

IMPACT THAT LASTS

Celebrating
5 Years
Of Impact

LOVE
YOUR
SCHOOL
#LYSCHI

2019-2024
Impact Report



LYS IMPACT REPORT | 2019 - 2024

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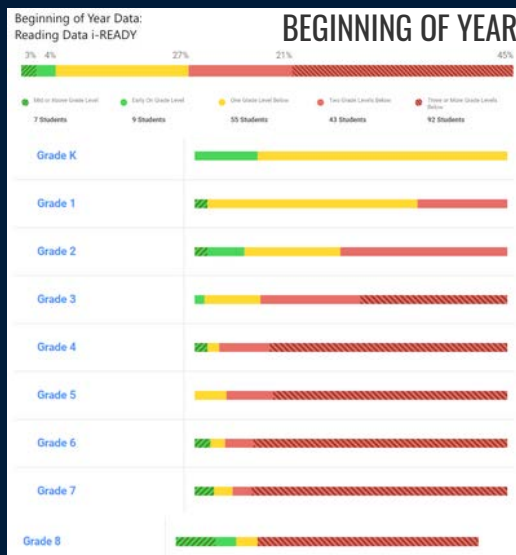
School Partner Highlight



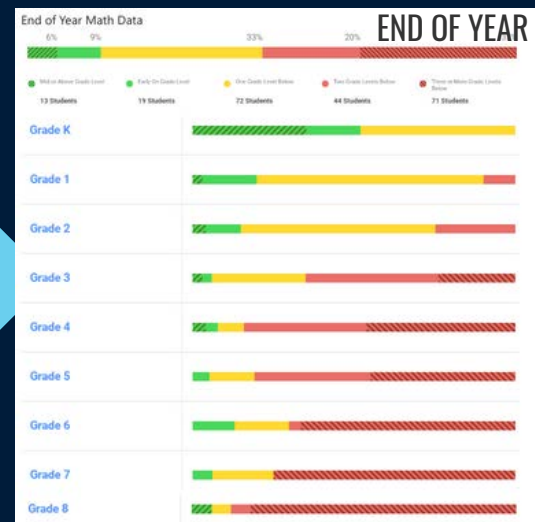
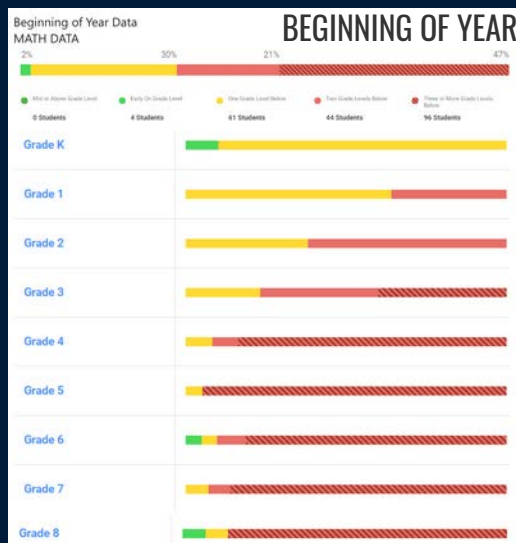
Doolittle Elementary School

Doolittle Elementary School has been one of our strongest partners over the last four school years. We've partnered with Doolittle for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) training for parents, mentorship for students, service projects, student leadership development events, donations of \$17,000+, and to help grow their electives programs to increase student engagement. See their growth last school year and their reading growth over the last four years. During the '23-'24 School Year, Doolittle went from 7 to 30 students at or above grade level in Reading. This is 328% growth in one school year.

READING



MATH

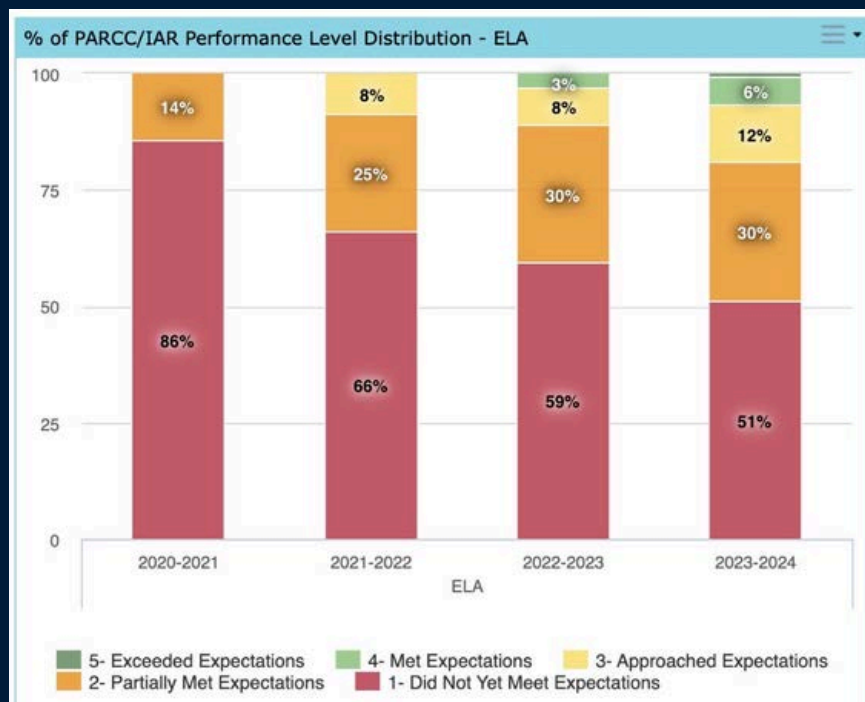


School Partner Highlight

Doolittle Elementary School (continued)



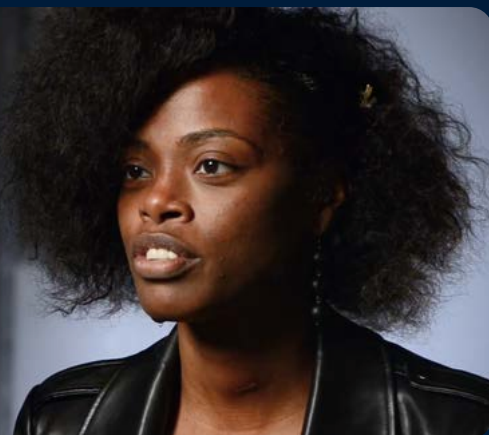
Four years of consistent growth in Reading, done in partnership with community-based organizations, including Love Your School Partners.



SCAN / CLICK



TO WATCH



How has Love Your School impacted your school?

lysha Jones

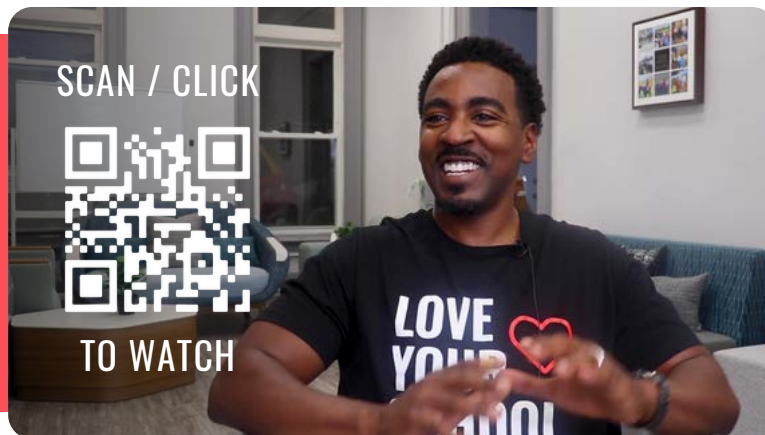
Principal, Doolittle Elementary

Executive Summary



The Love Your School (LYS) theme for the 2023-2024 School Year was **“Impact That Lasts.”**

By this, we wanted to ensure that the work we are doing is helping to build a foundation to impact students and families for years to come. This document will share some of the insights we’ve learned after 5 years of community mobilization, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) support, and Academic Intervention. Our strategy, primarily impacting students on the South and West Sides of Chicago, works!



