

21st Century Community Learning Centers

2018-19 Program Year Summary



Prepared by Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver



INTRODUCTION

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative supports the creation of local programs to provide students and their families with high-quality academic enrichment opportunities and services. Centers are designed to target students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools and provide support during non-school hours.

The purpose of this report is to share a summary of outcomes Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver (BGCMD) delivered in program year 2018-2019 as a result of 21st Century's Cohort VIII funding, which supports three Club sites: Green Valley Ranch Boys & Girls Club, Beach Court Boys & Girls Club, and Westminster Boys & Girls Club. These are located at KIPP Northeast Charter School, Beach Court Elementary and Hidden Lake High School, respectively, the first two of which serve primarily youth attending the schools in which they are located, and the latter of which serves youth from more than 20 surrounding schools.



Beach Court Boys & Girls Club at Beach Court Elementary

STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

In the first funding year for these three Club sites, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver served 617 students. While this is slightly lower than projected – a result attributed largely to early-phase transportation challenges – attendance increased significantly throughout the year and is trending upward. Gains were achieved through intensive and recurring recruitment campaigns and by securing transportation from nearby schools. Looking to the future, BGCMD expects participation to continue increasing.

617
Students
Served

One way student participation and engagement was measured was by comparing Club members' school day attendance with school district attendance rates. Denver Public School District, in which the Beach Court and Green Valley Ranch Clubs reside, had a chronic absenteeism rate of 27%. By comparison, at Beach Court, the rate for active Club members

was 22% – 5% better than the district's. At Green Valley Ranch results were even more compelling at 16%, beating the district's rate by 11%.



At the Westminster Club, student engagement and participation was evident in the rate of Club attendance, which grew substantially during the Club's first year in operation. At the end of 2018, the Westminster Club served 182 active members and 103 regular attenders (youth who attend two or more days per week). By May 2019, participation grew to 292 active members and 139 regular attenders – a 60% increase in active members and 35% increase in regular attenders in just five months.

One strong indicator that participation will continue to grow is BGCMD's close partnership with Denver Public Schools, which facilitated an Extended Learning Academy during the summer at the Beach Court Club. More than 100 new students were reached through this program, a number of which are anticipated to continue attending in the coming school year. With the addition of these students, participation rates will likely exceed original projections.



