



2020 REPORT CARD



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



“

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 social-
emotional 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*



“

*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 Nwezeapu, former mentor and alumnus

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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*



**HIGHER
ACHIEVEMENT**

Baltimore · DC Metro · Richmond
higherachievement.org