How can Love Your School be a model for education reform?

Damien Howard

Director of Education Initiatives

Mission and Vision

- **Mission:** We help churches and other organizations adopt schools to remove the barriers that disrupt quality education for Chicago students.
- **Vision:** We envision a thriving school culture and rich academic experience at ALL Chicagoland schools.
- **Lead Question:** Here is the lead question we set out to answer in 2019. Below are five years of key impact results.
 - *“Can Together Chicago prove that when the Chicago church body (volunteers and staff from churches, faith-based organizations, or with no organizational affiliation) adopts schools that school children are positively impacted, the culture of schools improves, and families of schooled children are positively impacted?”*

5 YEARS OF IMPACT



2019-2020

Numbers:

- **42% increase in passing grades** among mentored students. All 107 students directly mentored by TC Staff ended the year with no failing grades.
- **1185 students served by trained community-based mentors.** (At this point, this number did not include Love Your School partners beyond Together Chicago).

Stories:

- Ms. Love's third-grade class at Mollison Elementary showed an **increase in Math and Reading scores for 15 out of 16 students.**
- Ms. Jones' third-grade class at Brown Elementary showed a 61-point increase in Reading and a **66-point increase in Math scores.**
- Speaking about one of Together Chicago's School Based Mentors, one of our 5th grade scholars stated "Lawrence is somebody I can relate to. I can't always talk to my teachers or parents. **I feel like Lawrence understands me and I look forward to every Tuesday** [when he comes to our school]."

2020-2021

Numbers:

- **21 trained mentors reached 420 students** during the pandemic. During this time, we focused on building out our parent training platform, beyond the emphasis on just community based mentors.

Stories:

- In representation of our Parent Empowerment Program, Chamika Jones stated that **our program is what helped her make it through the early stages of the pandemic.** It was our Social & Emotional well-being strategies that were a game-changer for her, in all relationships.

5 YEARS OF IMPACT

(continued)



2021-2022

Numbers:

- **3000+ students impacted** through partnerships with 76 schools.
- Training efforts reached 186 unique parents, 148 teachers, and 49 community-based mentors (mostly graduate level interns).
- **100% of surveyed school leaders** reported a positive impact on school culture, with less fighting and increased student engagement.
- **83% of school leaders** noted a positive impact on student academic success.

2022-2023

Numbers:

- **3000+ students impacted**, 100+ parents trained, and \$102,500 donated from foundations and families for Love Your School Partners.

Stories:

- With a greater focus on supporting organizations tied to the **Love Your School Collective**, and not just Together Chicago ran initiatives, we were able to expand our reach to over 100 schools (through strategic partnerships).
- This was the first year of our **Brilliance and Excellence March** serving over 500 boys and young men of color.

5 YEARS OF IMPACT

(continued)



2023-2024

Numbers:

- **3000+ students impacted 123 schools.**
- We encouraged various Love Your School partners to use our Impact survey and **94 students were surveyed across 55 schools.** High levels of pride and respect in school environments were reported .

Stories:

- Evaluations showed strong endorsement in **school belonging, growth mindset, and self-management**, indicating the effectiveness of current Love Your School partner programs .
- The Love Your School Collective now has **structure for increased impact and greater interdependence (across agencies)**. Greater clarity on what the Collective has accomplished and plans to accomplish are below.

SCAN / CLICK



TO WATCH



***What key findings
or data stand out for
Love Your School?***

Dr. Amy Governale

North Park University

VISION 2030

The mantra to focus our efforts over the next 5 years is “**Academic Excellence For All.**” The heart of this mantra reminds us that kids deserve access to an excellent education, regardless of what part of Chicago they are from. Through our catalyst teams and impact programs, we anticipate producing strategies and impact results to help lead education reform across Chicago.

In order for this to happen, we ask the following from all Love Your School Partners:

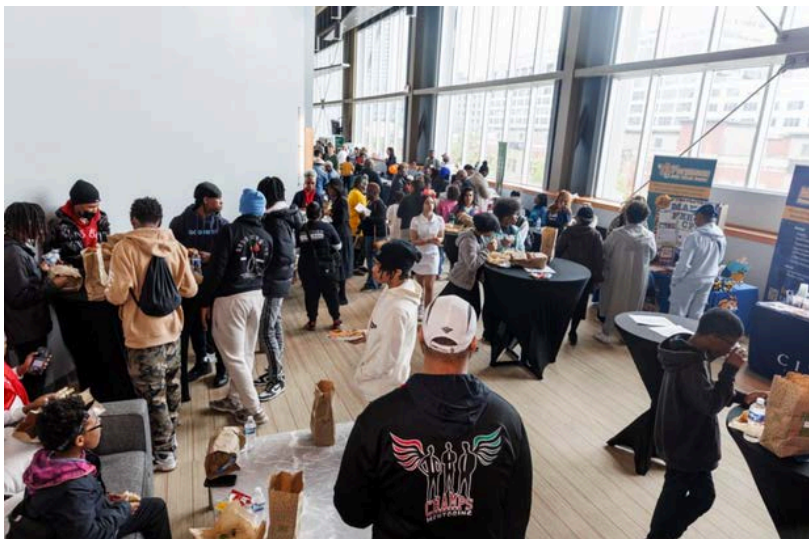
- How are you specifically working to increase academic success for Chicago Students and how can we help you with this effort?

LYS Collective Impact Goals:

- **By 2030, no students participating in LYS partner programs will fail classes**, denoting that our students are remaining in school (which includes staying safe and supported within their community).
- **By 2030, schools partnering with Love Your School will experience improved school culture ratings**, denoting school transformation has occurred because community partners have mobilized for impact.

Together Chicago’s Impact Programs Goal:

- **By 2030, over 200 mentor figures engaged and over 2000 students impacted.** They will have no failing grades and their schools will experience increased school culture ratings.



LYS Church Mobilization Team



CURRENT GOAL: 100 Churches Partnering With 100 Schools

For the '23-'24 School Year, 44 churches collaborated with the Love Your School Collective to support students and families. We used events such as our Village of Support Event (Fall 2023) to help churches become clear on what a successful partnership entails. The photos below show church and school collaborations. Church partners mentored, tutored, cleaned schools, served meals, attended to urgent needs, prayed for the needs of schools, provided a safe respite place during school off days, and also did unique things like lead church choirs and helped host school productions such as sneaker balls and Black History Month programs. Relationships have deepened and lives were impacted. Another encouraging development we saw this year was churches working collaboratively to help address the needs of schools in their communities.



LYS Church Mobilization Team

(continued)



How has your church benefitted from Love Your School?

Jeffrey Shelby

New Life Covenant Church Southeast

LYS School-Based Violence Prevention Team



CURRENT GOAL: Create shareable strategies for Chicago Schools to see a reduction in behaviors that are life threatening for students

In addition to leading a Violence Prevention team, we've piloted Violence Prevention work at a Chicago High School. At this particular school, our case load was constantly fighting, involved in violent activities (e.g. one student was recently shot and returned back to school), were misusing substances, and faced with other issues based on trauma these students have experienced. Our students were on track to fail classes and even experience expulsion from school. For students who interacted with our program, only one ended up being expelled and the other students faced significant academic and cultural improvements.