Westminster Boys & Girls Club at Hidden Lake High School

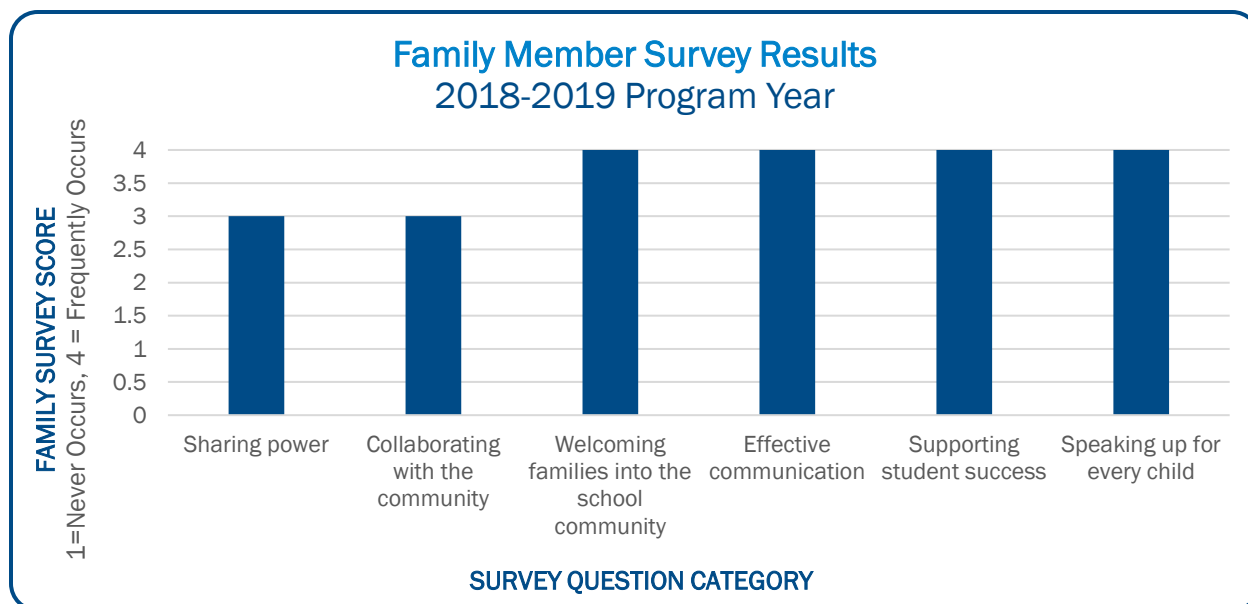
PERFORMANCE: Students Served

GOAL: To reinforce and complement regular academic programming, 21st Century programs provided additional services, programs and activities designed to increase essential skills in areas including positive youth development, service learning, career exploration and competency-based learning.

RESULTS: As 2018-2019 was the first year of programming at two of these three sites, it is not surprising that there is room for growth – it takes time to build an impactful environment with strong social and emotional competencies. On the SAYO survey, students identified having a supportive adult in the program as a strength; all sites scored over 3, averaging 3.35. The lowest *pre-test* score was in the Leadership & Responsibility category, and also showed the most growth from pre- to post-test, improving .23 points at Green Valley Ranch Boys & Girls Club (KIPP) and .30 points at Westminster Boys & Girls Club (Hidden Lake). This is attributed to new staff developing stronger, more trusting relationships with students over time. In the categories “Social Competency” and “Competency as a Learner,” sites scored slightly lower than a 3. Encouragingly, however, improvement still occurred.

PERFORMANCE: Family Members Served

GOAL: To increase active and meaningful engagement in children’s education, 21st Century funds provided Boys & Girls Club services, programs and activities for families of students served by Community Learning Centers. Activities included English as a Second Language proficiency courses (ESL), parenting classes, culturally relevant activities, and opportunities for parents and caretakers to become more involved in their child’s development.



RESULTS: Family engagement was one of the most successful program components of the 2018-2019 program year, with participation significantly exceeding the projected goals at all three Club sites. More than 500 people (25% of families) attended a family event this year and rated their satisfaction at a minimum of 3 out of 5. In total, 63 surveys were completed for the three sites, and 87% of survey participants reported being satisfied with the events. These events included activities like cooking classes, interactive games and communal meals and often showcased additional community resource providers.

SUCCESS STORIES

After School Tutoring

In partnership with the middle school at KIPP Northeast, BGCMD piloted an afterschool tutoring program for struggling middle school students. Using 21st Century funding and resources, four middle school teachers from KIPP Middle School were recruited to run eight-week tutoring sessions for Club members needing additional support with math and English. Over three separate eight-week blocks, 53 students attended the sessions and showed an average growth of 34 points from pre- to-post-test. One teen especially benefitted from this program, increasing their score 125 points.

The Play's the Thing

BGCMD partnered with Casa Milagro Youth Solutions, an interactive theater performance experience, to host a three-week program for teens that focused on the power and impact of decisions, taught through performing arts. The experience explored topics such as dating violence, gang intervention, gender relations/respect building and bullying. After acting out different scenes, youth were given the opportunity to stop the performance and offer the characters alternative actions to improve the circumstance. Thanks to 21st Century funding, these teens had the opportunity to utilize their critical thinking skills, be creative and solve challenges together through this performative experience.



Green Valley Ranch Boys & Girls Club at KIPP Northeast

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver is grateful for funding from 21st Century Community Learning Centers. This support makes these three Clubs possible, giving hundreds of youth access to critical afterschool and summer programs each year.

Report published July 16, 2019

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