



2025 REPORT CARD

SEPTEMBER 2024 - AUGUST 2025

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

50 years ago, Greg Gannon founded Higher Achievement with the belief that all students deserve access to rigorous academic opportunities and support. That dream became a transformative reality that has shaped countless lives.

Over the past five decades, Higher Achievement has become a beacon of opportunity for thousands of middle school students across the DC region, Baltimore, and Richmond thanks to the dedicated support of families, mentors, school partners, and community leaders.

As we celebrate this incredible legacy, we look ahead to an exciting future – from expanding the number of scholars we serve, to piloting new supports for the transition to high school, and launching 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.

HISTORY TIMELINE

“

Higher Achievement encourages you and helps you push your hardest. It shows you so many opportunities. It makes me wonder: ‘What else can I do in life?’

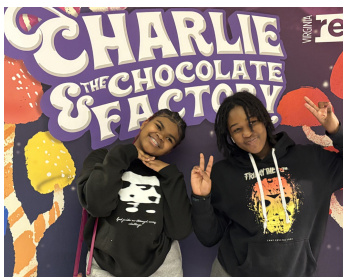
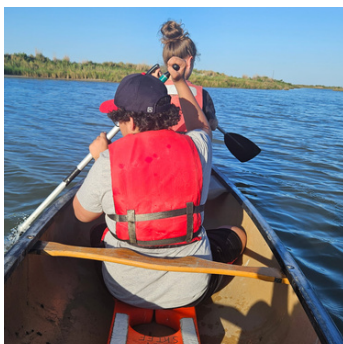
- SAMIR, SCHOLAR AT KELLY MILLER

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EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

Field trips, electives, and workshops sparked new interests and career pathways for scholars in 2025.



CAREER EXPLORATION

Scholars participated in coding games during Accenture's Hour of Code event, presented pitches during an entrepreneur workshop, and explored STEM career opportunities through virtual reality and live line demonstrations during PEPCO's Energize Day.



CHESAPEAKE BAY EXPERIENCE

Scholars traveled to Tangier Island for a hands-on STEM learning experience. Scholars explored wetlands, underwater grass beds, and oyster reefs by foot, canoe, and aboard a research vessel.



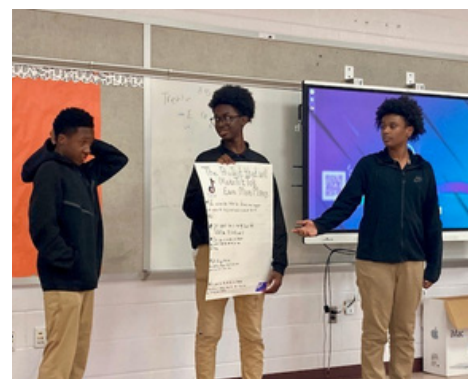
SCHOLARS LINK

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.



FIELD TRIPS

Scholars attended the Virginia Repertory Theatre's performance of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," had a hands-on day of learning at the Science Museum of Virginia, toured the Philips Collection, and visited the Virginia Aquarium in Norfolk, VA.



I have learned confidence is key and empowers you to express your thoughts, needs, and boundaries clearly and assertively. I have gained confidence by taking people's words into consideration, by trusting myself, and valuing my own thoughts and feelings. This has increased my self-esteem, my communication, and performance.

- ZYNIA
SCHOLAR AT HENDERSON





PREPARING TO LAUNCH

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



COLLEGE VISITS

Scholars toured the University of Maryland, Hood College, and Longwood University. During the visits, they asked insightful questions and learned about campus life, majors and career paths, financial aid, and more. Scholars visited dorms, classrooms, student life centers, libraries, and ate in the student cafeteria.



HIGH SCHOOL RETREATS

Scholars prepared for the transition to high school by practicing foundational skills in self-advocacy, relationship building, and time management. Scholars also participated in high school research nights, where they considered their needs and interests and aligned them with high school options.



GREEN APPLES GRADUATION CEREMONY

Higher Achievement celebrated joyful Green Apples graduation ceremonies for our 8th graders in the spring. During the ceremony, 8th-grade graduate, Albert, reflected on the challenges he faced when starting middle school and Higher Achievement's support during the transition, sharing:

"Now, with a circle of friends and a supportive network of mentors, I feel like I've finally found my place. The chaos that once felt overwhelming now feels like part of the rhythm of school life. I've learned to embrace it, and in doing so, I've found a sense of peace, a sense of belonging."

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

PROGRAM OUTCOMES



ACADEMIC GAINS

72% of Higher Achievement scholars maintained an A or B or improved a letter grade in English, and 67% did so in Math



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

In self-assessment surveys, 85% of scholars responded favorably regarding their self-efficacy skills, and 89% of scholars indicated feeling a sense of belonging at Higher Achievement

DEMOGRAPHICS

552

SCHOLARS SUPPORTED

across 6 centers in Washington, DC and Prince George's County, MD

121

VOLUNTEER MENTORS

supporting scholars' personal and academic goals

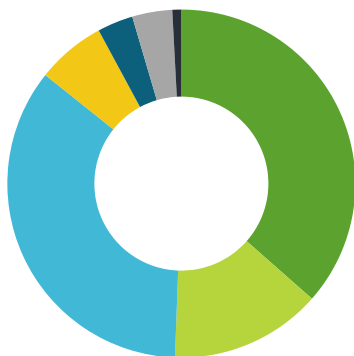
SCHOLARS RACE/ETHNICITY



Black (56%) Latinx (23%) Multiethnic (3%) White (6%)
Asian (2%) Other/Prefer not to say (10%)

FINANCIALS

FY25 REVENUE



Foundations \$2,845,472
Government \$1,098,573
Individuals \$2,738,644
Corporate \$499,399
In Kind \$258,818
Investments \$290,142
Other \$65,099

Total FY25 Revenue
\$7,796,147*

FY25 EXPENSES



Program \$3,787,905
Administrative \$1,215,310
Fundraising \$1,115,368

Total FY25 Expenses
\$6,118,583

*2025 revenue includes \$1,138,000 of gifts that will fund a new endowment. The endowment will help us bolster sustainability and ensure we can continue to support scholars for years to come.



**HIGHER
ACHIEVEMENT**

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.**