***DRW College Prep
School Based
Violence Prevention
Program***

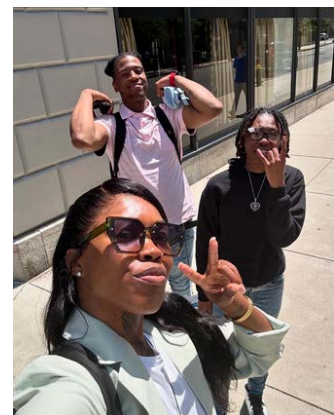
LYS School-Based Violence Prevention Team

(continued)



From this group, the most significant story is Makayla. By connecting with her mentor, Aisha, she resolved to pass her classes, stop allowing herself to be drawn into school disruptions, and grew a stronger sense of self through this program. This experience brought transformation to the kids we were able to connect to mentors, from their community. Below are captures from a life-changing trip Makayla and Aisha attended together.

This program leveraged Artificial Intelligence to create personalized plans for each of our students. These plans were used for mentors, parents, and educators to learn better strategies to support the needs of these students.



LYS Events Team



CURRENT GOAL: Host 3 or more annual events that amplify the brand of LYS and attract new partners to expand our impact across Chicago

Friendraiser

Our primary annual event is our Friendraiser. Over 200 people attend our Friendraiser to learn how LYS is impacting youth and families across Chicago. This event continues to grow as an exemplar for highlighting Collective Impact in our city.

From Chicago Public Schools CEO, Pedro Martinez:

"Participating in the Together Chicago panel energized me. The collaboration I saw between school leaders, faith-based organizations, and other community partners made me feel confident that our students will be able to reach their full potential through support both from CPS and their broader communities. I am excited to see the Together Chicago pilot sites expand to ensure that more students, especially on the South and West Sides, receive the mentorship and guidance they need to excel academically and develop into the future leaders of our city."



SCAN / CLICK



TO WATCH

**Watch the 2024
Friendraiser
Recap Video**

LYS Events Committee

Brilliance & Excellence March



Our 2024 Brilliance and Excellence march saw over 1000 people come together to support the well-being of boys and young men of color. Over 60 organizations, some shown below, came together to make this event happen with hopes of continuing to partner for Collective Impact.

BE Backed Organizations



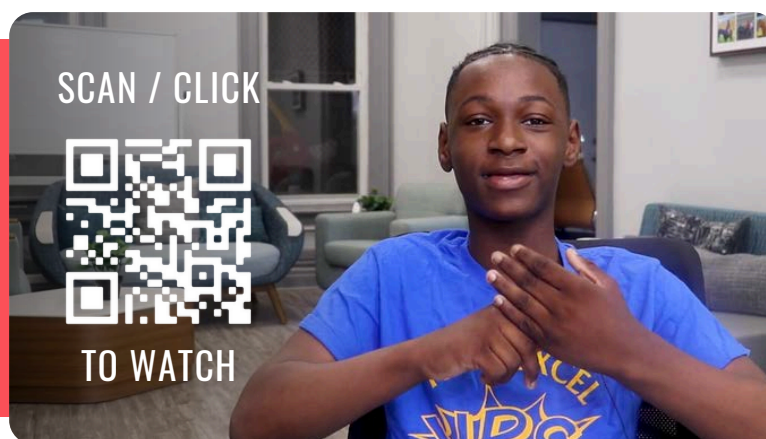
Watch the Brilliance & Excellence 2024 March recap video

Out-of-School-Time Initiatives



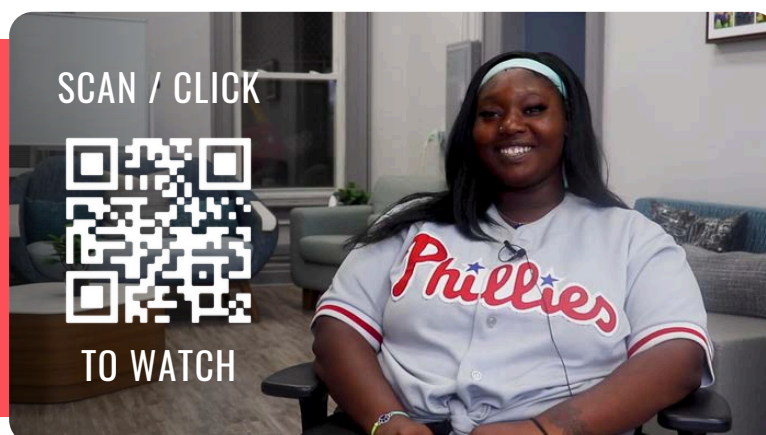
In 2022, Together Chicago was awarded three grants to support Out-of-School-Time (OST) Programs in three regions in the city of Chicago: West, Near South, and Far South.

The **Westside program** that is held at **Hope Excel Academy** in Austin runs year-round for students age 6-14 years. The program components include academic support, academic enrichment, STEM, SEL, Student Voice, Cultural Arts (visual and performing), Leadership, and High School Readiness. During the school year, the program runs from 3-6pm, Mon-Fri. During the summer, students are present from 10am to 2pm, Mon-Fri.



Hope Excel Academy Out of School Time Program

The **Far South program** is also year-round. It meets at **Harlan High School**. The students range in age from 13 – 24 years. They meet Monday through Friday from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The program components include academic support, SEL, Student Voice, Sports, Health and Wellness, Leadership, Bring Your A-Game, High School Re-enrollment, Credit Recovery, Employment, Mentoring, and College/Career Readiness. At Harlan, there are two groups of students: students from the general population of Harlan High School and disengaged students (who were not attending school, nor working).



Harlan High School Out of School Time Program

Out-of-School-Time Initiatives

(continued)



- The **Near South program** is school year only. There are three (3) sites: **The Montessori School of Englewood (TMSOE) (ages 6-20)**, **Ellis Park (ages 13-24)**, and **Phillips High School (age 13-20)**. At TMSOE, the program met from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and Saturdays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The program components include academic support, SEL, Student Voice, music, Leadership, and High School Readiness. Students meet Monday, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 3:00pm to 5:00pm, and on Saturdays from 10:00am to 3:00pm. At Ellis Park, the students participate in a program entitled “Reach for the Stars” which features the integration of academic support, SEL, Student Voice, Sports, Health and Wellness, Leadership, Mentoring, and College/Career Readiness.

At Phillips High School, they meet from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm Monday through Friday. The students participate in academic support, SEL, Student Voice, Sports, Health and Wellness, Leadership, and College/Career Readiness.

Citywide Survey Results Compared to Together Chicago’s OST Programs

Number of students surveyed: City 1841 / TC 53

Ages: 12 to 24

Personal Growth

Questions: Personal Growth	Citywide Averages	Together Chicago’s Averages
I learned something interesting or useful	79.85%	88.0%
I learned new skills or improved skills I already had	80.27%	88.0%
I became more confident about my skills and abilities	76.52%	90.0%
I feel proud of what I did this year	77.28%	92.0%
I have a clearer idea for what I want to do -or not do- with my life	71.83%	84.0%

LYS Partner Highlight



Grace Network

Our mission is to ensure no child faces the indignity of hygiene insecurity. By mobilizing individuals, corporations, and community stakeholders, we provide hygiene essentials and access to clean clothing for thousands of students across metro Chicago through a trusted network of school partners. We are a leading advocate for children experiencing hygiene insecurity, and through our advocacy work and direct service programs, we seek to offer children dignity, hope, and the foundation for a better future.

Being an active member of the Love Your School Initiative has been an enormous support for The Grace Network during our rapid expansion. The access to fellow nonprofits, community leaders and educators has helped us not only broaden our reach to additional schools, but has been a source of guidance, support, clarity, and encouragement.

Recently, following a Love Your School monthly call, a fellow nonprofit, Monster Education Fund, reached out to connect us with a student from Dolittle Elementary who identified the impact hygiene insecurity was having on her fellow students in an essay. She expressed how lack of basic hygiene for her fellow students led to bullying, judgement, and a general lack of concentration for her whole class. The Grace Network is now connected with that particular student and will be working with her to set up a care closet in her school that she will maintain and manage.

