

21st Century Community Learning Centers

2021-2022 PROGRAM YEAR SUMMARY



COLORADO
Department of Education



Prepared by Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver

Date of Report: October 2022

Program Name(s): Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver at Cole Arts & Science Academy
Cohort: 9



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
METRO DENVER

Program Description

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 enrichment opportunities and services. The purpose of this report is to share a summary of evaluations and outcomes Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver (BGCMD) delivered in program year 2021-2022 as a result of 21st Century Cohort IX funding, which supports our Club site at Cole Arts & Science Academy.

Program Summary

Since 1961, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver (BGCMD) has provided kindergarteners to high schoolers with a place to become inspired, build relationships, and learn how big a part they play in their community and their future. As a pillar in the community, we provide a safe, accessible, fun space full of caring adults to ensure kids have what they need to achieve their greatest potential.

Since our founding, we have grown into one of the largest, most accessible, and comprehensive youth-serving organizations in the metro Denver region, operating 20 Clubs, including our Cohort IX 21ST CCLC, Cole Arts & Science Academy (Cole Boys & Girls Club). Furthermore, we are one of the lowest-cost providers in the State, with an annual Club membership fee as low as \$2 per child and free for students attending 21st CCLCs. This is especially important as 96% of our active members attending a Cohort IX-funded Club during the program year were eligible for free or reduced lunch.

Our mission is to provide Club members with a safe, supportive, fun, and enriching environment that inspires and empowers them to achieve their greatest potential. This is accomplished through afterschool and summer programming, which supports the development of school-aged youth in four core program areas:

1. Academic Success: BGCMD provides Power Hour for one-on-one support with homework; Accelerated Reader for literacy; STEM-based learning opportunities; and cultural arts activities which include performances, digital art, drawing, painting, photography, crafts, and more.
2. Character & Leadership: Youth can participate in service learning activities and pre-teens and teens can engage in our Keystone Clubs and Torch Clubs which offer small groups of youth unique leadership experiences. Youth are also recognized on a monthly basis, and annually, one Club member receives the Youth of the Year award for outstanding leadership.

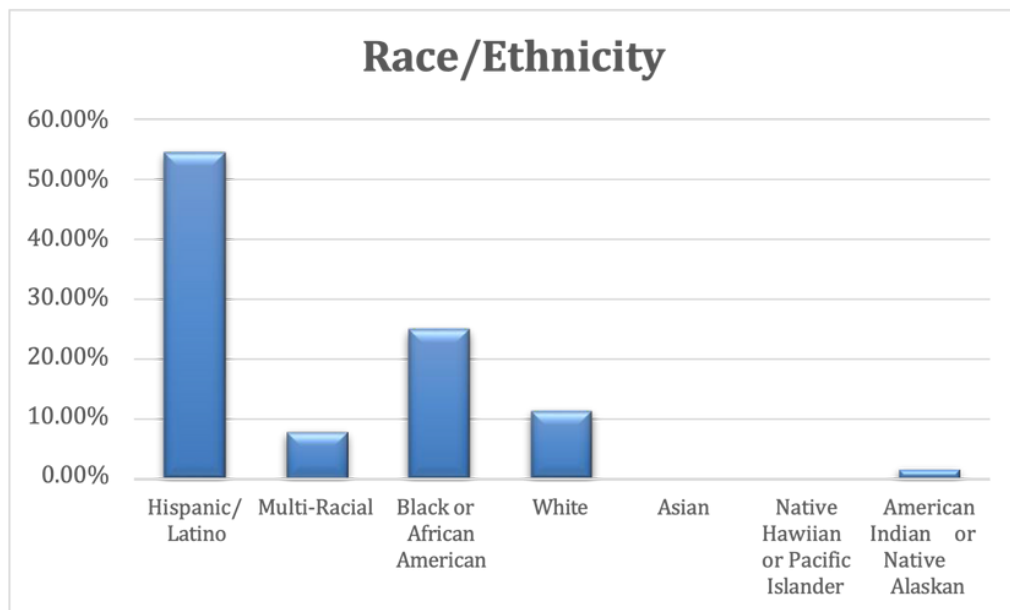
3. Healthy Lifestyles: A variety of programming is offered to youth, which includes: sexual health education, risky behavior avoidance, nutrition, cooking classes, and gardening. In addition, BGCMD provides sports and recreation opportunities where many Clubs operate organized sports leagues. Youth also are provided field trips, outdoor education, and in the summer can spend time in the mountains at Gates Camp – a facility owned and operated by BGCMD.

