



End of School Year Report 2020-2021

Colorado Youth for a Change (CYC) was established in 2005 in response to more than 18,000 students dropping out of Colorado schools each year, and the lack of resources in school systems to prevent youth from dropping out and reenroll those who had. Since that time, CYC has significantly contributed to the Colorado dropout rate being cut in half.

CYC is a recognized leader in dropout prevention and student reengagement, providing youth with academic support, evidence-based interventions, family engagement, and wraparound support services to address non-academic barriers to education. CYC programs address early warning signs of dropping out (low reading proficiency, chronic absenteeism, and course failure), as well as reengage disconnected, out-of-school youth, getting them back on a path to graduation and post-secondary opportunities.

Colorado's transition to between remote, hybrid, and in-person learning as a result of COVID-19 caused great disruptions for students and families, and experts fear that graduation gains made over the last few years will be reversed as a result. In transitioning CYC's work to virtual platforms through the pandemic, staff and AmeriCorps members saw increased barriers for students: disruption in access to basic needs, loss of the structure and social-emotional supports that schools provide, and increased household and financial instability. The organization remains committed to children and youth, helping to close opportunity gaps in education in partnership with caring staff and committed AmeriCorps members.

This past year, CYC partnered with Serve Colorado and the Governor's Office to recruit additional AmeriCorps members through the Student Engagement Corps. Members supported nearly 2,600 students during the 2020-2021 school year, from kindergarten through 12th grade. Roles included attendance support, academic tutoring, supporting social and emotional growth with students, and helping students and families navigate remote learning platforms and communication. Members helped to ensure district communication was translated for families where English may be a second language and created special instructions and supports for entire families.

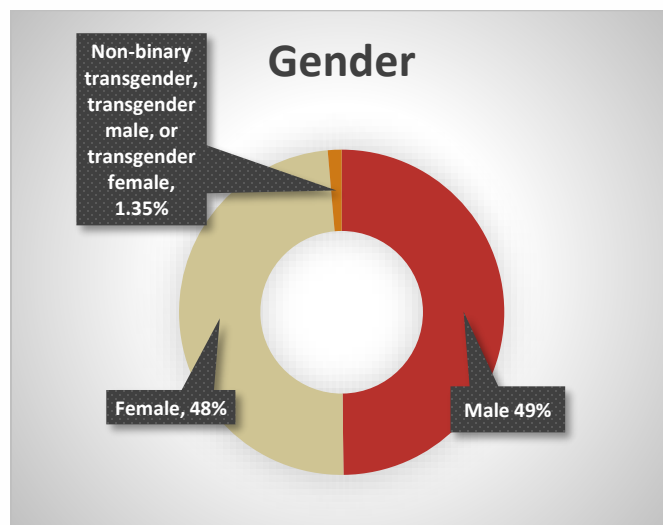
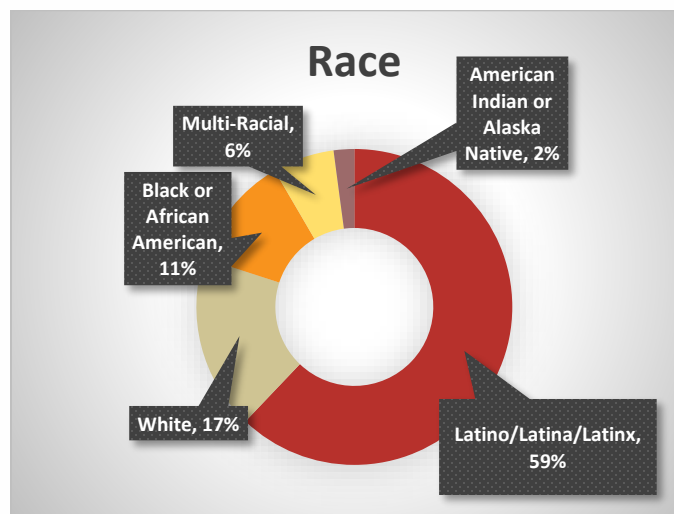
Overall Outcomes

5,820 students were served by CYC in the 2020-2021 School Year across **17** Colorado school districts.

Identities and Life Events

At Colorado Youth for a Change, we support and respect our students, and our team understands that identities and life experiences have helped shape students into who they are. Through our intake process, we ask our students about their identities and life events to better understand how their personal identities and experiences may have affected their relationship with school. We collect this information so that, when combined with other student data, we can tell the broader story of how the identities and life events of all students impact them within the education system. This information can lead to better overall support and services for future students.