We will be forever grateful for all that Love Your School Initiative has given us as an organization and look forward many years of working together to support Chicagoland students in their battle for equal education.



LYS Partner Highlight

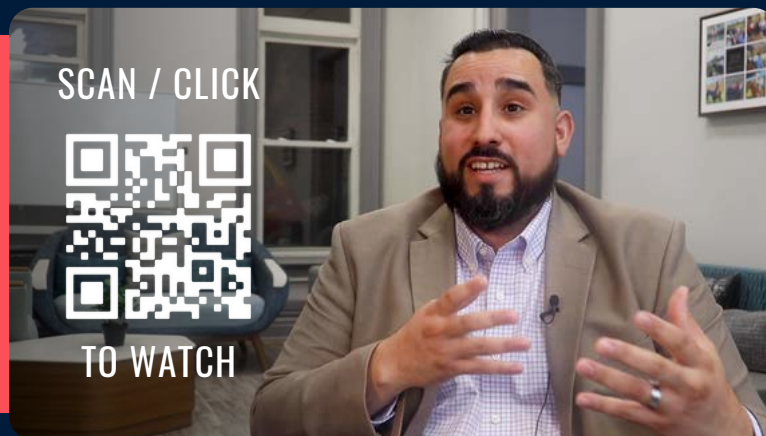
Meridian Charter Schools



Watch the video below to learn of the amazing ways Love Your School (LYS) Partners have mobilized to help Meridian Schools! LYS has helped this network mobilize partners for Violence Prevention services, student scholarships, service learning opportunities, and much more.

To share one story here, one of the Meridian Schools campuses was in need of a Violence Reduction agency to come into the school and offer support for gang involved students. Being that Together Chicago is a Violence Reduction agency, we were quickly able to connect this school with the Violence Reduction agency closest to the location of this school. As a North Side school, the agency we connected the school to is called ALSO - Alliance of Local Service Organizations. Based on LYS helping to create this bridge, this school was able to receive immediate support to serve a population of students with unique needs.

The example above shows how the LYS network quickly activates to support our partners in need of community mobilization support.



How has Love Your School benefitted Meridian Charter Schools?

Jose Santiago
Meridian Charter Schools

LOVE YOUR SCHOOL COLLECTIVE



HELP STUDENTS OVERCOME CHALLENGES BY:

1

PARTICIPATING

Participate in an event or short-term program to establish a relationship with your school

2

LEADING

Lead an ongoing initiative to improve student academic outcomes

3

BUILDING

Build a 'Village of Support' group to address your school's top 1-3 needs

Mission: The Love Your School Collective provides wrap-around support services to Chicago-land students, ensuring they remain in school and excel academically despite challenging circumstances.

Vision: When students participate in our programs, we expect them to have no failing grades. For partner schools, we expect that their "school culture" rating will improve while in partnership with our collective.

Support Programs: Mental Health Support, Violence Reduction Efforts, Mentoring, Tutoring, Enrichment Programs, Temporary Housing Support, Crisis Intervention, Case Management, and Family Counseling.

GET INVOLVED

CONTACT:

Damien Howard, damien.howard@togetherchicago.com

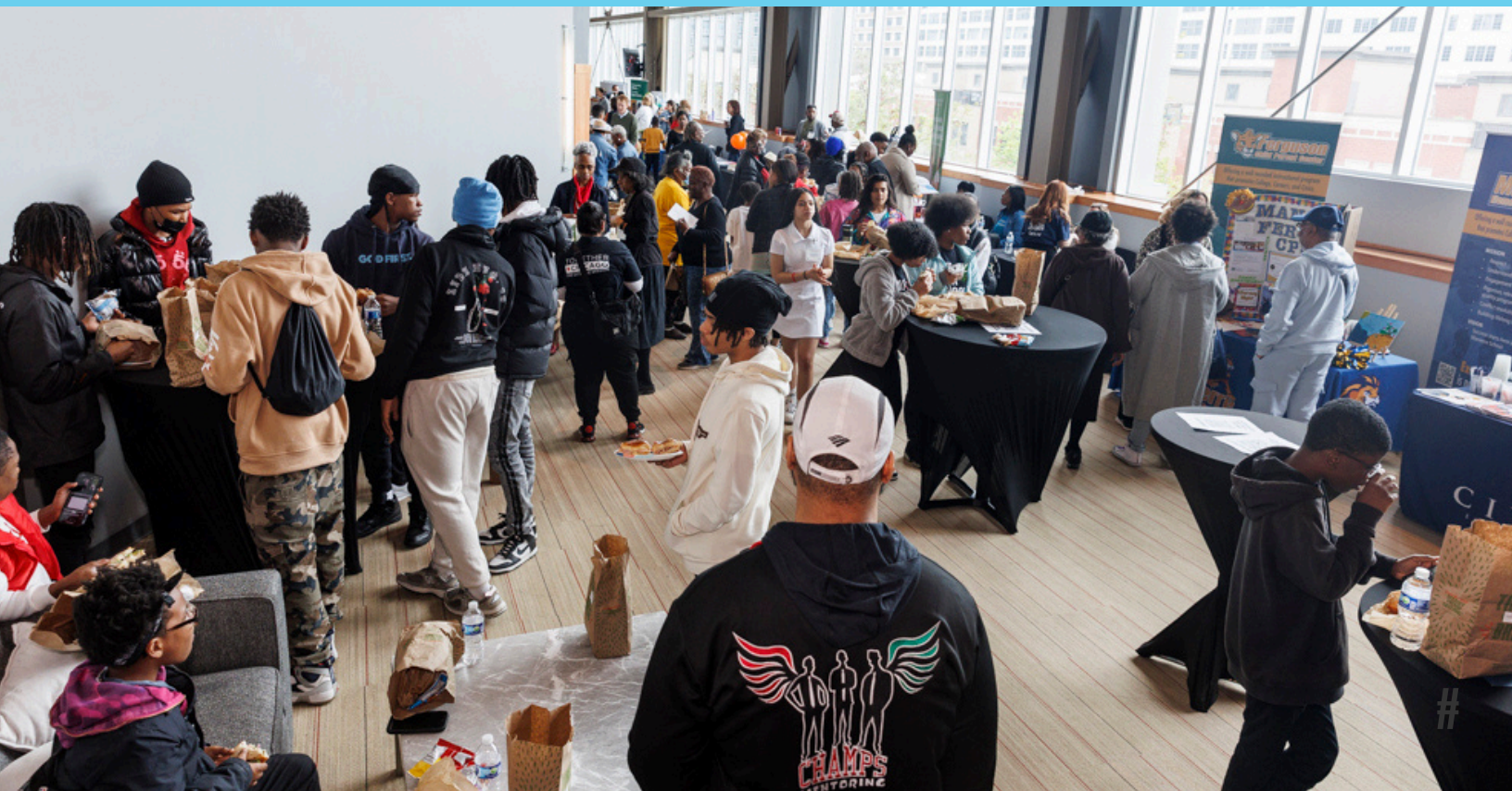
VISIT:

togetherchicago.com/education





THANK YOU



Thank You



Our foundation and corporate partners helped us to raise over \$100,000. These funds were used to enhance the impact of organizations and individuals actively working to improve life outcomes for Chicago students and families. For instance, our partnership with CarePortal helped us to address the needs of families in Garfield Park who were faced with many crises this year.

The flyer above has logos for all active partners collaborating to grow our impact across Chicago and beyond. We greatly appreciate the ongoing support from our lead partners.