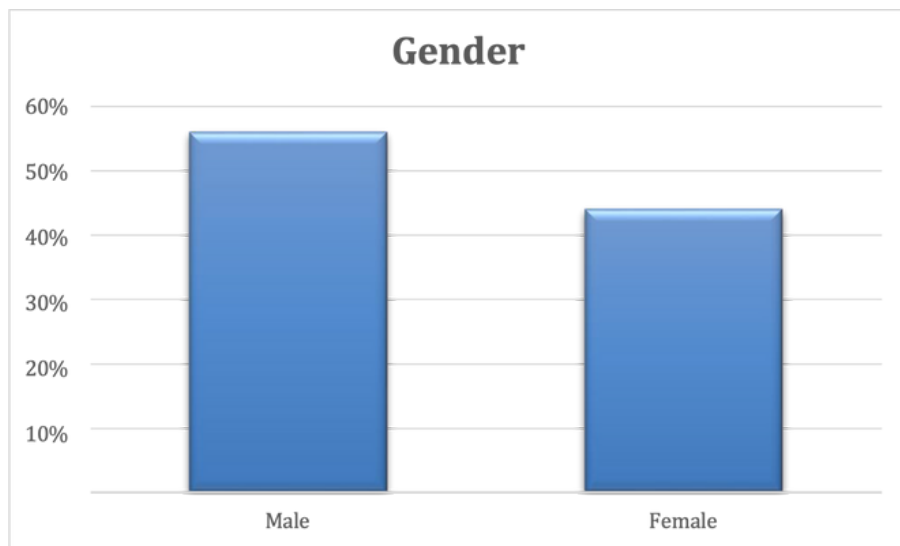
4. Mental Health: Within all programs, BGCMD incorporates Social Emotional Learning (SEL) to develop skills in self-control, self-awareness, emotional management, responsible decision making, and relationship skills. BGCMD employs a team of social workers who offer one-on-one therapy and group sessions for Club kids. Families are also provided with case management to assist them with accessing community resources to strengthen the family unit. This is accomplished through our crisis- intervention model where 11 full-time mental health professionals work directly in Clubs to support youth with life triggering/altering events which cause an extreme amount of stress.

By helping children succeed in these areas, they are better equipped to overcome life challenges and lead happy, healthy, and productive lives.

Demographics

During the 2021-2022 program year, BGCMD served 204 students at Cole Arts & Science Academy. Internal data indicates 54% of active Club members identified as Hispanic/Latino, 11% White, 25% Black/African American, 8% Multi-Racial, and 2% American Indian or Native Alaskan. Additionally, 56% of active Club members identified as male and 44% identified as female.





Evaluation Methods

BGCMD is focused on ensuring we remain an informed and accessible community-based organization, using the voices of the youth and families we serve to drive our approach. Through doing so, we have established a robust evaluation practice drawing from the results of several tools to measure program effectiveness and quality. Most notably, we engage in the following surveys and tactics:

