



2021-2022 Annual Report

Dear friends,

At Colorado Youth for a Change, numbers are a big deal to us. Our everyday lives are inundated with data, especially at this time of year. As we analyze our programs and their impact over the past school year, we are eager to share these outcomes with you.

Quantitative results are key to consistently refining and improving our work. However, this year we challenge you—and ourselves—to look beyond the numbers, to see the unique, incredible, inspiring students that make up these numbers. Each of them has their own story and their own voice, which we've been honored to move more into the spotlight this year. We're thinking of students like Gabi (page 11), a high school senior in Aurora Public Schools who was at risk of not graduating but reached the finish line with support from a CYC AmeriCorps member, Aaliyah. Or students like Levi (page 7), a third grade student in Thompson School District who set a reading goal for himself and never stopped working until he reached it. We feel fortunate to hear and witness stories like this every day.



This student-centered approach is the driving force behind our continuum of work from PreK through graduation. Reshaping Colorado's educational landscape to support all students to succeed in school starts with the individual relationships our AmeriCorps members and staff forge with their students.

We hope you will enjoy reading about our statistical successes this school year—we are humbled by another year of success in Colorado Early Learning Corps, Colorado Reading Corps, Corps for a Change, and Reengagement, as well as a strong pilot year for Colorado Math Corps. We also hope that the handful of student stories, wins, and moments of joy that we were able to include here will inspire you as much as they inspired us.

Thank you for all the ways you support Colorado students and the work of Colorado Youth for a Change. Together, we are creating pathways for students to take charge of their educational journeys and achieve success on their terms.

Best regards,

Mary Zanotti, Executive Director

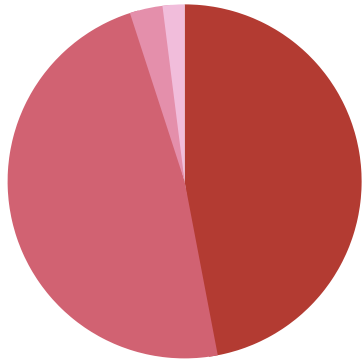
DJ Close, Board Chair

The Students We Serve



Colorado Youth for a Change collects demographic information **only on our students that are 14 or older**. We collect this information in order to determine if our programs are serving populations of students that are representative of the larger communities we serve, and to understand what portions of our students have unique needs. All responses are kept anonymous and students can opt out of answering any of our demographic or life event questions.

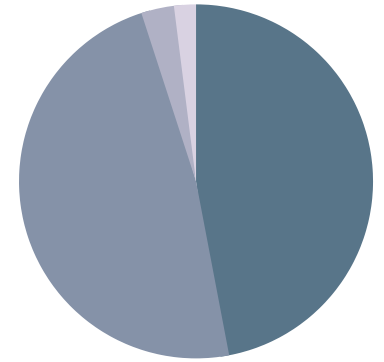
Gender



48% male
47% female
3% transgender or nonbinary
2% not listed/declined to answer

| Race/Ethnicity | Percentage of students |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Latinx | 51% |
| White | 21% |
| Multiracial | 12% |
| Black or African American | 11% |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 2% |
| Asian | 1% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 0.5% |
| Not listed/declined to answer | 1.5% |

Sexual Orientation



73% heterosexual
19% LGBTQIA+
8% declined to answer

Life Events

65% qualify for free/reduced lunch and are classified as economically disadvantaged
28% are currently or were formerly involved with the court system
14% are currently or were formerly experiencing homelessness
5% are currently or were formerly in foster care
3% are parenting
1% are pregnant



Colorado Early Learning Corps



WHAT? Formerly known as PreK Reading Corps, Colorado Early Learning Corps supports preschool students with literacy and math interventions through interactive activities like singing and play.

WHO? Tutors in this program serve PreK classrooms and small groups of students ages 3-5.

