



Mid-Year Report: 2019-2020 School Year

Colorado Reading Corps program: *helping struggling students become strong readers by the end of 3rd grade*

- 931 students served during first semester at 50 elementary schools
- 68% of students were above target growth, meaning they are closing the gap with their peers and growing by more than one year. At 90% above target growth, students in kindergarten made the greatest gains first semester.

Educational Intervention program: *helping 9th graders get on track to graduation by passing core classes*

- 190 9th grade students served
- 1,288 one-one-one academic support sessions with students (an average of 7 per student, per semester); 733 individual outreaches to families (an average of 4 per student)
- 86% of CYC students raised at least one F to a passing grade.

Corps for a Change program: *helping students who are chronically absent maintain or increase attendance*

- 418 high school students served
- 3,119 one-one-one academic support sessions with students (an average of 8 per student, per semester); 282 individual outreaches to families
- 394 students completed a new assessment (Developmental Assets Profile); *constructive use of time* and *community* were the two lowest scoring areas, while students scored highest in *family connection*. This assessment helps AmeriCorps members identify appropriate interventions for the year.

Reengagement program: *reenrolling students who have left school without graduating*

- 1,178 one-on-one academic support sessions occurred with students (those CYC reenrolled already and those who were considering reenrollment)
- 214 youth received an intake and created an education plan, while 158 students were reenrolled in school
- 78% have a positive outcome year-to-date (still enrolled or graduated)

Futures Academy program: *supporting students in earning their GED while co-enrolling in post-secondary options*

- 354 students enrolled in the program
- 54 students passed at least one GED test in the first semester and 13 earned their GED
- 22 earned credit by dual-enrolling in Pickens Technical College certification programs
- 14 earned college credit at the Community College of Aurora through dual-enrollment

Other Accomplishments

- The “outreach” and “reengagement” components of CYC’s Reengagement program have historically been completed by the same person. This year the organization welcomed a new AmeriCorps Vista member to develop a separate outreach model with specific metrics. This includes the process for referring students who want to reenroll in school to a Reengagement Specialist, as well as developing new data collection and report systems. The goal is for people to become more specialized in roles, where the outreach point of contact doesn’t lose sight of the large call lists of those who’ve dropped out and the Reengagement Specialists focus more on school placement and ongoing case management to ensure students remain in school.
- This summer CYC partnered with the Denver Juvenile Service Center to place a Reengagement Specialist on-site. Youth who are involved with the juvenile justice center are referred to CYC’s staff member through their probation officers, diversion officers, pre-trial case managers, and the HYPE day reporting program. CYC’s Reengagement Specialist sets up intakes, takes youth on school tours, and assists them with school enrollment. Twenty-five (25) youth have been served in the first six months.
- In the last year, Colorado Reading Corps increased participation in the family engagement component, Read At Home, by over 20%. This is a result of additional training and focus by CYC’s coaching staff.

Student Success

While all students take part in **Colorado Reading Corps to improve reading skills**, some students also face difficult challenges beyond school.

As one AmeriCorps member, Janet, shared recently, there is a particular first grade student who stands out. Gina lives with foster parents because her father is in jail and her mother struggles with her mental health. Gina often shares snippets of fear and disappointment on the walks from her class to the reading library.

During their first month together, Gina was afraid of making mistakes and disappointing her teachers, and she would say, "I can't do this. It is too hard."

At their halfway point through the year, and having worked together 20 minutes a day during the first semester, Gina has moved from the “challenged” reading group to the highest level in her first grade class. She told Janet before the holiday break, “I used to hate to read. I used to do anything to avoid reading. Last night I read a story to my grandma. She was so surprised. I love to read more than anything!”

Chris reached out to Jenny, a CYC **Reengagement Specialist who helps youth get back into school**, after a friend told him about how much CYC helped her. Chris shared his story of becoming homeless at the age of 18. It was difficult to find a new place to stay every few weeks, which interfered with his ability to attend school.

When Jenny met with Chris, he spoke about the difficulties of his circumstances and his excitement about returning back to school. With support from Jenny and a McKinney-Vento advocate, he was reenrolled into high school. He even enrolled in a psychology class he was especially excited about after a counselor advocated on his behalf. Together, Jenny and his new school provided Chris with school supplies, while Jenny connected him to other supportive adults in the building.

Chris plans to attend college and work in the medical field. He is set to graduate from high school this May.