1. National Youth Outcomes Initiative (NYOI): This annual research-based survey developed by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America in partnership with 3C Institute provides an in-depth understanding of the Club experience. This survey is administered to students through 3C Institute's QUEST platform, a research-based, child-friendly online data collection system that uses characters and game-like activities to engage youth and reward them for their progression throughout the survey. NYOI is developmentally appropriate and easy for youth to navigate. The survey is offered in English and Spanish and has the audio capabilities to read presented text and replay it. Specifically, NYOI measures: safe, positive environment; fun; supportive relationships; opportunities and expectations; and recognition for youth ages nine (9) and older.
2. Survey of Academic and Youth Outcomes (SAYO): SAYO was created by the National Institute on Out of School Time (NIOST) and is a nationally recognized survey used by afterschool programs, and has been implemented in Denver since 2013. SAYO conducts pre- and post-tests annually measuring: 1) program experiences (engagement, choice, challenge, social environments, etc.) and 2) sense of competence (reading, writing, math, science, getting along with others, etc.), and 3) future goals (future planning and future expectations) for youth in 4th-12th grade. Examples of questions asked include: do you learn new things (at this afterschool program); I'm good at reading; I try hard in school; and will you go to college?

3. Kid Perception Data: Starting in May 2022, BGCMD began gathering data on kid perception, allowing for real time understanding of how all youth, even our youngest (K-2nd grade), view our programs. What started as a pilot evaluation tool, has now become a part of our regular practice. Data is collected through dot voting, verbal and written exit tickets, drawing pictures, virtual polls, and discussion groups. Some examples of the questions we ask youth to vote on are: the adults listen to me here; I liked the activity we did today; it's okay for me to make mistakes at Club; and I can be my authentic self at Club.
4. Family Engagement Surveys: BGCMD regularly surveys the families we serve. For example, in 2022, BGCMD administered two surveys to families in partnership with third-party evaluation specialist Quantitative Research Evaluation and Measurement (QREM). QREM is a firm that is experienced with serving non-profits and adheres to standards established by the American Evaluation Association. Through these surveys, families provided feedback on their child's Club, staff, communication, their child's behavior, activities offered, and overall safety of the Club.

Overall, BGCMD utilizes a 'plan – assess – improve' model, meaning we continuously assess and improve programs to align with community needs and repeat the cycle as needed.

Results

During the program year, BGCMD surveyed youths and families several times. Below is a snapshot of our key findings from each evaluation:

National Youth Outcomes Initiative (NYOI)

In Spring 2022, BGCMD engaged 1,223 students across all Clubs through NYOI. Our Cohort IX Club had 54 students participate in the survey. As previously indicated, NYOI measures the Club experience for students in the following categories: safe, positive environment; fun; supportive relationships; opportunities and expectations; and recognition. See Appendix 1 for Organization-wide snapshot of NYOI data.

Cole Arts & Science Academy NYOI Results

Cole Arts & Science Academy had 54 students (21 female, 33 male) respond to our NYOI survey. Key outcomes include:

- 89% of Club members feel safe being themselves at this Club
- 90% of Club members indicated they can talk to an adult at this Club if they have a problem
- 92% of Club members enjoy coming to this Club
- 84% of Club members expect to graduate high school

Survey of Academic and Youth Outcomes (SAYO)

BGCMD administered SAYO surveys to Club members twice this program year, using data only from students who participated in both the pre-and post-tests. Our Cohort IX CCLC had 12 pre- and post-test matches. Youth are asked questions about their program experience, sense of competence, and future goals and then provide answers based on a scale of either 1 through 4 or 1 through 3. For each item, 1 represents “No/Don’t agree,” 2 “Mostly no/Agree a little,” 3 “Mostly yes/Mostly agree,” and 4 “Yes/Agree a lot.” Answers are then averaged to provide an overall score for each outcome area. Below are the results for Cole Arts & Science Academy.