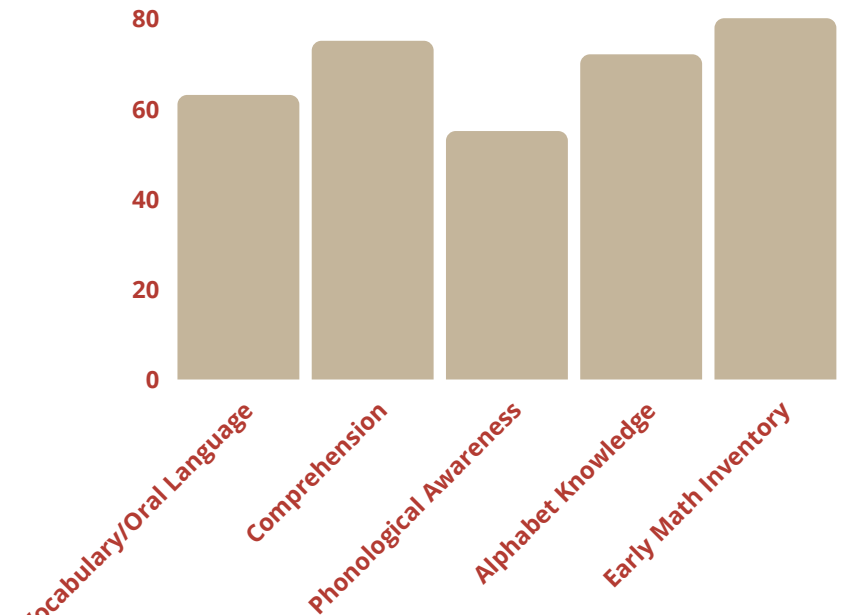
WHY? 80% of a child's brain development occurs before age 5. If a student is not prepared to learn alongside classmates at the start of Kindergarten, they may struggle to catch up.

114

PreK students served

74%

met or exceeded their target growth rate—meaning they grew by more than a year and are closing the gap with grade-level peers



Percent of students at or above target in each content area at end of year

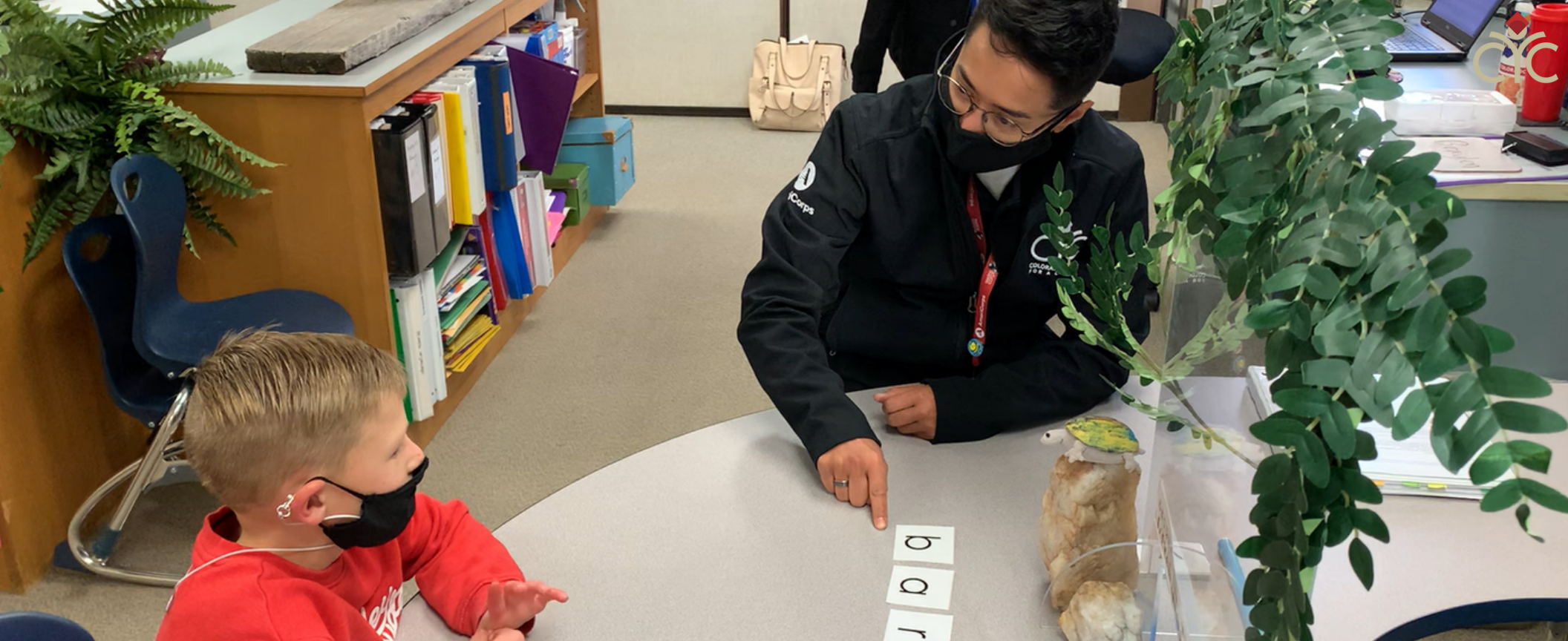
Colorado Early Learning Corps *IN ACTION*



