



**HIGHER  
ACHIEVEMENT  
BALTIMORE**

# 2025 REPORT CARD

SEPTEMBER 2024 - AUGUST 2025

## BUILDING ON A LEGACY

This year, Higher Achievement celebrated a significant milestone: 50 years of expanding access to opportunities for middle school students.

We are both proud to be part of this organizational legacy and excited for what's to come next in Baltimore.

With your partnership, we are working to expand the number of scholars we serve, pilot new supports for the transition to high school, and launch an endowment that will bolster sustainability and ensure our continued work for years to come.

### **Thank you for being part of this mission.**

The rigorous academic enrichment, caring adult mentors, and comprehensive preparation for high school that Higher Achievement offers are made possible through the power of this community.



# EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

Field trips, electives, and partnerships sparked new interests and career pathways for scholars in 2025. We are proud to announce partnerships with five new collaborators this year. Thank you to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Poly, City, and Patterson High Schools, The CollegeBound Foundation, Baltimore Educational Trust (BEST), and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.



## CHESAPEAKE BAY FIELD TRIP

Thanks to the support of the Chesapeake Bay Trust, scholars had the opportunity to travel to Tangier Island for a three-day, two-night meaningful watershed experience. Scholars visited Port Isobel Island Environmental Education Center where they experienced a traditional watermen's society where livelihoods are completely dependent on a healthy Bay. While using inquiry-based learning techniques and STEM practices, scholars explored wetlands, underwater grass beds, and oyster reefs by foot, canoe, and aboard a research vessel.

## SCHOLARS LINK

Higher Achievement partnered with Baltimore City College Athletics for Scholars Link, an initiative created to increase access to college and career resources through collaborative youth leadership and engagement. Our Scholars Link kickoff was electric, and King Arthur of the Harlem Wizards brought the fun!

## REFLECTIONS ON GROWTH

Each year, Higher Achievement selects one 8th-grade scholar to receive our Maureen Holla Award. This year's Maureen Holla award winner, Nomareliz from Lakeland Achievement Center, created a miniature art gallery with each painting reflecting a portion of her time at Higher Achievement. Noma added the following reflection to her piece:

*"Now I'm more confident, have better social skills, and know how to resolve conflict in effective ways. Higher Achievement has also shown me how to manage my time for school work and my own life."*





## PREPARING TO LAUNCH

Preparation for high school, college, and career is at the cornerstone of Higher Achievement's programming. Trips, workshops, and weekly mentoring expanded horizons and supported scholars' ambitions for the future.



### VISIT TO HOOD COLLEGE

This summer, 31 scholars had the opportunity to tour Hood College and learn about campus life, majors and career paths, financial aid, and more. Scholars visited dorms, classrooms, the student life center, and the library, and ate in the student cafeteria. Scholars particularly enjoyed a scavenger hunt across campus led by Hood College staff.



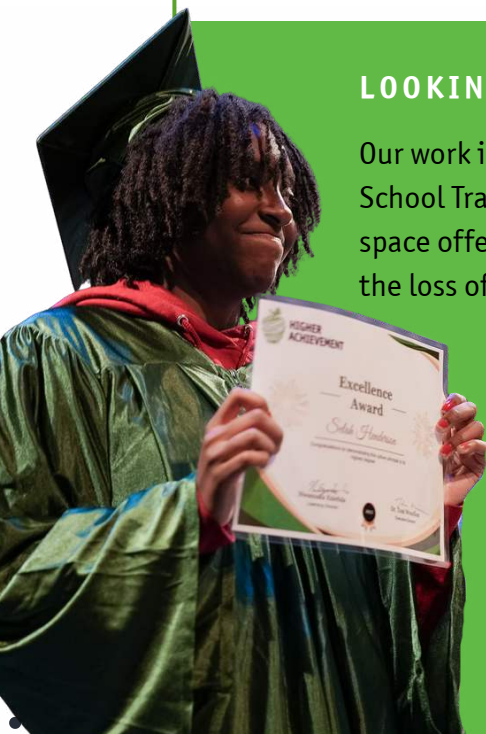
### HIGH SCHOOL READINESS ACADEMY

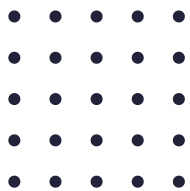
With the support of mentors, families, and staff, Higher Achievement facilitated a weeklong "High School Readiness Academy" for scholars. The workshops bolstered high school readiness skills like time management and organization. Scholars also participated in a high school research night, where they considered their needs and interests and aligned them with high school options. The week culminated with the Scholars Link event at Baltimore City College, a top high school in Baltimore and a popular choice for Higher Achievement scholars.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Our work is going further in the 2025-26 program year through our emerging High School Transition programming. No other programs in the Baltimore out-of-school time space offer specified transition programming to help scholars adjust to high school and the loss of the infrastructure and community they received in middle school.

8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade is a key turning point and indicator for on-time graduation, and with chronic absenteeism on the rise, students must have support during the 9th-grade transition. Increased partnerships with local high schools have allowed us to offer more insights into the high school experience for current scholars. As our high school transition program grows, we are identifying ways for 9th grade alumni to bring the support and encouragement of Higher Achievement with them into high school.





# 2025 BY THE NUMBERS

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES



### ACADEMIC GAINS

63% of Higher Achievement scholars maintained an A or B or improved a letter grade in English, and 60% did so in Math



### SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

In self-assessment surveys, 81% of scholars responded favorably regarding their self-efficacy skills, and 84% of scholars indicated feeling a sense of belonging at Higher Achievement



### HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT

98% of scholars were accepted into at least one of their top three high school choices

## DEMOGRAPHICS

# 172

**SCHOLARS SUPPORTED** across 3 centers at Highlandtown, Lakeland, and Mt. Royal Middle Schools

# 25

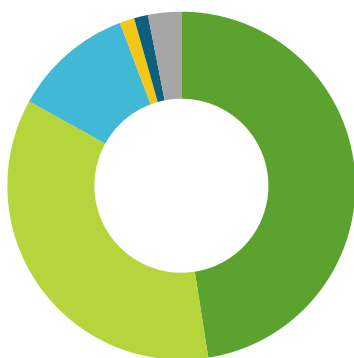
**VOLUNTEER MENTORS** supporting scholars' personal and academic goals

### SCHOLARS RACE/ETHNICITY



Black (27%) Latinx (51%) Multiethnic (3%) White (13%) Asian (2%) Other/Prefer not to say (4%)

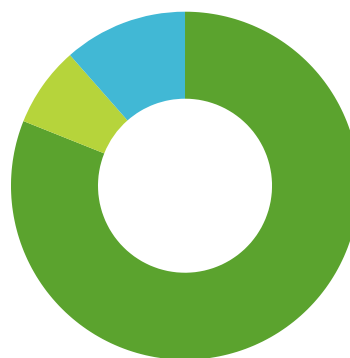
## FINANCIALS



### FY25 REVENUE

Foundations \$539,500  
Government \$403,258  
Individuals \$127,071  
Corporate \$15,500  
In Kind \$14,720  
Investments \$35,000

**Total FY25 Revenue**  
**\$1,135,049**



### FY25 EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits \$761,022  
Program Services \$69,967  
Other \$107,893

**Total FY25 Expenses**  
**\$938,882**



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**Talent is everywhere,  
but opportunity is not.**

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