Cole Arts & Science Academy SAYO Results

Cole Arts & Science Academy had 12 pre- and post-test matches. Cole Arts & Science Academy showed growth from their pre-test to their post-test in all categories. Results include:

- Program Experience
 - Choice & Autonomy– 3.57/4
 - Youth Feel Challenged – 3.39/4
 - Supportive Adults– 3.63/4
 - Leadership & Responsibility – 3.38/4
- Sense of Competencies
 - Competency as a Learner– 3.63/4
 - Competency as a Reader– 3.20/4
 - Competency Socially – 3.35/4
- Future Goals
 - Future Planning& Actions – 3.60/4
 - Future Expectations – 2.69/3

Kid Perception Data

During the 2021-2022 program year, Kid Perception Data was piloted at seven (7) Clubs. Staff asked students about their experiences at Club in real time using dot voting, exit tickets, group discussions, and thumbs up or thumbs down. Staff feedback indicated that Kid Perception Data was easy to implement and provided useful data to improve programming and support youth. While our Cohort VIII Clubs were not a part of this pilot, Kid Perception Data has become a part of our evaluation practice, and all Cohort VIII Clubs will collect this data regularly during the 2022-2023 program year. See Appendix 2 for examples of Kid Perception Data collected.

Cole Arts & Science Academy Kid Perception Data Pilot

Cole Arts & Science Academy surveyed youth 8 times during the pilot period. Key outcomes include:

Question Asked	Responses	Form of data collection	Age Group
Do you feel that adults in the Club listen to you?	Yes: 12 Sometimes: 9 No: 1	Dot Voting	Kindergarten – 9th grade
I have opportunities to be a leader at the Club.	Yes: 9 A little: 4 Not much: 3	Dot Voting	Kindergarten – 2nd grade
I find enjoyment in reading while at Club.	A lot: 4 A little: 1	Dot Voting	Kindergarten – 2nd grade

Family Engagement Surveys

During Spring 2022, BGCMD administered two surveys to gather feedback from the families we serve. We had 1,398 responses between the two surveys and found 1 in 5 families chose to take the survey in Spanish. Families provided feedback on their overall satisfaction with their child's Club, as well as what they prioritize in an afterschool program.

Data indicates 91% of BGCMD families are satisfied or highly satisfied with our programming. When we asked families about the key qualities they like about BGCMD, they chose staff (72%), academics/homework help (71%), sports (69%), and having friends at the Club (64%). We found the strongest correlation to overall Club satisfaction is satisfaction with Club staff.

Additionally, BGCMD found families prioritize the following in their afterschool program:

- 89% of families prioritize a safe place for their child to spend their time
- 88% of families prioritize a program run by adults they trust
- 74% of families will seek a program that will help their child succeed in school

Conclusion

BGCMD utilizes data collected through multiple evaluation tools to make informed decisions that lead to high levels of impact and strengthen our performance. By reflecting on the results above, we are able to highlight the areas we excel in as an organization and at individual Club levels, as well as learn where there is room for growth. This program year, data showed families are satisfied with our afterschool programming, Club members feel physically and emotionally safe at their Club, and Club members are on track to graduate high school. Furthermore, the families in the communities we support are from over 130 countries and speak more than 160 languages, with the top languages spoken including: Spanish, Burmese, Swahili, Nepali, Karen, Somalian, Muay Thai, Arabic, Pashto, Cambodian, and Hmong.

Findings from these evaluations will be used during our annual Planning with Data session, where all Club staff come together to deep dive into each Club's data and create SMART goals for the upcoming program year. Results, too, are continuously referenced during leadership and organizational decision-making processes.

As previously indicated, during our most recent family survey, 1 in 5 families chose to take the survey in Spanish. As we continue to engage families, BGCMD is working to address the language barrier for Club members and their families. These efforts include providing our Club membership application, organization website, and other community resources in English and Spanish, as well as attracting and retaining staff who speak these languages. Further, it is essential, we obtain additional translation resources. Translation and interpretation resources are a fundamental part of our long-term strategy to engage the families we serve.

Aknowledgements

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver is grateful for our continued partnership with 21st Century Community Learning Centers. With the support and collaboration from the Colorado Department of Education, we can continue to provide access to high-quality afterschool and summer programming to over 900 students across Metro Denver. We look forward to continuing our work so Club members have every opportunity to achieve their greatest potential.