"[Our tutor Sydney] was nurturing and formed caring relationships with the students. [Sydney also] showed big growth in working with our children who have special needs." -Lead teacher at one of our Colorado Early Learning Corps sites

"I've watched most of the students be able to write their names and their numbers with little to no help. I'm also able to coach and see them learn as I help them and it's truly incredible. It makes me feel so proud and rewarded to be doing what I'm doing now." -Whitney, Colorado Early Learning Corps tutor





Colorado Reading Corps

WHAT? Colorado Reading Corps provides 20 minutes of daily, one-on-one reading instruction to younger students using 10 evidence-based reading techniques (also called interventions).

WHO? Tutors in this program serve Kindergarten-third grade students who are reading below grade level standards.

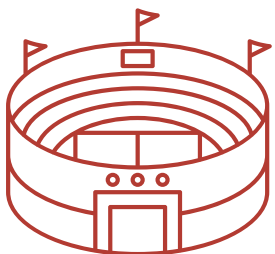
WHY? If a student is not reading at grade level by third grade, this can be a key indicator to a student dropping out of school in the future.

1,831

K-3rd grade
students served

73%

exceeded their target
growth rate—meaning they
grew by more than a year
and are closing the gap with
grade-level peers



The amount of Colorado third-graders that can't read on grade level would fill the Broncos stadium—twice.



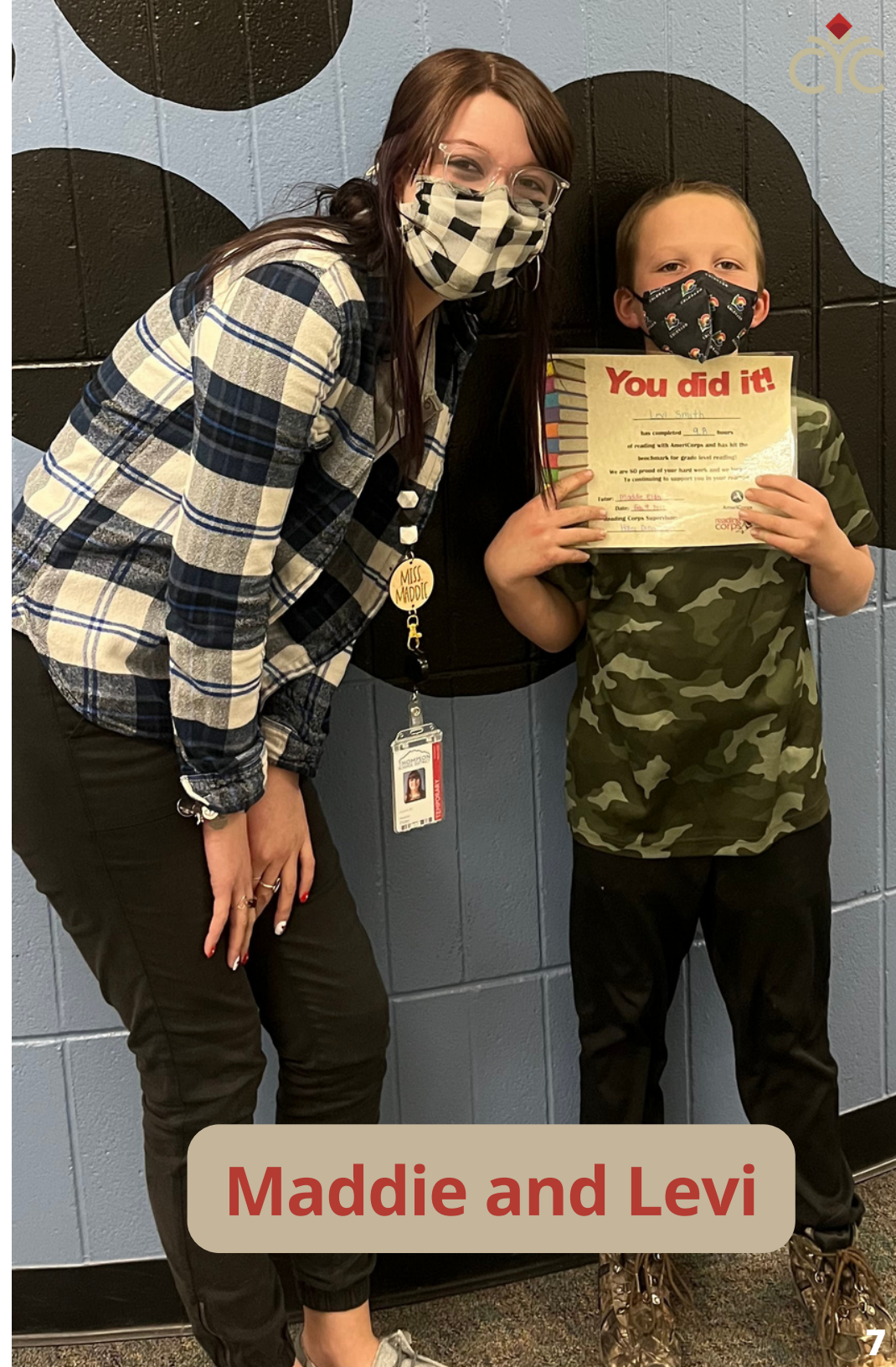
3 out of 5 Colorado
third graders aren't
reading at grade level.

