



# 2023 REPORT CARD

SEPTEMBER 2022 — AUGUST 2023

The engaging electives, caring mentors, academic enrichment, field trips, and encouragement from staff offered at Higher Achievement this past year all worked together to support scholars academically and socially. The impact of this support is clear: in 2023, scholars reported a strong sense of belonging at Higher Achievement and earned high grades in both English Language Arts and Math.

Our scholars' commitment—and yours—is truly a gift. In the coming year, there will be more opportunities to learn, grow, and advocate for educational equity. We hope you will continue to join us as we seek to create a world where all young people's promise and potential are realized, regardless of circumstance.

## HIGHLIGHTS



### STRONG ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

83% of Higher Achievement scholars maintained an A or B or improved a letter grade in English Language Arts, and 78% did so in Math.



### ENGAGING ELECTIVES

Scholars expanded their horizons thanks to strong community partnerships and dozens of engaging electives including yoga, art, cooking, chess, anime, drumming, sports, and more.



### ACCEPTED INTO THE WHAT WORKS CLEARINGHOUSE

Higher Achievement's Randomized Control studies were accepted to the highest evidence tier of the U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse.



*"My dream is to see our scholars build confidence in themselves and what they can achieve and do. I want them to have hope for their futures and feel like the sky is the limit."*

-MS. LOGAN, WARD 8 MENTOR



— “ —

*“My interactions and experiences at Higher Achievement shaped me into who I am today...the strong sense of community and support is something that still stays with me today.”*

— ” —

IHECHIKARAGEME, HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT ALUM,  
CURRENT STUDENT AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

## 8TH GRADE REFLECTION

*Each year, our 8th-grade scholars reflect on their middle school journey, their experience at Higher Achievement, and their hopes and dreams high school.*

### A Green Apples Reflection Poem by Iyanna, Richmond

In the halls of middle school,  
Where we walked with youthful glee,  
We learned to navigate the world  
And discovered who we could be.

We met new friends and formed new bonds,  
And learned to work as a team,  
We faced new challenges every day  
And learned to chase our dreams.

We learned the value of hard work  
And the power of perseverance,  
And discovered that with dedication  
We could achieve our every preference.

We laughed, we cried, we grew up fast,  
In the halls of middle school,  
And though we may have moved on now,  
Those memories will always be cool.

So here's to the days we spent there,  
And the lessons we learned so well,  
In the halls of middle school we found  
A world of stories to tell.

## STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

Over the past year, Higher Achievement scholars benefited from expansive community partnerships and support.

In preparation for Richmond's Love Out Loud poetry and art showcase, scholars explored their creative talents thanks to electives led by community partner **Podium RVA** and **Roscoe Burnems**, Richmond's inaugural poet laureate.

Thanks to a new partnership with **BUILD**, DC Metro scholars had access to a new elective to help develop their entrepreneurial skills through BUILD's Design Challenge curriculum. In 2023, architecture firm **LSM** expanded its architecture workshops to engage more scholars and centers in learning about design principles through hands-on projects.

In Baltimore, scholars explored various art mediums, techniques, and history through **Maryland Institute College of Arts** Community Site Leaders program, and learned about what is required to bring a stage production to life in collaboration with **Everyman Theatre**.



## EXPANDING HORIZONS: FIELD TRIPS & ELECTIVES

In addition to Higher Achievement’s rigorous academic enrichment, scholars have the opportunity to participate in clubs, electives, and field trips that expose them to new interests and career paths.

### Electives

Dozens of different electives were offered throughout the year, including financial literacy, yoga, art, cooking, chess, anime, drumming, sports, and more. Mt. Royal offered a yoga elective for their scholars to cool down and de-stress through mindfulness and movement practices. During Lakeland’s American Sign Language elective, scholars learned the basics of ASL, including the alphabet, introductions, emotions, and favorite animals.

### Field Trips

DC Metro scholars visited the offices of two Higher Achievement partners in 2023: **Mayer Brown LLP** and **2U**. At Mayer Brown, scholars toured the office and spent time with attorneys, paralegals, and business professionals over meals; at 2U, scholars explored career paths in marketing and tech and data science.

In Richmond, scholars learned about the history, culture, and ecology of the region during field trips to the **Black History Museum** and the **Virginia Living Museum**. Scholars also toured the **University of Richmond** where they visited the athletics, business, science, and arts departments.

## SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT: SOFIA

8th-grade scholar Sofia credits participation in Higher Achievement with helping her build her self-confidence and become more outgoing. “Higher Achievement helped bring out the talkative and fun side of me,” remarks Sofia. “I found it hard to make friends before, but now I am able to go up to someone and talk to them.”

This newfound confidence didn’t go unnoticed at school. Sofia’s guidance counselor recommended that she consider trying out speech and drama. At first, the idea of going up on stage in front of an audience intimidated Sofia. “I could have said no, but I went with my gut because I knew it would be good for me. I can prove to myself that I can do it. The old me would be sacred. Now, I will be nervous, but not scared,” says Sofia.



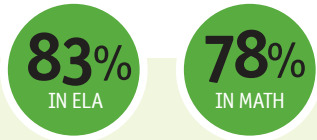
“Higher Achievement helped me put myself out there more. Seeing how much I’ve grown just from being in Higher Achievement is amazing to me.”

# 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

## ACADEMIC & SEL OUTCOMES

### SCHOLARS EARNING AN A OR B GRADE

or improving a letter grade in English Language Arts and Math. The percentage of scholars earning this accomplishment grew from the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year to the end; **increasing by 13 percentage points** in English Language Arts, and **by 8 percentage points** in math.



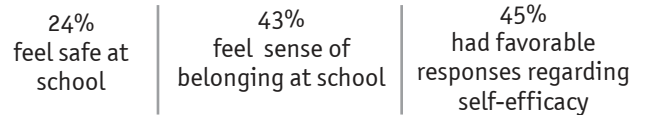
## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL IMPACTS

Comparing 2023 scholar-reported surveys with a 2023 Bellwether study, *Students Speak*, of over 5,000 students in DC from grades 3-12.

### HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARS



### DC AREA 6<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS from Bellwether study



## DEMOGRAPHICS

494

### SCHOLARS SUPPORTED

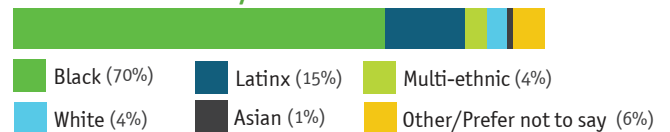
across 14 centers in the DC Metro region, Baltimore, and Richmond

129

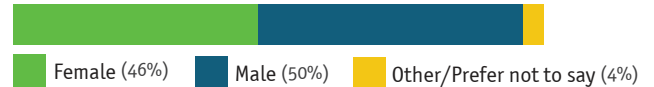
### VOLUNTEER MENTORS

supporting scholars' personal and academic goals

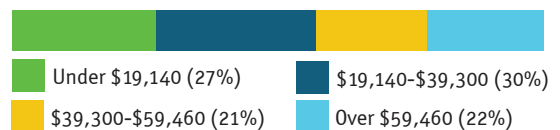
### SCHOLAR RACE/ETHNICITY



### SCHOLAR GENDER

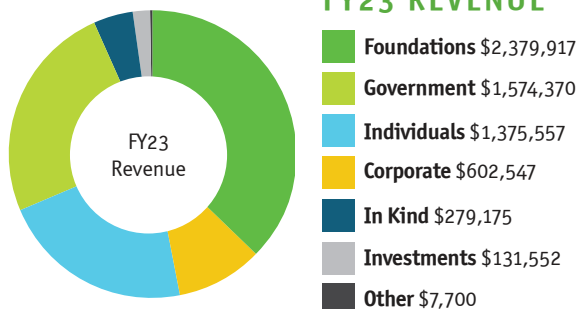


### SCHOLAR HOUSEHOLD INCOME



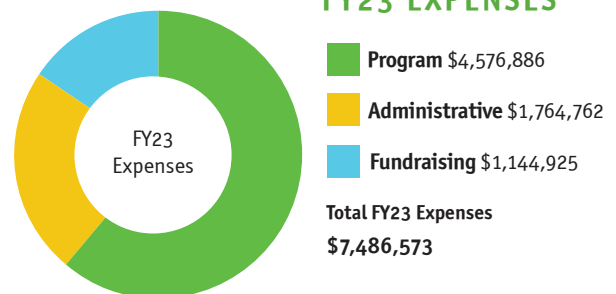
## FINANCIALS

### FY23 REVENUE



Total FY23 Revenue  
**\$6,350,818\***

### FY23 EXPENSES



\*Note: Revenue and expenses are unaudited. All audited financial information is available on our website. We intentionally budgeted a deficit to invest in scholar experience. Higher Achievement's net assets remained strong and exceed the budget deficit.

*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