

# 2019 ACES IMPACT REPORT

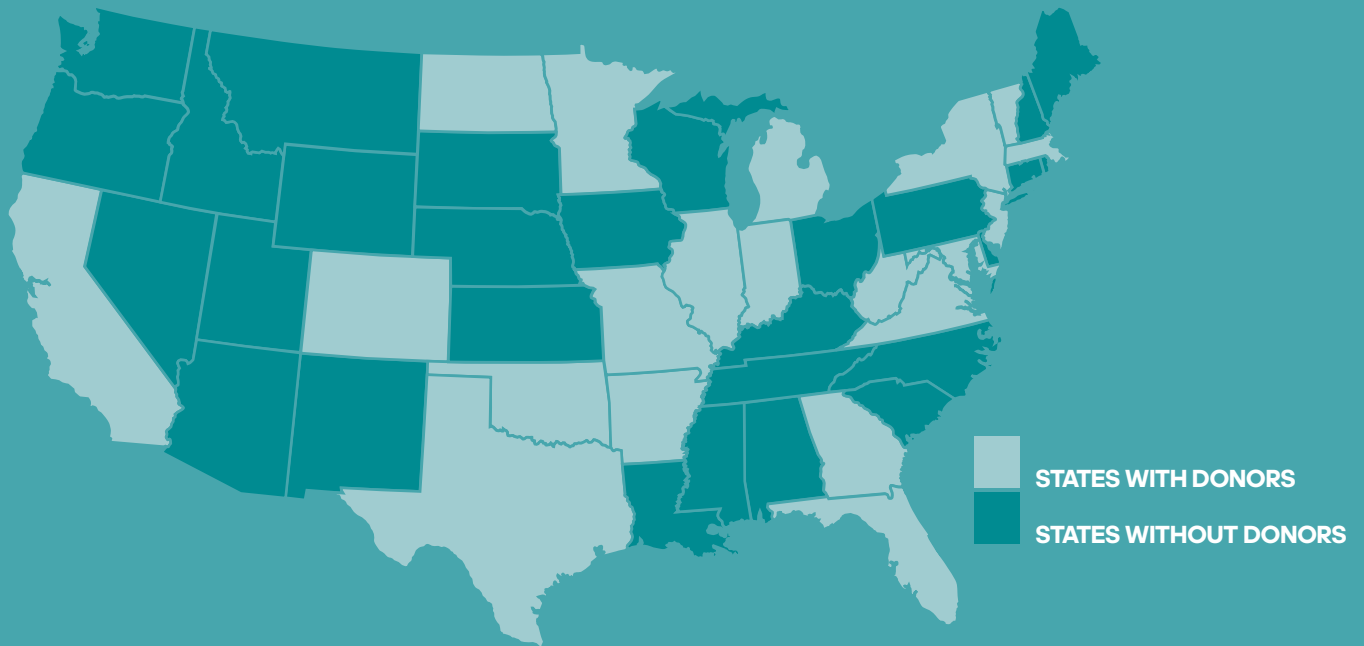


Our Mission: To reduce the academic achievement gap and improve the likelihood of success for students in underserved communities



## REVENUE

The 2018-2019 fiscal year was a banner year for ACES – not only was it the most successful fundraising year yet, but ACES received its first national grant from the New York Life Foundation and was accepted to participate in the prestigious GiveMN fundraising cohort. **With our donors' financial support, we were able to engage and prepare over 450 students to equip them with the skills to THRIVE.** The ACES donor base grew by 28% this year, representing 125 cities across 21 states with an average donation size of \$1006.