Colorado Reading Corps

IN ACTION

"My student Levi made a goal to read 82 words in a minute. I encouraged him to do his best and if he didn't make the goal, I would be just as proud because he was worked so hard all week. In our third reading, he got 87 words. We were both SO excited and danced in our room celebrating. He was grinning from ear to ear and was so excited to keep reading. Levi told me as we were walking to class, 'Miss Maddie, I didn't want to tell you this, but I read all week while you were gone. I read a book I found at home, and my dad asked if I had to do it for school and I told him it was just for fun. My dad was so excited I chose to read and he wanted to read with me. He said I am a better reader and I think that's because of you.'" -Maddie, Colorado Reading Corps tutor

"One of my Kindergarten students, when I first arrived, knew only three letters in the alphabet. Also, they were super shy and would barely talk to anyone. That same student recently passed a letter test with 100% also finding words using letter sounds! They also have grown a lot more talkative and social. Their teacher says being in the program has definitely changed this kid for the better and I am so proud to be able to be a part of this." -Ala'Zai, Colorado Reading Corps tutor



Maddie and Levi

Colorado Math Corps

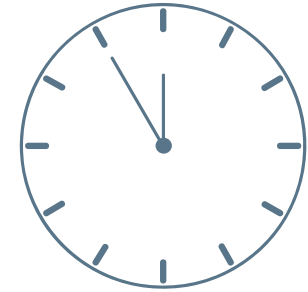


1,030

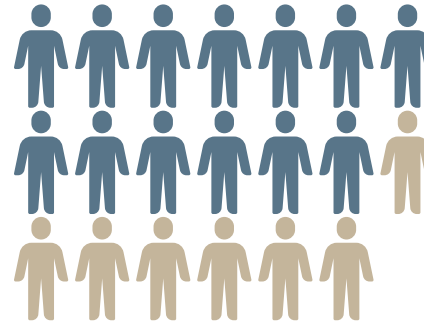
4th-8th grade
students served

46%

exceeded their target growth rate—
meaning they grew by more than a
year and are closing the gap with
grade-level peers*



Colorado Math Corps
tutors together provided
nearly **14,000 hours** of
small-group tutoring.