Learn more about our work:

togetherchicago.com/education



Make a donation:

togetherchicago.com/donate-education



View our Education Initiatives Manual:

togetherchicago.com/education-manual

Special Acknowledgment

Shout out to Together Chicago! It is the innovation and leadership of this organization that allows Love Your School to exist. Because Together Chicago has launched this powerful collaborative, 20+ organizations can now leverage the power of this group to support their unique missions. Beyond these organizations, over 123 schools and over 3000 students are better because of the commitment of Love Your School partners. Though we decided to highlight the Grace Network and Meridan Schools, there are fascinating stories of impact with each church and partner organization participating with Love Your School. We'll continue to share more throughout the school year. Another organization, SEL Plus, consistently provides the SEL content and operational assistance to advance our mission.





APPENDIX





EVALUATION SUMMARY 2023-2024

Compiled by: Amy Governale, PhD
North Park University
April 20, 2024

OVERVIEW

Evaluating students' social-emotional skills is vital for their overall development and happiness. Through annual surveys, Together Chicago gains insights into students' emotional intelligence, empathy, and social competence. This data-driven approach helps identify strengths and areas needing support so that students may be equipped with essential tools to tackle challenges, foster positive relationships, and succeed in various aspects of life.

To evaluate and monitor Together Chicago programming in the 2023-2024 academic year, students were asked to rate their abilities in the following 6 key social-emotional components that are crucial to learning:

- 1) **School Identification**- feeling pride in school and feeling respected by teachers
- 2) **Emotional Engagement**- motivation and enjoyment in academic activities
- 3) **Growth Mindset**- belief in intellectual growth through effort
- 4) **Self-Management**- coming to class prepared and staying focused
- 5) **Self-Efficacy**- confidence in mastering academic challenges
- 6) **Social Awareness**- showing empathy and emotional intelligence

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overall, Together Chicago students rated themselves highly in social-emotional skills. Notably, there was strong endorsement in areas of school belongingness, growth mindset, and self-management. These results indicate the effectiveness of Together Chicago by promoting students as a valued member of the school community, and reinforcing messages that academic success hinges on their cultivation and refinement of their cognitive abilities. However, challenges in emotional engagement (finding school fun and enjoyable) with school and social awareness (complimenting other's achievements and ability to describe personal feelings) were identified, possibly reflecting broader issues in school environments. Moving forward, Together Chicago plans to continue offering social-emotional training to students, teachers, and parents to address negative stereotypes and create supportive environments that enhance students' self-regulation and social skills.

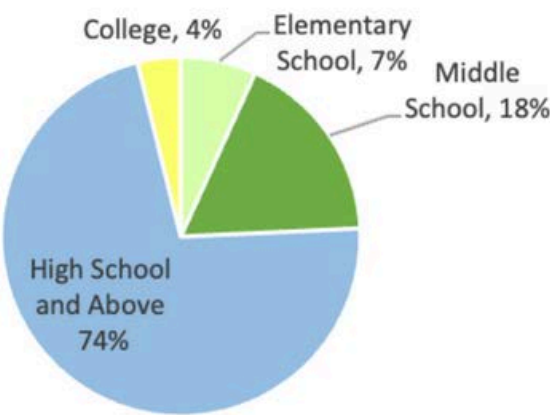
To explore perceptions of social-emotional utilization among parents, teachers, and mentors, a qualitative interview containing 7 open-ended questions was developed. Several key themes regarding the value of social-emotional skills in daily life emerged including:

- **Frequent strategies for self-management and emotional regulation** such as setting goals, using tools like calendar apps and reminders, and finding personal motivation to stay engaged in tasks
- **Evidence of resilience and perseverance** such as breaking down goals into manageable steps to maintain confidence, overcoming challenges through professional support and going beyond one's usual scope of work to tackle major projects
- **The importance of social connection and community engagement** through volunteering, developing relationships with colleagues, socializing outside of work to build meaningful interactions and to foster teamwork
- **Practicing empathy** through active listening, helping without judgement, and providing practicable advice or reassurance to colleagues, friends, and family members

DEMOGRAPHICS RESULTS

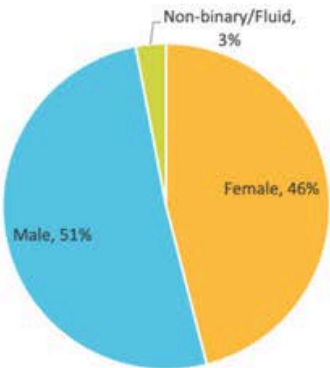
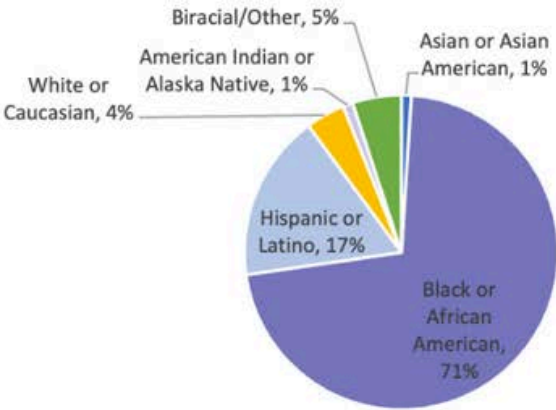
From February to March 2024, 94 students were surveyed from 55 schools across the city. Students’ ages ranged from 8 to 19 years old, with an average age of 15.28. Students came from a variety of education levels, with the majority in 9th to 12th grade. Approximately 25% attended elementary or middle school, and the remaining 4% attended a college program.

Grade Level	%
2 nd , 3 rd , or 4 th grade	6.38%
5 th or 6 th grade	1.06%
7 th or 8 th grade	18.09%
9 th or 10 th grade	37.23%
11 th or 12 th grade	32.98%
College Level	4.26%



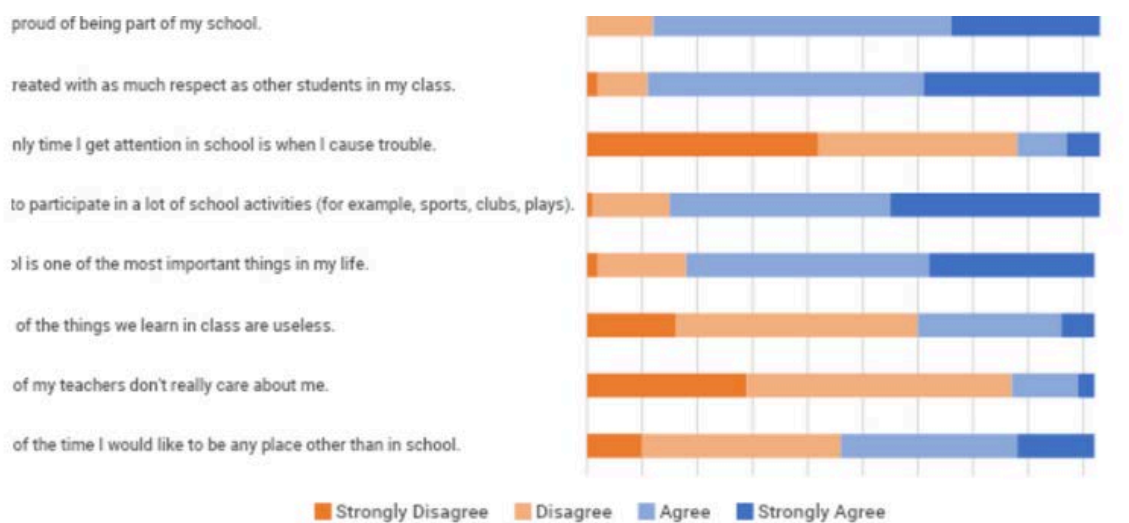
71% of students reported as Black/African American, while 17% identified as Hispanic/Latino. Small percentages identified as Asian American (1%), White or Caucasian (4%), American Indian (1%), or Biracial (5%)

46% of students identified as female, 51% identified as male, and 3% identified as non-binary or gender fluid.

