

Theory of Change: Participation in high quality out-of-school-time programs results in better educational outcomes for youth.

Program Goal: To improve student learning through increasing knowledge, skills, relationships, and motivation to achieve.

All proposals submitted to the Foundation should adhere to one of the following strategies:

STRATEGY A

Tutoring/Homework Help

Target Population: Chicago Public School Students

Components: Activities connect to/are informed by grade-level benchmarks, standards, the school-day curriculum, and are tailored to address students' individual needs. An adequate number of adults are present to supervise and assist children and youth. Participants are engaged in fun, safe, creative activities that help them build relationships with each other and adults. Students are involved consistently over an extended period of time. Staff communicate regularly with parents. Staff regularly assess the effectiveness of the strategies used and make changes in a timely manner.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Number of students enrolled and amount of time they participate each day, week, month, and year
- Student retention in the program and in school
- Staff retention
- Knowledge gains, grade letter gains, gains on standardized tests
- Attitude and motivation towards school work
- Increase in positive social behaviors
- Quality of staff/parent communication
- Increase in homework completion

STRATEGY B

College Prep

Target Population: Chicago Public School Students

Components: Workshops, test preparation classes, tutoring, and college visits prepare students for success in college. Staff advise and counsel students to build their confidence, motivation, and awareness of strengths and weaknesses. Students learn strategies such as developing a peer support group once in college that increase their chances of staying in and completing college. Parents learn about the financial aid process and how to support their children's educational goals.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Number of students applying, accepted into, and attending college
- Number of students enrolled and amount of time they participate each day, week, month, and year
- Student retention in the program and in school
- Staff retention
- Parent involvement
- Knowledge gains, increased school grades and achievement test scores
- Improved attitude and motivation toward college
- Improved critical thinking skills