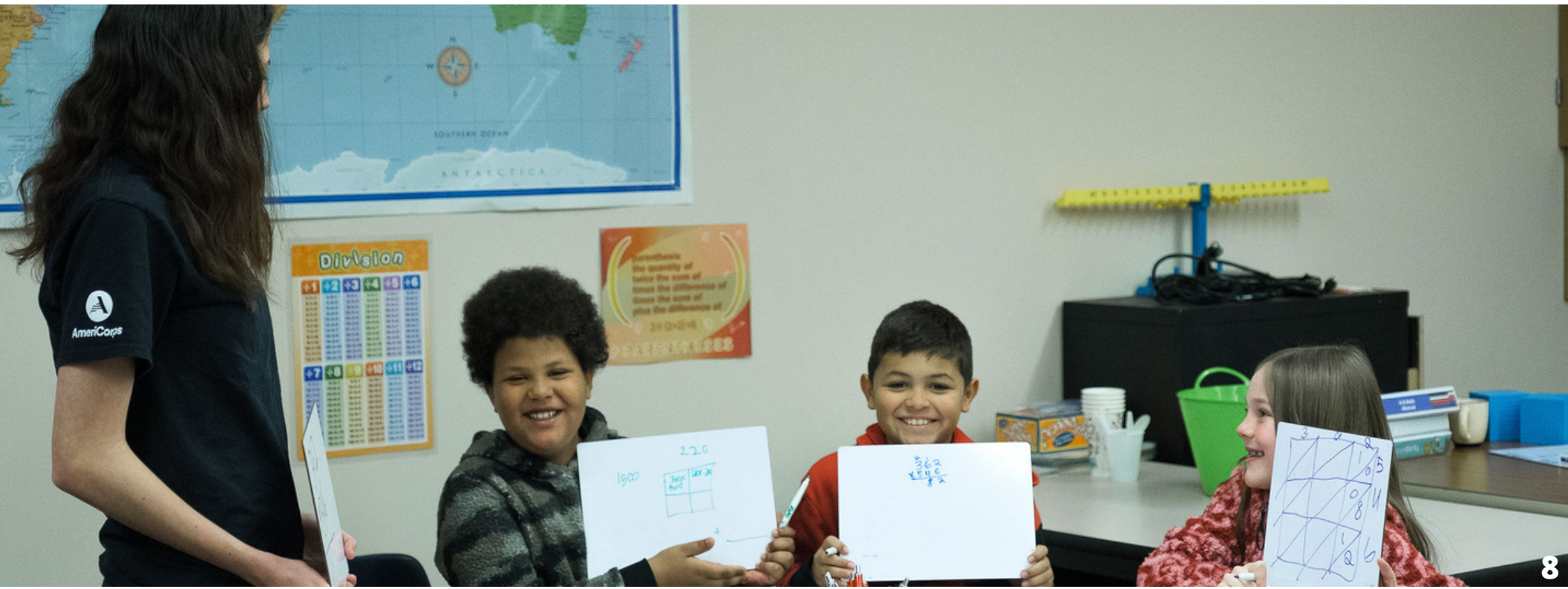
17 out of 25 Colorado 8th
graders are not proficient
in math.

WHAT? Colorado Math Corps provides at least 90 minutes of small-group math instruction per week. This school year was the pilot year for this program in Colorado.*

WHO? Tutors in this program serve small groups of 4th-8th grade students (2-3 students) who are performing below grade level math standards.

WHY? Proficiency in math is highly predictive of graduating high school and is correlated with attending college and higher lifetime earnings.

**see page 14 for more details.*



Colorado Math Corps *IN ACTION*



"The other day one of my 4th graders came to her session and said that earlier that morning she'd told her mom that she thinks she wants to 'try to be a mathematician' because she 'likes her math teacher and it's fun.' I thought this was so awesome because it's exactly what we're trying to achieve- not just helping students get better at math but also helping them enjoy it more!" -Erika, Colorado Math Corps tutor

"I was working with a group of sixth graders on turning fractions to decimals and they were starting to be able to do them on their own without any help from me. They all got the problem correct and I said, 'I knew I was working with geniuses!' Their faces lit up at that. One girl mentioned that no one has ever told her that she is good at math. Many of the students tell me they are 'bad at math' or 'dumb.' I do not allow them to say these things during our sessions and I purposely praise them as much as possible with their math skills to hopefully change the narrative in their heads." - Brandi, Colorado Math Corps tutor

**Brandi and two of
her students with
Governor Jared Polis**



953

high school students served (more than double last year's total of 425)

87%

improved in social-emotional skills that are critical to positive school engagement

How do we measure progress?