Student Demographics (students 14-21 years old only)



Life Events (students 14-21 years old only)

- ❖ **35%** of CYC Students are currently or formerly involved in court
- ❖ **4%** are currently or formerly in foster care
- ❖ **18%** are currently or formerly experiencing homelessness
- ❖ **9%** are parenting or pregnant
- ❖ **69%** were eligible for free or reduced lunch

Program-Specific Outcomes

Colorado Reading Corps

Helping students become strong readers by the end of third grade

- ❖ **877** students were served by the Colorado Reading Corps program
- ❖ **79.2** percent achieved more than a full year of academic growth in reading
- ❖ **13,539** tutoring hours were provided with **98.4** percent program fidelity
- ❖ Students were served by **45** tutors at **42** sites

Colorado Pre-K Reading Corps

Colorado Youth for a Change launched Pre-K this year at two sites with four tutors. Both sites alternated between in-person and remote learning, to comply with county health orders during COVID-19. During remote learning, tutors shared recorded book readings based on Reading Corps Pre-K interventions (e.g. Repeated Read Aloud Intervention), distributed Read/Write/Talk With Me book bags and reading kits to families, and supported teacher-led remote learning activities.

During in-person learning, tutors were integrated into the classroom and met with every student in the classroom at least once a week to provide small group literacy- and numeracy-based activities. Tutors also provided targeted, one-on-one and small group early literacy and numeracy interventions to 52 students and class wide literacy support to an additional 95.

- ❖ **147** students were served by the Colorado Pre-K Reading Corps program
- ❖ **2,874** tutoring hours were provided with **93** percent program fidelity
- ❖ Students were served by **4** tutors at **2** sites

Percent of Students Who Met Skill Target

| Area of literacy/numeracy | Beginning of year | End of year |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Math | 26% | 74% |
| Vocabulary | 30% | 61% |
| Comprehension | 48% | 70% |



Program-Specific Outcomes (continued)

Corps for a Change

Increase school engagement

- ❖ **425** students were served by the Corps for a Change program
- ❖ **38%** of students within the target group increased their attendance
- ❖ Total number of student meetings: **4,898**
- ❖ Total number of hours served: **2,376**

Development Assets Profile Pre- and Post-Results

Of the students who took the post-test:

- ❖ **54%** improved in Social Competencies
- ❖ **46%** improved in Positive Values
- ❖ **43%** improved in Commitment to Learning
- ❖ **75%** improved in at least two asset categories

Reengagement

Reenroll students who have left school without graduating

- ❖ **1,949** students were reached out to
- ❖ **214** students were served by the Reengagement program through education plans
- ❖ **131** students were enrolled back into school or a GED program
- ❖ **80%** of students either graduated or continued in school



Coming Next Year: Math Corps

Launching in the 2021-22 school year, this program is a replication of the evidence-based Minnesota Math Corps. Members will help 4th-8th grade students build math skills that are critical for long-term success in math. More specifically, Math Corps focuses intently on whole and rational number understanding, which includes skills such as counting, number comparisons, whole number operations, and a foundational understanding of rational numbers (e.g., fractions). Math Corps adopts a sequential and mastery-oriented approach in which students progress through math concepts at their own speed. Students receive 90 minutes a week of small group intervention (i.e., 2-3 students) in 30–45 minute blocks (to accommodate different school schedules for these older students). Each member serves a caseload of **26** students daily. Student progress will be monitored by bi-monthly meetings with Internal and Master coaches to assess data and support student success. Research is clear that attaining algebra readiness by eighth grade and consistent attendance and engagement in high school are key indicators of a student's future success. Only 35% of eighth grade students are proficient in math and as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, math scores nationwide in 3rd-8th grade students have dropped by 5-10% in the last year.

Following such an unprecedented year, Colorado Math Corps will act as a necessary support system for students who have lost nearly a year of in-person education as well as the Colorado public school system. As Colorado is currently in the midst of a severe teacher shortage, Math Corps members will play a valuable role in assisting schools lacking the personnel to thoroughly support students. CYC is excited to bring Math Corps to Colorado because we know that math skills are highly predictive of high school graduation. By harnessing the power of AmeriCorps, Math Corps places full-time AmeriCorps members in schools for a whole school year and will help Colorado's public schools recover from the pandemic.