125

Cities

21

States

28%

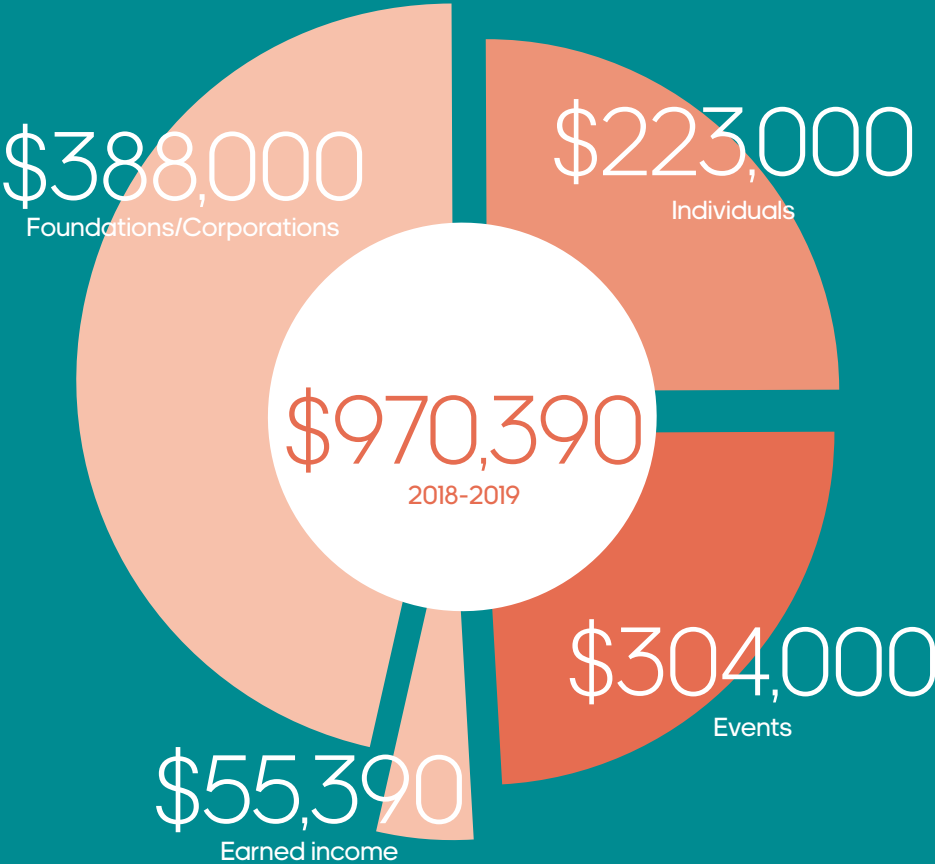
Increase in donor base

\$1006

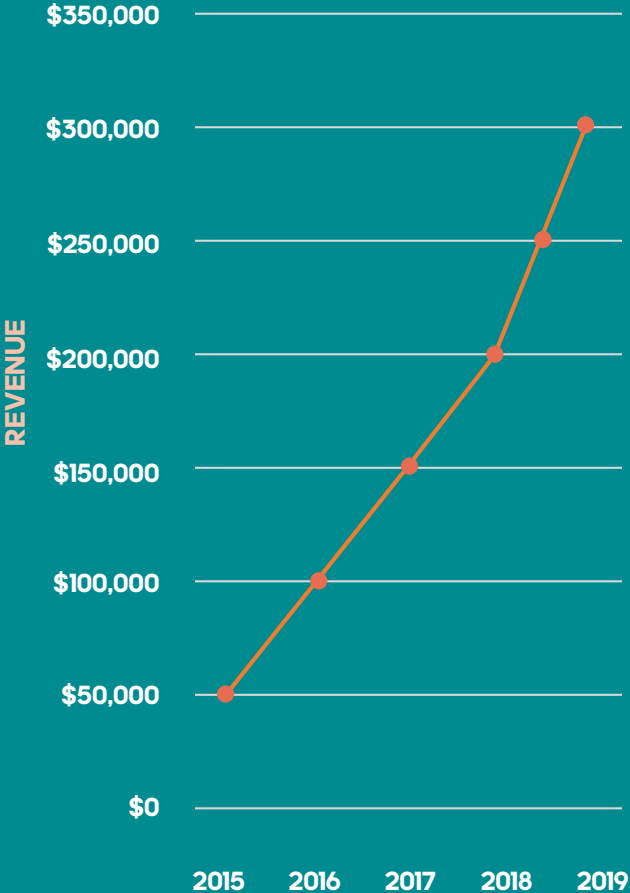
Average donation size

# REVENUE

The 2019 All-Star Evening was a huge success! 450 supporters celebrated ACES, raising over \$300,000 to support youth in the Twin Cities, a record amount for ACES. We honored Mark Rosen, a longtime advocate for ACES students, and heard from ACES alumnus Cage about how being in ACES for five years gave him confidence in math and in life. It was a night of mingling, partying, and affirming how the community can come together to support students in the Twin Cities.



ALL-STAR EVENING REVENUE THROUGH THE YEARS







## JAYDA: ENGAGE

Jayda is a five-year ACES participant. When Jayda first came to ACES, she wasn't very interested in math, but loved sports. Through the connections ACES draws between math, sports and social skills, Jayda started to view math as something fun and learned to love it.

*"My favorite field trip was when I got to go to a Vikings game! We had been learning about the geometry of different routes in football plays and I got to see it all in action!"*

# ENGAGE

*Engaging students using innovative sports-themed lessons with real-life applications*

ACES lessons use sports as a hook to engage and display the real-world application of math and social-emotional skill development for youth. Each curriculum unit focuses on a unique sports theme to bring learning to life. Partnerships with all of Minnesota's professional sports teams further real-life connections and extend learning beyond the classroom through sports experiences, speakers, and athlete appearances.