Corps for a Change uses an evidence-based assessment tool called the **Developmental Assets Profile (DAP)**. This captures young people's perspectives on school, community, and self. The survey also assesses the strengths, supports, and social-emotional factors that affect students' educational journey. Ultimately, the skills measured by the DAP deeply impact commitment to school, likelihood of graduation, and opportunity to pursue post-secondary education and careers.

Corps for a Change

WHAT? Corps for a Change members provide mentorship and engagement support via one-on-one meetings at least once per week. They also connect students to resources within and outside of the community.

WHO? AmeriCorps members in this program serve high school students who are considered chronically absent (90% attendance or less).

WHY? Studies have shown that attendance improves when schools engage students in positive ways and provide caring adults for chronically absent students.

What does "engagement support" really look like?

The support our Corps for a Change members provide to their students can take so many different forms! Here are just a few examples of real supports our members provided this year:

- Successfully advocating to the school board to extend their bus route to accommodate a student who was less than two miles past the border—and missing school because of it
- Getting a camera donated and appealing school staff to offer a class for a student interested in photography
- Reaching out to corporate partners of CYC to organize drives for hygiene, prom dresses, and other essential items
- Helping students assemble resumes and practice job interviews
- Acting as a translator in classes for migrant students
- Home visits
- And so much more!

"One of my students, Gabi, was at risk of not graduating. Since I started [my service], many of the staff members had told me it may just be best to hold her back for a year. I was rather confused because even in our first few meetings she had shown me she was a bright and hardworking student. I had no doubt in my mind she would get her credits on track and graduate. Today she stopped by my office to show me she received her cap and gown to graduate! I am so proud of her! She has worked so hard, and it is admirable how she never gave up. I hope she is feeling very proud of herself right now." -Aaliyah, Corps for a Change Engagement Support Specialist

Corps for a Change *IN ACTION*



Gabi

Reengagement

WHAT? Reengagement staff reach out to students who have left school without finishing to connect them with different school and/or GED program options that might be a better fit. Once a student is reenrolled, Reengagement staff provides them with an individualized education plan and a full year of support.

WHO? Our Reengagement program serves middle and high school students in Denver Public Schools and Englewood School District, as well as Denver metro youth involved with the juvenile justice system.

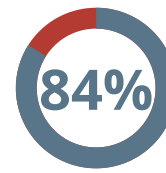
WHY? The lifelong benefits of earning a high school diploma or GED are clear: high school graduates are more likely to have better health, higher earnings, and longer life expectancy than students who do not complete high school.

2,806

total students reached out to by Reengagement staff

116

students reenrolled into school or a GED program



either stayed in school or graduated by the end of the school year



8,292 young people left school early last year. This would fill Red Rocks Amphitheatre

A Reengagement student on a tour at Emily Griffith Technical College

Reengagement *IN ACTION*



"Programs and opportunities can be limited if we get in trouble just once. We have labels because of our past, and they (school personnel) don't get to actually know them." –Student in Lakewood

Carina,* one of the students in our Reengagement program, had goals to go to college but faced a transportation barrier to get to West High School, which led to her getting dismissed. She struggled to get into a school closer to her siblings so that there was less of a transportation burden on her family. Carina's mind was set on attending CEC Early College because of the programming that they offer and the distance of her home. With some continued support, Carina is enrolled for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year. She recently shared with our staff how thankful she was that CYC was there to support her to get back into school and into the school that would lead to her goals of attending college.

