



In a year filled with pandemic closures, racial reckoning, and educational uncertainty, our work at Higher Achievement never felt more urgent than in 2020.

Because of the commitment of our staff, mentors, and supporters, we provided scholars with virtual tutoring and social-emotional skill building critical to addressing the impacts of COVID-19.

Our scholars continue to demonstrate resiliency and determination in response to the obstacles of the past year. Their ambition and your support bring us hope as we enter a new year.

2020 Highlights



VIRTUAL TUTORING

Pivoted quickly to bring our program to scholars virtually



SECOND RANDOMIZED CONTROL TRIAL STUDY Positive findings for report card grades



RACIAL EQUITY PLANNING Launched the "Racial Equity Leadership Council" to begin internal equity work



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My teachers in school sometimes get frustrated with technology issues or lack of participation... but Higher Achievement gives me extra time and attention. If I have a question, I can actually talk it through with someone.

Isabella, 7th grade scholar

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2020 BY THE NUMBERS

809

SCHOLARS SUPPORTED*
Across three locations:
Baltimore • DC Metro • Richmond

35

WEEKS OF ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Scholars received programming at least 3 days per week

333

MENTORS*

Provided tutoring and socialemotional support

69%

REGULARLY ATTENDING SCHOLARS EARNED AN A OR B IN MATH

Regularly-attending scholars benefited from small-group virtual math pods

*from September 2019-August 2020



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As mentors, we were external figures outside of the students' own bubble that they could look up to and rely on. They viewed us as someone who cared about whether or not they succeeded.

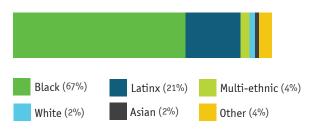
Nnamdi Nweazeapu, former mentor and alumnus



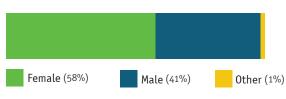


OUR SCHOLARS

RACE/ETHNICITY



GENDER





10%

Scholar-reported social-emotional skills linked to school engagement increased 10% from 2019 to 2020.



Only 2% of nonprofit organizations have undergone an RCT, and of those only 10% have positive results.

PROVEN IMPACT

In 2020, the nationally-recognized research firm MDRC published a second randomized controlled trial (RCT) study of Higher Achievement. The results are clear:

Our program leads to academic gains.

Our program demonstrated statistically significant gains in report card grades after two years in the program. While not statistically significant, math and reading test scores also improved.

Our model works as we expand to new cities.

Study results demonstrate success in replicating our program in expansion cities.

Our multi-year approach is critical to success.

The study found positive results after two years in the program. Higher Achievement's four-year program offers consistent relationships and learning opportunities.

THANK YOU

In this turbulent time, Higher
Achievement continues to be a strong
and stable organization – set up to
support our scholars for the long-term.
We are grateful for all of our donors and
champions. Every dollar, volunteer, and
scholar helps us do more.

TOTAL EXPENSES*

\$10 million

TOTAL NET ASSETS AT YEAR END*

\$3.87 million

*from audited FY19 data



Baltimore · DC Metro · Richmond higherachievement.org