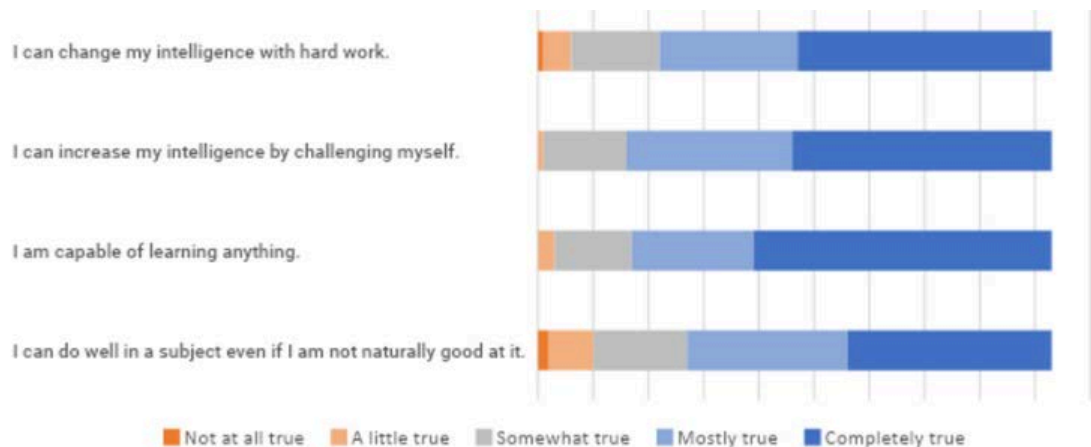


SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL) SKILLS RESULTS

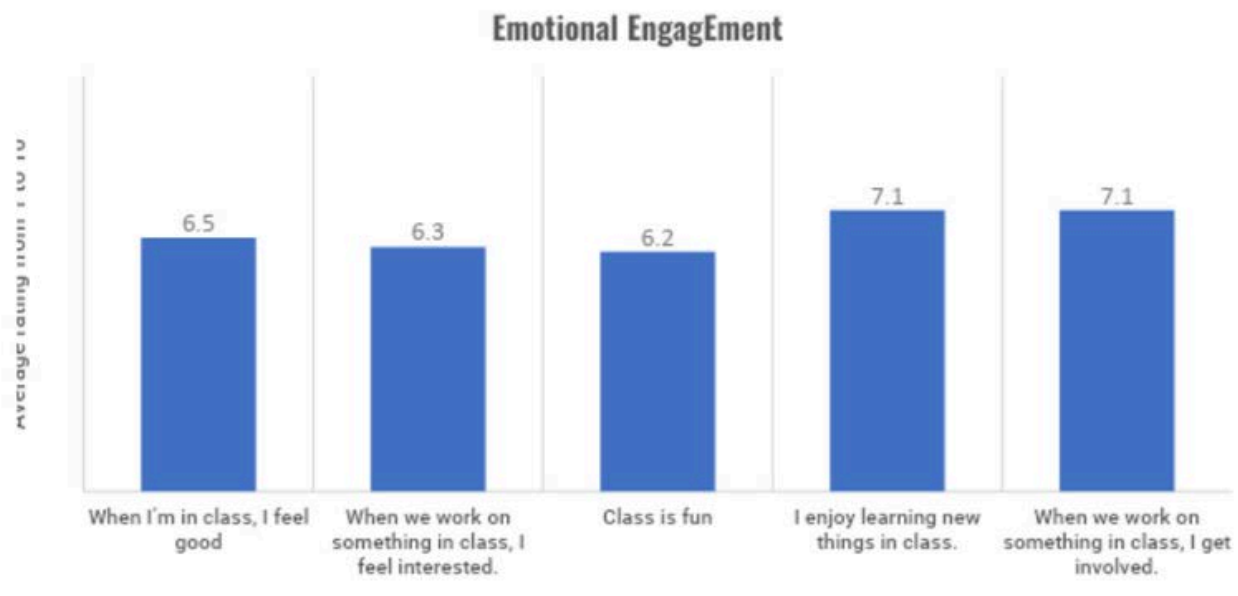
School Belonging: 8 statements assessed student's perceptions of connection, acceptance, and value as a part of their school community. Students reported high levels of pride in their schools ("I feel proud of being part of my school" 88% agreement) and high levels of respect ("I am treated with as much respect as other students in my class" 87% agreement).



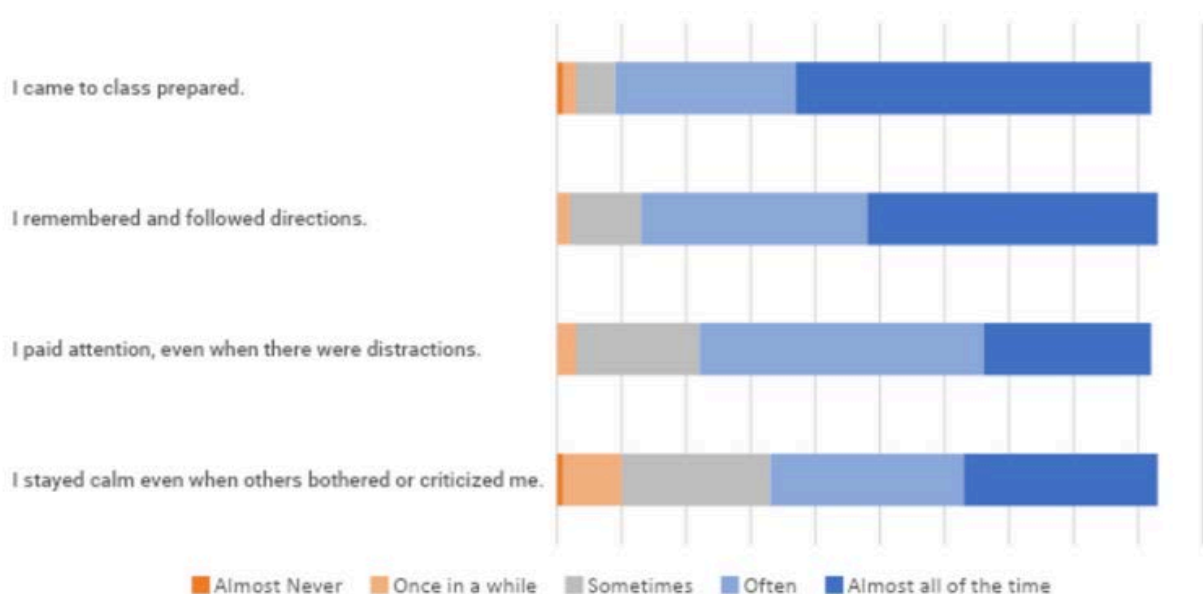
Growth Mindset: 4 statements assessed students' beliefs that they can develop their intelligence through dedication and effort. Student's provided the highest level of agreements to statements regarding improving their intelligence by challenging themselves (83% agreement) and feeling capable of learning anything (82% agreement).