**name has been changed*



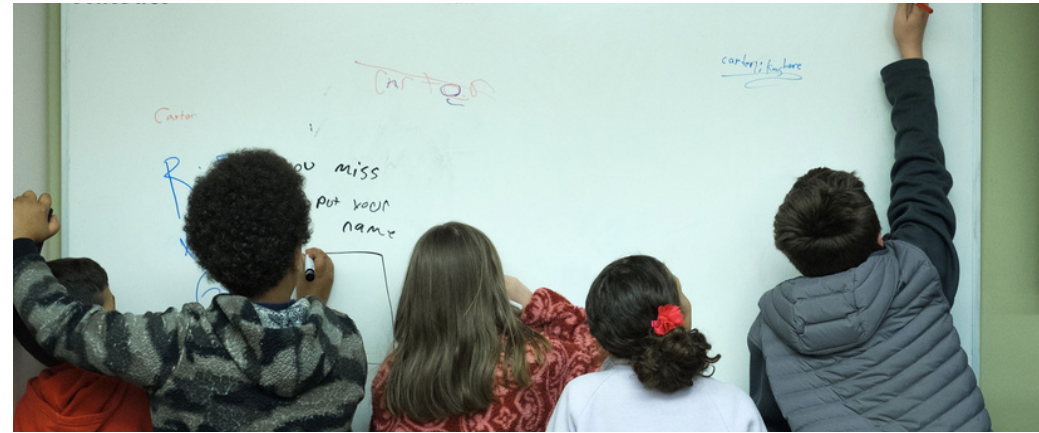
CYC staff and board with Lee (center), a former CYC Reengagement student and current teacher at Emily Griffith

Other Highlights

2021-2022

Bringing Math Corps to Colorado

This school year was the pilot year for our replication of Math Corps, which began in Minnesota. We were proud to achieve success in the program even during its first year! **46% of our Math Corps students exceeded their target growth rate. This truly matters for Colorado 4th-8th grade students.** We remain committed to building upon what we started into the 2022-2023 school year and beyond.



Reengagement for Middle and High School Truancy

This school year, CYC introduced a new Truancy Reengagement Specialist to support students not yet disenrolled at Thomas Jefferson, West, North and East high schools in Denver. This specialist also supported disenrolled middle school students, an organization first. The truancy reengagement program achieved positive outcomes in its first year: **71%** of those who reenrolled in school remained enrolled in May, and **66%** of students who received engagement support prior to disenrollment remained enrolled in May.

Convening Across Colorado

Colorado Youth for a Change's Colorado Reengagement Network hosted three webinars this school year, bringing together hundreds of education leaders and experts from across the state to share best practices, exchange ideas, and support each other. Our events included:

- A panel on **student engagement** in partnership with Stand for Children during Dropout Prevention Month
- A discussion of on-the-ground responses and techniques to support **student mental health**
- An examination of the state's new **graduation guidelines** that also provided resources and takeaways for attendees

Other Highlights

CONTINUED



Amplifying Student Voice

This year Colorado Youth for a Change assembled a small group of students in our Corps for a Change and Reengagement programs to address the question, **"What would you change about school in order to better fit your needs?"** Students were invited to respond in any media or format of their choice. Submissions included call-to-action speeches, a podcast interview, an original rap song, a painting, and more. Though each project was beautifully unique, submissions shared common themes and powerful words from our students, which you can explore [**on our blog.**](#)

This summer, we are carefully examining feedback from student participants and program staff and holding cross-departmental discussions about how to improve and build upon this project for next school year. In particular, we hope to open up some form of this project to our younger students. Colorado Youth for a Change is committed to centering student voices and utilizing their feedback to ensure our programs fit their needs.

Building Colorado's Teaching Capacity

This year, Colorado Youth for a Change partnered with the Colorado Education Initiative and Serve Colorado to strengthen the teacher pipeline in Colorado. Interviews and research identified ways to better disseminate information and reduce barriers so that more AmeriCorps members transition from Colorado Youth for a Change to teaching or counseling certification programs. Exit surveys of our 2021-2022 AmeriCorps members found that **40% of our members were interested in a career in education upon the completion of their service term.** Because CYC has more than doubled its AmeriCorps footprint this year, there's a real opportunity to recruit educators and build a more robust teacher pipeline throughout Colorado.

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\$100,000+

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2022 Financials

INCOME

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Federal Government | \$1,958,790 |
| School Districts & State Government | \$1,571,447 |
| Contributions & Special Events | \$1,321,484 |
| PPP Loan/In-Kind/Other | \$593,819 |
| Total | \$5,445,540 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Programs | \$4,190,216 |
| Fundraising & General | \$554,590 |
| Total | \$4,744,806 |

88% of Colorado Youth for a Change's revenue supported programs.

Complete financial report available upon request.

Stay in touch!

- CLICK ME!**
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