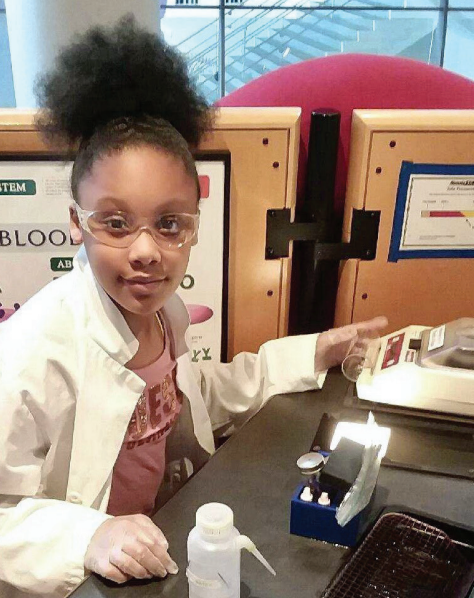
## UNIT: STADIUM ARCHITECTURE

In the Stadium Architecture Unit, youth spend 12 days learning about how different stadiums throughout the Twin Cities are financed, constructed, and operated, and then they practice their multi-digit numeracy and geometry skills while creating their own stadium replicas in groups. They finish the unit with in-depth tours of a stadium, giving them the unique opportunity to apply what they've learned about in real-life.

## UNIT: BEHIND THE SCENES

In the Behind the Scenes unit, students research the different jobs and roles that allow a sports organization to operate smoothly; from equipment managers to coaches, and broadcasters to mascots, students explore possible careers in the sports world, calculate salaries, and interpret and explain graphs and statistics for broadcasts. The unit culminates with the opportunity to meet some of their favorite sportscasters to learn about the day-to-day aspects of their job and perform broadcast skits.





## JAYDA: PREPARE

In ACES, Jayda learned that having a growth mindset allowed her to find her strengths and build her confidence in academic and social situations. Math didn't always come easy for her, but she learned the value of figuring it out. Jayda learned to embrace failure as an inevitable part of her personal growth; she understands that finding the right answers matters, but that trying her hardest and envisioning success for herself is what will matter in the long run.