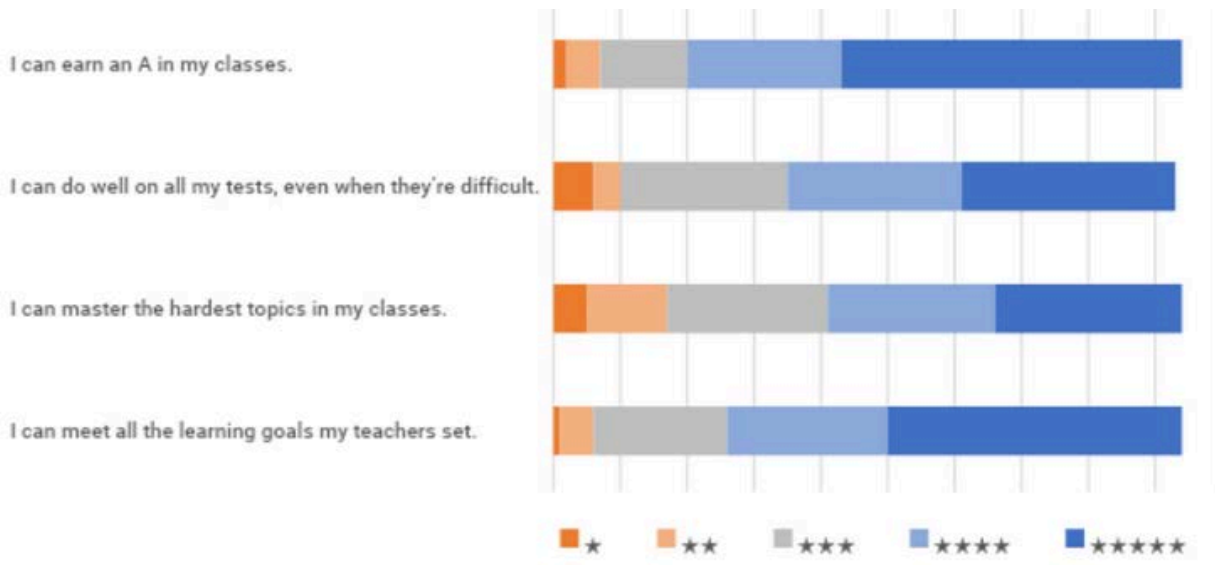
Emotional Engagement: Students provided ratings from 1 (the lowest enjoyment) to 10 (the most enjoyment) regarding feelings and interest in school. Students provided the highest ratings to “I enjoy learning things in class” and “When we work on something in class, I get involved”.



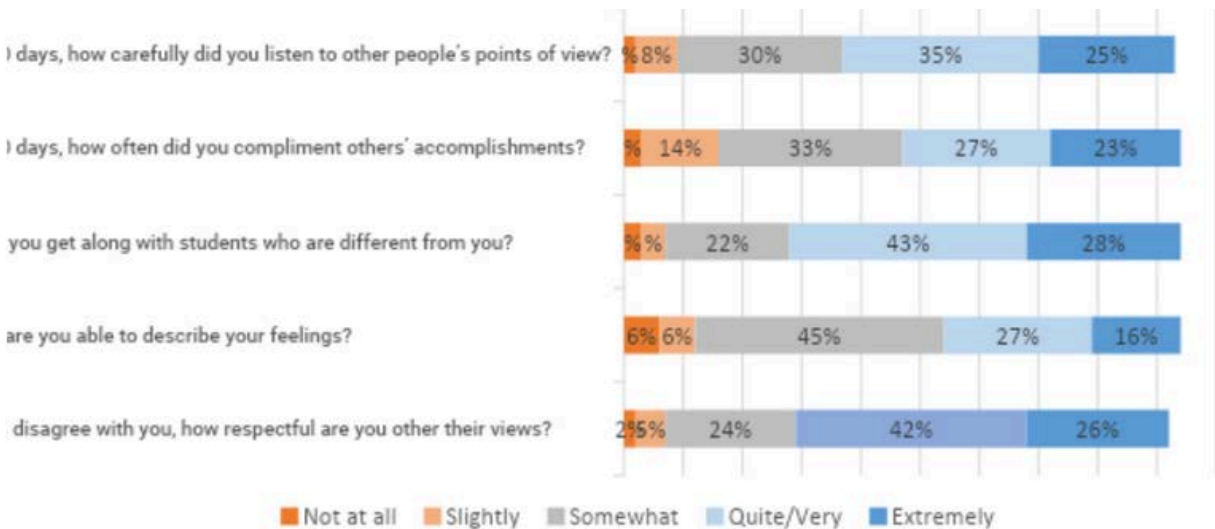
Self-Management: 4 statements assessed student’s attentional and emotional regulation in the classroom. Students gave high levels of class preparation (“I came to class prepared” 90% often or almost all of the time) and following directions (“I remembered and followed directions” 86% often or almost all of the time).



Self-Efficacy: 4 items assessed students' belief in their capacity to complete tasks and achieve learning goals. Students provided high ratings to the statements "I can earn an A in my classes" and "I can meet all the learning goals my teachers set".

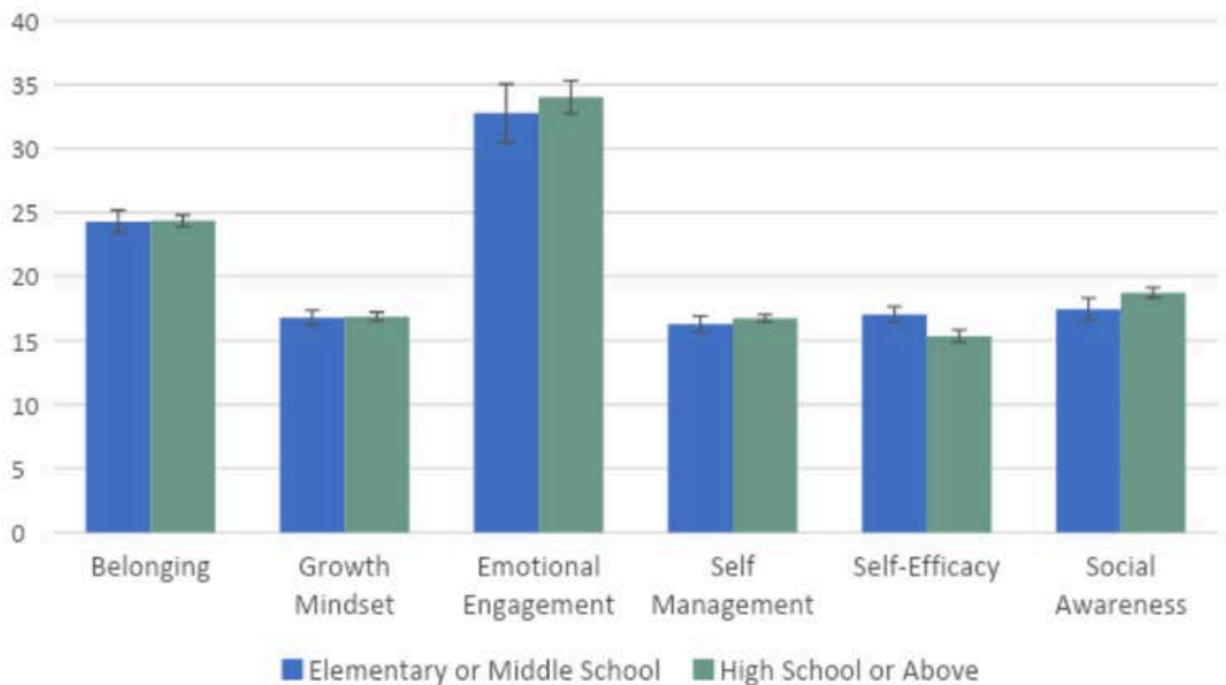


Social Awareness: 5 questions asked students to rate their ability to understand and empathize with other's. Students reported high endorsement to the question "How well do you get along with students who are different from you?" (71% agreement).

