

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

## 2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR SUMMARY



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education



Prepared by Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
METRO DENVER

## INTRODUCTION

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) initiative supports the creation of local programs to provide students and their families with high-quality academic enrichment opportunities and services.

The purpose of this report is to share a summary of outcomes Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver (BGCMD) delivered in program year 2020-2021 as a result of 21<sup>st</sup> 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 at Hidden Lake High School. 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.

## BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS RESPONSE TO COVID-19



Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver remains committed to providing support to its 21<sup>st</sup> Century families and community members during the pandemic, both virtually and with in-person programming. BGCMD understands that the pandemic has created many obstacles and challenges for families; therefore, we have been meticulous about creating an integrated program model that serves all families through the use of various platforms such as in-person programming, remote learning centers, video conferencing, physical activity kits, and social media.

At Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver we were able to responsively and proactively support the students, families, and communities we serve. As we pivoted and innovated, we created a new path to support our families in this time of crisis with an emphasis in providing holistic services for families. We saw successes in these areas:

### [Return to in person services:](#)

Our teams responded to the needs of our communities as we returned to in person services both during the school year and into summer. While needing to maintain cohorts, we returned to providing face to face daily out-of-school-time programming, as well as experiences through partners and field trips. These services not only allowed us to re-build relationships but it also allowed us to prepare our members for a return to “normal” school attendance during the 2021-2022 school year.

### [Re-Connection to the Communities](#)

We have maintained and strengthened many partnerships such as those with the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grants team, local government agencies, major foundations, school districts and school staff. These have allowed us to better respond to dynamic community need in real-time through collaborative, stream-lined solutions. In the last year we have further



re-integrated other partners, particularly service providers that enhance opportunities available to Club youth. Participating in these programmatic partnerships is an integral element of our success in operating as a hub in each Club community that is closely linked with the people and leaders within it. We look forward to making additional gains in this area in the year ahead.



Beach Court Boys & Girls Club at Beach Court Elementary

## STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Attendance at our Cohort 8 sites was impacted by the pandemic in limiting our ability to serve youth in person for much of the year. A total of 228 students attended Cohort 8 programming at across three sites: Beach Court Elementary (53 members through our remote learning center option and after school), KIPP Northeast (61 attended), and Hidden Lake High School (114 members in remote learning centers and after school during the 2020-2021 school year. These numbers met the adjusted COVID waiver goals set and approved in partnership with CDE. We served these members in both RLC (remote learning centers) and after school spaces based on district requests and partnerships. We are looking forward to returning to a more traditional operation model for the 2021/2022 school year where we anticipate serving more students and meeting their needs more deeply.

228  
Students  
Served

## PERFORMANCE: Students Served

**GOAL:** To reinforce and complement regular academic programming, 21<sup>st</sup> 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:** Our afterschool enrichment programs work hard to create a positive environment where youth can feel safe and challenged, and build positive relationships with trusted adults. To capture youth voice and feedback, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver (BGCMD) utilized the NYOI (National Youth Outcomes Initiative) survey through Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver for the 2020-2021 program year. The NYOI survey consists of seven measures, each of which consists of three to seven questions. The measures are Emotional Safety, Physical Safety, Fun, Sense of Belonging, Adult Connections, Staff Expectations and Recognition. Each measure aligns with one of the Five Key Elements for Positive Youth Development. Each of our Cohort VIII Clubs exceeded expectations by scoring above 90% on multiple measures of the survey. Hidden Lake scored above 90% on 9 measures including physical safety, emotional safety, sense of belonging and adult connects. KIPP scored above 90% on 9 measures including physical safety, adult connections, concern for community and integrity. Beach Court scored above 90% on 7 measures including leadership, concern for community, adult connections and leadership.

## **PERFORMANCE: Family Members Served**

**GOAL:** To increase active and meaningful engagement in children's education, 21<sup>st</sup> 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:** Even though we could not serve family members in-person, all sites made wellness phone calls to homes to assess any needs and determine what supports our programs could provide. These phone calls were made during the time that our sites were not open for in-person programs. While we provided virtual learning opportunities for the students, we had staff members from each site along with social workers from our Behavioral Health team calling families to ask how they were doing and what we could do to help. While most families asked for food, others asked for internet assistance and access to technology for their students. Through corporate sponsors (Comcast) we were able to provide 10 families with free internet and some even received free tablets.

Even with the restrictions of COVID in regards to in-person family events, each Club was able to serve families through resource distribution that included board games, technology, school supplies, gift cards for basic needs including food and household good, and gifts at the holidays. Beach Court was able to serve 100 families (80% of their goal), Hidden Lake served 169 families (112% of their goal), and KIPP served 126 families (96% of their goal). At the end of the school year we asked for parent feedback via Survey Monkey and received 27 completed surveys. In those surveys we learned that families were appreciative of the

many types of support, from food to programmatic to social-emotional, during a difficult time.

## SUCCESS STORIES

### *Holiday Toy Store*

KIPP GVR hosted their annual toy store with a twist! Due to the cohorts and different schedules for the remote learning center Club members, having members participate in a time-honored Club tradition was a difficult task to pull off, but it was done so beautifully. The holiday toys were organized and laid out by category on tables in the Club space, and with the assistance of KIPP staff, each Club member had their name written on their toy bag beforehand. The cohorts of kids were rotated through the toy store throughout the day, observing pandemic safety procedures. By the time of pickup, Club members had on average 5 toys each from the toy store, ensuring an equal distribution of toys and happy Club members all around!

### *Student Support in a Virtual World*

Throughout the 2020/2021 school year, students were asked to learn in a variety of ways including online, hybrid and in person. During each of these transitions BGCMD and its Clubs were there to meet the needs. Each of our Cohort VIII Clubs spent time in virtual support, RLC support and in-person support of its members and communities. During each of these transitions BGCMD was there ready to respond and support.



Green Valley Ranch Boys & Girls Club at KIPP Northeast



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

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