## PREPARE

*Preparing students by building math and social-emotional skills, such as teamwork, confidence, and perseverance*

**KINDERGARTEN  
READINESS**

**3RD GRADE  
READING**

**8TH GRADE  
MATH**

**SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL  
LEARNING**

**HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADUATION**

**POST-SECONDARY  
ATTAINMENT**

### 8TH GRADE MATH:

Research shows that mastery of math by the end of middle school is a reliable indicator of whether a student will graduate high school and be successful in college, career, and beyond.



### SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING:

Social-emotional skills are the foundation for learning. Students who build social-emotional skills such as perseverance and goal-setting are more likely to succeed in college and career. When students have the right mindset and confidence, they are more likely to persist through challenging academic situations and master critical math skills.



### BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER:

Confidence in math skills leads to increased academic and personal success. ACES integrates crucial social skills and math skills to allow both skillsets to complement each other. For example, in ACES' Sports Science unit, students work on writing and converting fractions by calculating their basketball shooting percentage (math), while practicing perseverance as they work on their shooting (SEL).

# THRIVE

*Thriving students who have the math and social-emotional skills necessary to succeed in school, college, and career*

## WE ENGAGED

453

Students served

87%

Students of color

86%

Students qualify for free-and-reduced lunch

## WE PREPARED

10:1

Student-to-teacher ratio

200

Hours of programing provided per student

37

Field trips and athlete visits provided

## WE THRIVED

91%

Students expressed they had a positive experience

75%

Youth displayed significant growth in social-emotional skills

86%

Students increased their confidence in math



## JAYDA: THRIVE

Jayda's five years in ACES have prepared her for whatever comes next. Jayda started ACES in 4th grade, and now as a 9th grader, she has graduated ACES and moved on to high school. Her confidence has grown substantially; she approaches problems with a growth mindset now because she knows that she can conquer anything that comes her way. Her math and social-emotional skills have grown tremendously and she's ready to THRIVE in high school and beyond!



First year ACES student and fourth-grader, Lineibi, showed incredible math growth this year! On her fall assessment in October she fell in the 19th percentile for fourth-graders nationwide, but by the spring her math skills had improved significantly, putting her in the 84th percentile. This achievement puts her on the pathway to math mastery by eighth grade and towards success in college, career, and beyond!



# THANK YOU

## DEAR VALUED ACES PARTNER,

It is with great enthusiasm that I share that this year, ACES students participated in over 200 hours of programming. This programming is key for our students, who might not otherwise have access to these crucial enrichment experiences. ACES' unique model engages students using innovative sports-themed curriculum and connects it to things that youth are passionate about. Research shows that students master math faster when they care about the material, so we work on exciting them!

ACES prepares students for life after middle school by building essential academic skills. But they also learn life lessons that will enable them to succeed: how to be a good friend and teammate, how to persevere when things seem impossible, how to set aspirational goals for themselves, and so much more. ACES gives our youth the tools necessary to become better students and better people.

As the former principal of Global Arts Plus, I've observed firsthand how ACES helps students thrive. For example, ACES alumnus Cage learned invaluable

lessons about confidence and perseverance during his time with ACES, and at this past year's All-Star Evening, he gave a moving speech about how ACES has transformed him. This is just one example of how success in ACES translates to success in life in general.

I want to thank all who have supported such a critical program for students in Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Your contributions have provided pivotal lessons to our students and helped to give all youth the opportunity to succeed.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Bryan E. Bass  
Assistant Superintendent  
Edina Public Schools



## A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thanks to the **tremendous support** from our partners and donors, ACES has been able to grow its impact, moving from two days a week to four days a week to provide more consistent programming for our students. This year, our students' math and social-emotional skills improved with dedicated instruction and support. Your generosity makes our program successful - you give us the tools necessary to engage and prepare our students to thrive in high school, college, career, and beyond. Thank you for making student success possible, and for being a champion for change.

Christina Saunders  
Executive Director



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