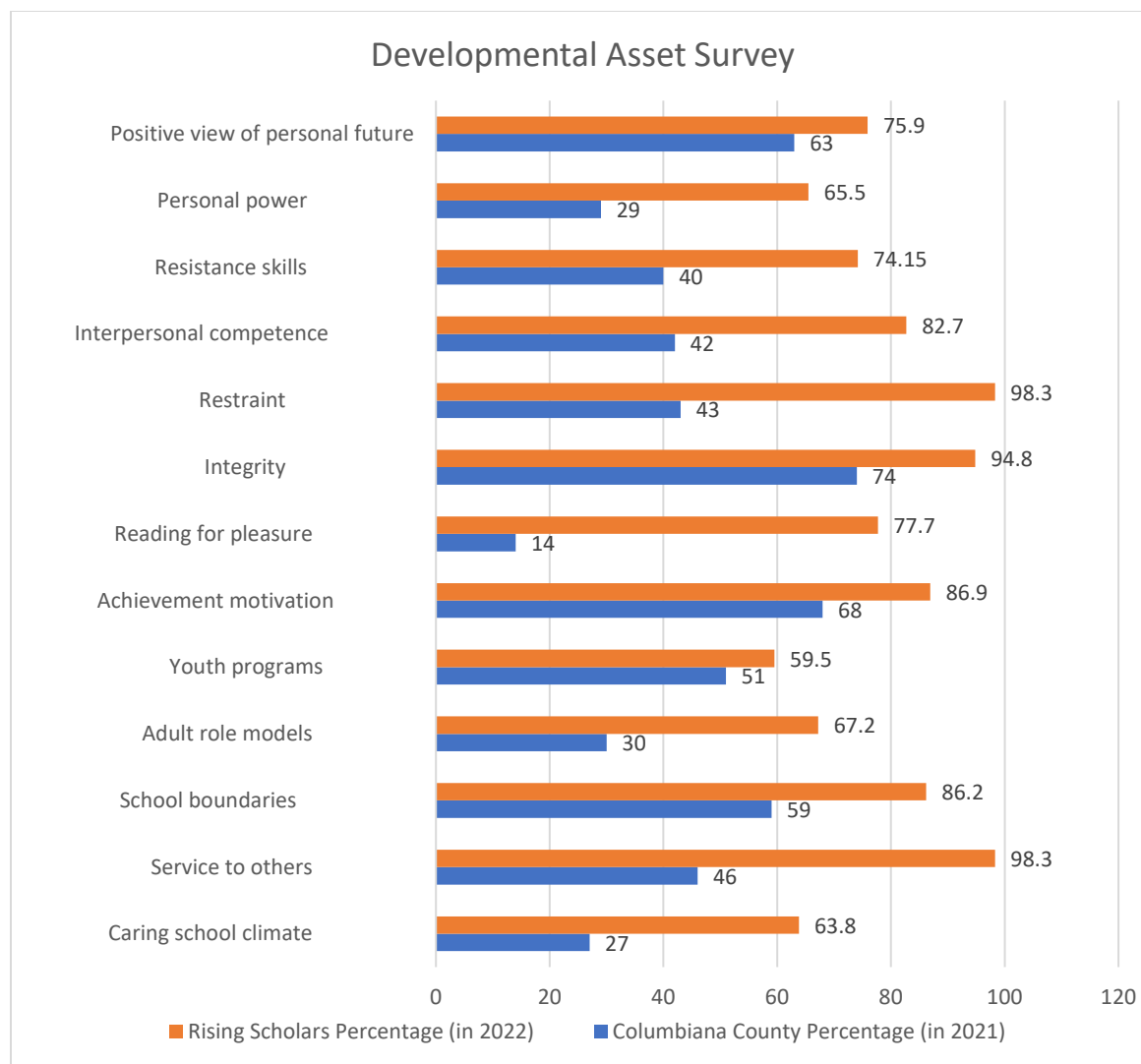
Columbiana County

The Columbiana County Rising Scholars Program assesses the developmental assets of program participants via an annual health and wellness survey. Results are extrapolated and compared with the participants' peers within Columbiana County. Columbiana County Rising Scholars works with the Columbiana County Educational Service Center on these comparisons.

Developmental Assets, as defined by The Search Institute, is “a research-based framework that identifies the basic building blocks of youth development. Search Institute has identified 40 positive supports and strengths that young people need to succeed. Half of the assets focus on the relationships and opportunities they need in their families, schools, and communities (external assets). The remaining assets focus on the social-emotional strengths, values, and commitments that are nurtured within young people (internal assets).”

Research shows there are clear relationships between positive youth outcomes and asset levels in youth. Young people who have more assets are “less likely to engage in high-risk activities and more likely to engage in positive behaviors.” Columbiana County Rising Scholars outperformed their Columbiana County peers on both internal and external assets, as demonstrated in the chart below. Students who participated in the Kent State Columbiana County Rising Scholars Program were immersed in experiences, relationships and activities that helped build many of the vital developmental assets. The increased number of developmental assets shown by Rising Scholar participants can be attributed to their involvement in the Kent State Columbiana County Rising Scholars Program.

Please note that while the Rising Scholar participants data was collected in fall of 2022, the Columbiana County data is from 2021. The Columbiana County Education Center has not released the 2022 survey results for the county; our information will be updated when it becomes available.



In addition to the Developmental Assets Survey, the Columbiana County Rising Scholars Program has collected data to guide our five core outcomes: (1) Academically Successful; (2) Engaged Learners; (3) Workforce Ready; (4) Socially Savvy; and (5) Committed to Community.

Academic success has been measured by school performance and achievement in math. The average GPA of our high school scholars is 3.2; the average GPA of our middle school scholars is 3.07. We find that 100% of our scholars are enrolled in Algebra I classes (or higher) as 9th graders; 45% of 9th grade scholars are enrolled in Algebra II (or higher).

Scholars self-report their learning engagement and study habits. Ninety-three percent of our scholars report “doing their best” at school. Study habits support these statements—63.8% of scholars reported dedicating a minimum of one hour to homework every school day, outside of school, and 87.9% report “never coming to school without my book or school-sponsored tablet.”

Our program measures Workforce Ready with characteristics needed to succeed in the workforce today. Ninety-one percent of our scholars report taking responsibility for their actions most or all of the time; 91.1% report staying away from illegal drugs. In the Fall of 2022, our program offered two career-centered workshops, hosted by H-P Manufacturing and East Liverpool's Cosmetology program. Both workshops filled quickly, with scholar attendance reaching 15 at H-P and 21 for Cosmetology.

Social savvy refers to scholars having a broad knowledge of how to function in the social world. Seventy-two percent describe themselves as planning and making good choices often or almost always; 86% agree that they resist bad influences, and 94.8% of scholars report accepting people who are different from them.

The Columbiana County Rising Scholars Program believes that community commitment leads to engagement. Our scholars have volunteered individual and group service projects, including organizations like Habitat for Humanity. Ninety-eight percent of scholars report spending at minimum one hour a week helping others and 63.8% believe that others view them as good at making and keeping friends.