



# 2024 REPORT CARD

SEPTEMBER 2023 — AUGUST 2024

In 2024, Higher Achievement scholars learned new skills, built relationships with peers and mentors, expanded their horizons, explored options for their futures, and strengthened their academic talents. We are proud of their accomplishments, and grateful for the opportunity to support their middle school journey.

Our partnerships alongside schools, families, volunteer mentors, and community champions made this support possible. Together, we are building a world where *all* young people have access to opportunities that expand their horizons and support their goals for the future.

## HIGHLIGHTS



### FOSTERING BELONGING

*90% of scholars indicated feeling a sense of belonging at Higher Achievement*



### PREPARING FOR HIGH SCHOOL

*High School Readiness Academy, essay and interview workshops, and weekly mentoring prepared scholars for high school*



### EXPANDING HORIZONS

*Scholars expanded their horizons through field trips, workshops, electives, and visits from the DC Attorney General*



*“I am deeply grateful to Higher Achievement for igniting my motivation during the formative years of middle school, equipping me with tools to excel in high school. This pivotal period laid the foundation for numerous opportunities that have continued to shape my journey for years to come.”*

**-YAFIET, HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT ALUMN**

# SNAPSHOTS FROM CENTER

Higher Achievement's comprehensive afterschool programming propelled scholars' academic and emotional growth in 2024. Field trips, electives, and workshops sparked new interests and career pathways, and weekly mentoring and academic enrichment supported scholars' ambitions for high school and beyond.



**Pepco** hosted an "Energize Day" with hands-on virtual reality experiences and live line demo by Pepco's Overhead Lines team.



Scholars had the opportunity to ask questions about important issues impacting their community during a **visit DC Attorney General Brian Schwalb**.



Longtime Higher Achievement champion **Mayer Brown** hosted scholars for a hands-on lesson in advocacy debate.



**College visits** to the University of the District of Columbia, Bowie State, and Randolph Macon College exposed scholars to the rigors and rewards of college life.



Scholars created art, learned salsa and bachata, sharpened culinary knowledge, and practiced fundamental skills in STEM during **electives**.



Our **Love Out Loud** events in Richmond and Baltimore showcased talent and voice as scholars shared their original works of poetry and art.



Rising 8th graders practiced skills that will help them successfully transition from middle to high school during our weeklong **High School Readiness Academy**.



**Field trips** brought scholars to Maryland Institute College of Art, Patapsco State Park, escape rooms, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and more!



## BUILDING COMMUNITY

Each element of Higher Achievement’s program model is designed to strengthen scholars’ academic and social-emotional skills, and Community Meeting is no exception. During Community Meeting, scholars participate in discussions, games, and activities that help them practice self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making.

A Kinesthetic Knowledge Bowl Community Meeting created a relay competition in which scholars worked together in teams to solve equations, answer history questions, and create a call-and-response chant. In

a series of Community Meetings about colorism and self-image, scholars began developing “Shades of Me” projects to celebrate their identities and encourage self-empowerment. One meeting in the beginning of the year engaged scholars in reflection of the prior year and encouraged consideration of skills that would set them up for success in 2024.

The collaborative model of Community Meetings enables scholars to build relationships with their peers and staff while strengthening the social-emotional skills critical to success in middle school, high school, and beyond.

## SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT: ADDISEN

Each year, Higher Achievement selects one 8th grade scholar at each of our affiliates to receive our Maureen Holla Award. Greenbelt scholar Addisen was recognized with this year’s DC Metro award and shared the following in her 8th grade reflection:

***“Now I have people to talk to when I am struggling and annoyed. Higher Achievement I will never be able to show how much gratitude I feel for your supporting me to become a better student. Now I can learn from my mistakes no matter how many times. I can work towards becoming a better version of myself every day of my life.”***



# 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES



### ACADEMIC GAINS

75% of Higher Achievement scholars maintained an A or B or improved a letter grade in English, and 70% did so in Math.



### SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

In self-assessment surveys, 86% of scholars responded favorably regarding their self-efficacy skills, and 90% of scholars indicated feeling a sense of belonging at Higher Achievement

## DEMOGRAPHICS

594

### SCHOLARS SUPPORTED

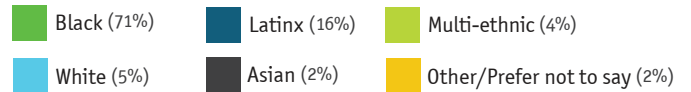
across 12 centers in the DC Metro region, Baltimore, and Richmond

281

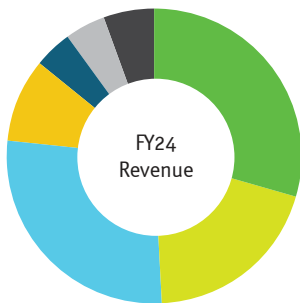
### VOLUNTEER MENTORS

supporting scholars' personal and academic goals

### SCHOLAR RACE/ETHNICITY



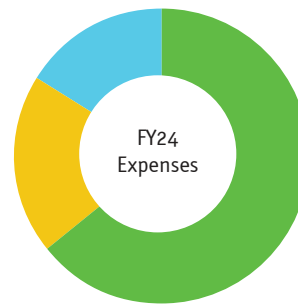
## FINANCIALS



### FY24 REVENUE

Foundations	\$2,016,748
Government	\$1,332,882
Individuals	\$1,854,611
Corporate	\$629,835
In Kind	\$280,284
Investments	\$313,403
Other	\$360,119

Total FY24 Revenue  
\$6,787,882\*



### FY24 EXPENSES

Program	\$4,640,192
Administrative	\$1,411,824
Fundraising	\$1,160,311

Total FY24 Expenses  
\$7,212,327

\*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.



Baltimore · DC Metro · Richmond  
higherachievement.org



Talent is everywhere,  
but opportunity is not.

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