



HIGHER
ACHIEVEMENT

2022 REPORT CARD

September 2021—
August 2022

The 2021–2022 school year marked a joyful return—to in-person academic enrichment, to college visits, and to the meaningful relationships formed at center between staff, scholars, and mentors.

In the midst of this return, Higher Achievement remained steadfast in addressing the social and educational needs of scholars. Scholars strengthened their academic talents, with 65% of scholars maintaining an A or B or improving a letter grade in English Language Arts, and 64% doing the same in math, despite reports detailing a dramatic decline in reading and math scores nationwide.

As we look ahead to a new year, we are grateful for the staff, school partners, mentors, families, and scholars whose collective commitment to close the opportunity gap inspires and propels our work.

HIGHLIGHTS



PILOTED HIGH SCHOOL READINESS ACADEMY

Helped rising 7th, 8th, and 9th graders strengthen their organization, self-efficacy, and self-advocacy skills



RESUMED COLLEGE VISITS

Scholars toured college campuses over the summer for the first time since 2019



ADOPTED CORE VALUES

Defined a set of five core values to be lived out in all of our internal and external work: scholar centricity, racial equity, voice and inclusion, the power of community, and striving for greatness



SUMMER ENRICHMENT

High School Readiness Academy

This summer, scholars from Wards 1, 4, and 6 participated in a three-day summer High School Readiness Academy pilot. Each day, scholars focused on practicing a skill that will help them make a strong transition from middle to high school. Group and individual activities bolstered their confidence in their self-efficacy, study/organization skills, and self-advocacy.

National Youth Leadership Institute

Two Higher Achievement scholars spent a week at National Summer Learning Association's National Youth Leadership Institute, where they participated in leadership activities, games, workshops, and trainings. They also had the opportunity to visit Capitol Hill where they met U.S. Secretary of Education, Dr. Michael Cardona.

College Trips

Over the summer, scholars visited Howard University, American University, Johns Hopkins University, James Madison University, and George Washington University, and had the opportunity to ask questions, experience dining halls, learn about admissions processes, and imagine their possibilities for college.

PHOTOS: Top left: Americorps Fellow Brid Freiberg and 8th grade scholar Aras in front of the Capitol during the National Youth Leadership Institute. Top right: 7th grade scholar Morris at High School Readiness Academy. Bottom left: Scholars visiting Howard University.

“

Higher Achievement and its OST peers are the critical backbone to our educational ecosystem. The academic and social emotional supports are just what our young people need.

”

- JANESE LEWIS-GEORGE
HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT ALUMNA AND
DC CITY COUNCIL MEMBER



THE JOURNEY TO HIGH SCHOOL

High School Readiness Mentoring

In the 2021-2022 school year, Higher Achievement expanded our comprehensive high school placement programming to engage scholars at every grade level in preparing socially and academically for their high school experience. Scholars sharpened their communication skills; explored their options for high school, college, and career; identified their interests and ambitions; and, in 8th grade, applied to high schools that best aligned with their future goals.

High School Fairs and Signing Day

High school fairs engaged 6th and 7th grade scholars in exploring options for their futures. At Higher Achievement's High School Signing Day, 8th graders and their peers celebrated scholars' high school selections.

2022 Maureen Holla Award Winners

Each year we select three deserving 8th-graders who demonstrate hard work, initiative, honesty, kindness, humility, and generosity to receive the Maureen Holla Award. This year's DC Metro winner, Devontae, reflected on his time at Higher Achievement, saying: ***"Higher Achievement is a learning experience that not only developed our futures, but shaped us into the people we are today."***



“
The mentoring curriculum is centered around teaching scholars how things can be changed in the community—how if they see something lacking, they can ask for it. I feel particularly proud to be part of opening their eyes to what community activism is, what community support is, and what that means for their education.
”

- MS. ADRIENNE, GREENBELT MENTOR

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

484

SCHOLARS SUPPORTED

across 14 centers in the DC Metro region, Baltimore, and Richmond

245

VOLUNTEERS

supporting scholars as Literacy Tutors and High School Readiness Mentors

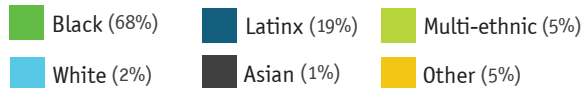
65%
IN ELA

64%
IN MATH

SCHOLARS EARNING AN A OR B

or improving a letter grade in English Language Arts and Math

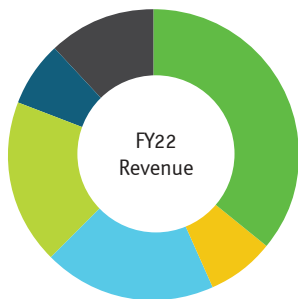
SCHOLAR RACE/ETHNICITY



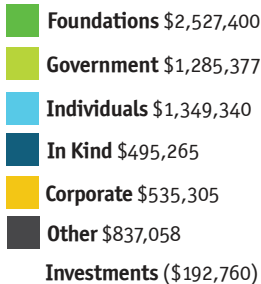
SCHOLAR GENDER



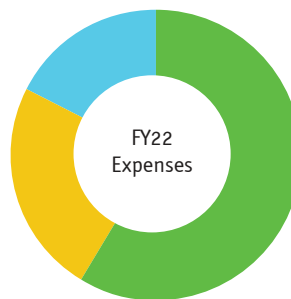
FINANCIALS



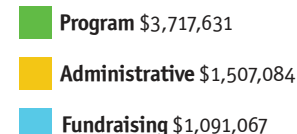
FY22 REVENUE



Total FY22 Revenue
\$6,836,985*



FY22 EXPENSES



Total FY22 Expenses
\$6,315,782*

*Note: Revenue and expenses are unaudited. All audited financial information is available on our website.

*Talent is everywhere,
but opportunity is not.*

*Thank you for helping us close the opportunity gap
for middle school students.*



Baltimore • DC Metro • Richmond
higherachievement.org