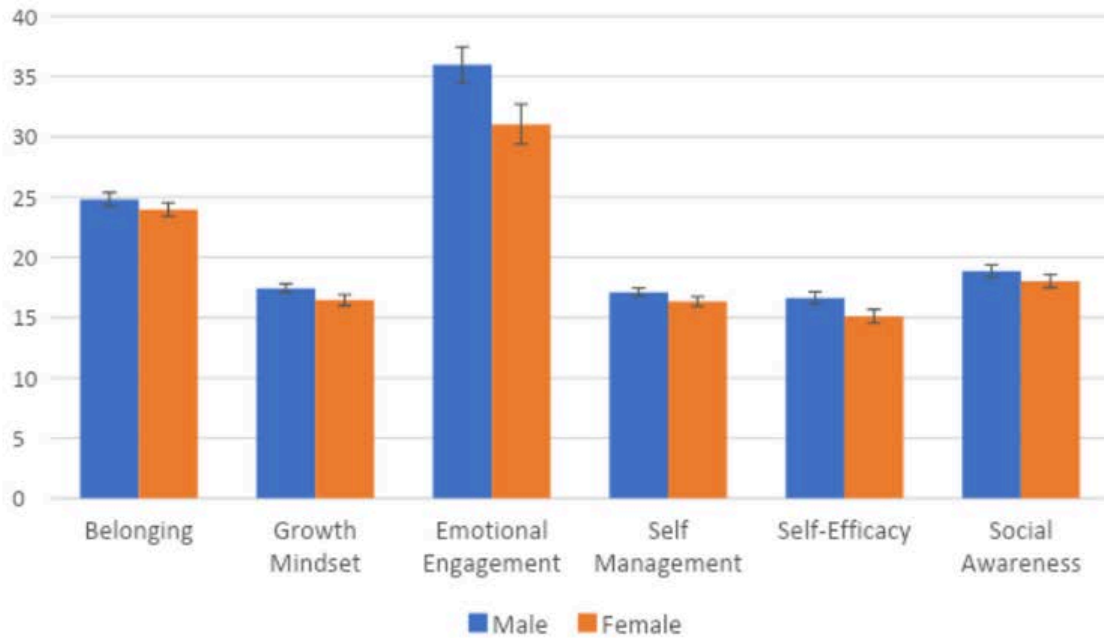


Perceptions of Social-Emotional skills showed similar patterns across groups, with small exceptions

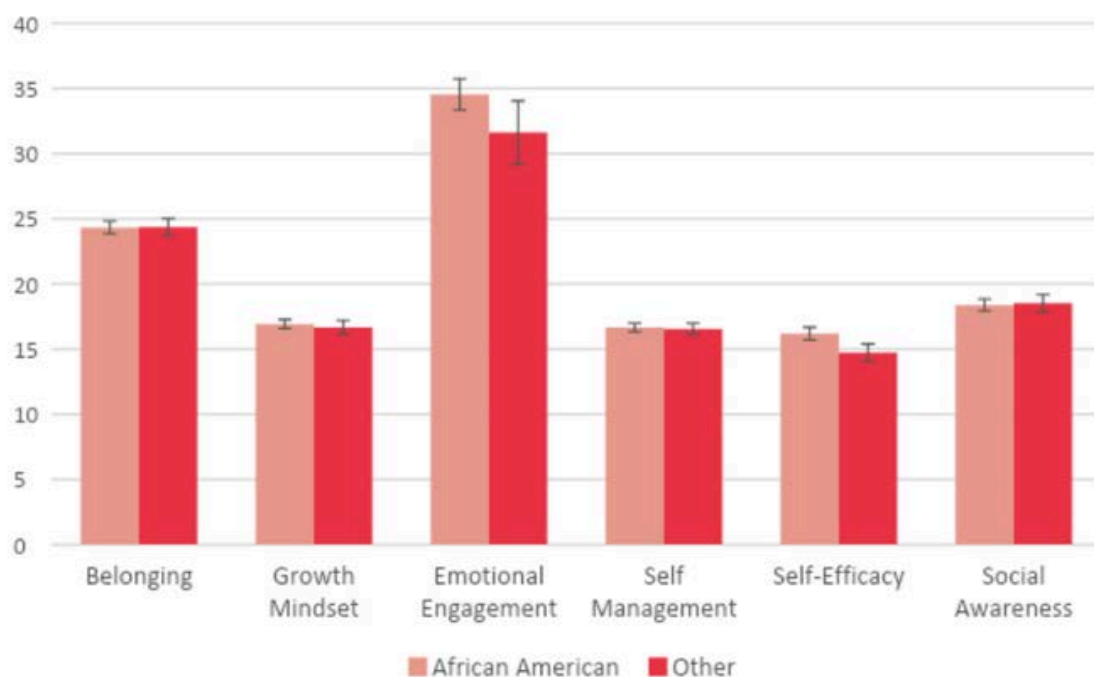
- Youth across grades were likely to report similar levels in school belongingness, growth mindset, emotional engagement, self-management, and social awareness. There were slightly differences in self-efficacy, with elementary and middle school students (n=24) showing slightly higher beliefs compared to high school and older students.



- Male and female students also reported similar levels of belonging, growth mindset, self-management, and social awareness. However, boys (n=46) did report higher levels of emotional engagement with school and higher self-efficacy compared to girls (n=42).



- Students' ratings of social-emotional learning skills did not differ across race. African American students (n=64) rated their abilities and beliefs at similar levels to other racial and ethnic groups.



PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION

Together Chicago also surveys partner programs to understand satisfaction with collaboration and support. 85% of participants were actively partnered with Together Chicago, while 1 participant was formerly partnered. Participants reported 6 months to 1 year or more of partnership with Together Chicago, and reported a variety of ages, races, and genders.

Partners indicate high levels of satisfaction, particularly related to their willingness to recommend Love Your School to others in a similar role and in Love Your School's responsiveness to opinions and feedback.



"On a scale of 0-10, how likely are you to recommend the Love Your School Collective to someone in a similar situation to you?"



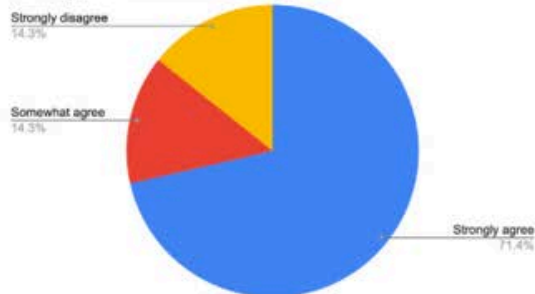
"On a scale of 0-10, how much has your time with Love Your School helped you to transform your life for the better?"



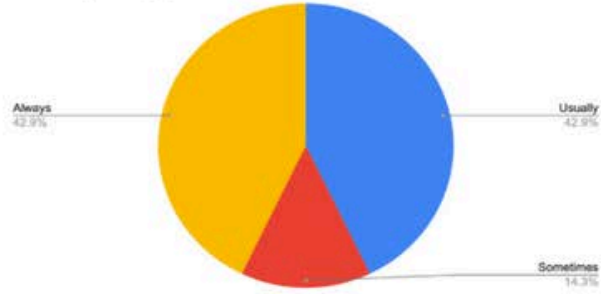
"On a scale of 0-10, how responsive is Love Your School to your opinions and feedback?"

Next, questions assessed programs and services offered by Together Chicago staff.

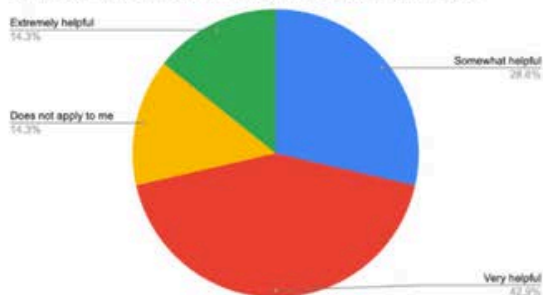
I feel like the Love Your School Collective and I are working to achieve the same goals.



How often do staff at the Love Your School Collective go out of their way to help you?



Of the services offered, how helpful has each been to you?



How frequently do you interact with the Love Your School Collective?

