ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2017-18

Every Student Counts.
Every Student Graduates.

Denver kids Inc.
Every Student Counts.
Every Student Graduates.
At Denver Kids, Inc., we are on a mission to make high school graduation possible for Denver Public Schools (DPS) students who face barriers of higher risk environments. Since 1946, we have partnered with generations of students to cross the graduation stage with the social, emotional, and academic skills necessary to transition into college or start their careers. Today, we are one of the largest dropout prevention agencies in Denver, serving 1,000 students, on average, in grades K-12, in more than 160 district schools.

Denver Kids specializes in Educational Counseling: a one-to-one relationship-based, long-term preventive approach dedicated to building character, academic achievement, and positive development of the whole child. We believe that every student, regardless of their socioeconomic status, deserves a chance to reach their fullest potential.
OUR IMPACT

82% of Denver Kids students graduated high school or earned a GED

95% of Denver Kids graduates pursued a post-secondary plan (college, apprenticeships, technical training, military training)

WITHIN DPS:

62% of DPS students experiencing poverty graduated high school on-time

NATIONWIDE:

56% of low income students in the U.S. enrolled in college

American Council on Education

97% of Denver Kids students qualify for free or reduced lunch (FRL)

74% of Denver Kids students are the first in their families to pursue post-secondary education

62% of Denver Kids students reside in a single parent or non-parental guardian household;

the remaining 38% include a significant number of immigrant and refugee families

60% of Denver Kids students are first generation high school graduates

Demographics Cont.
RELATIONSHIPS

...that connect one-on-one with the student.

Core to our work is the fundamental belief in the transformative power of relationships. It’s been the heart of our mission and the springboard of our strong outcomes for youth since our founding more than 70 years ago.

Denver Kids students receive long-term, consistent, one-to-one support from a professional Educational Counselor and oftentimes a volunteer mentor too. For children and teens facing adversity, Denver Kids can mean the difference between staying in school or dropping out. And, between making reasoned, thoughtful decisions or engaging in unhealthy ones.

...that connect all parties.

We build relationships not only with students, but also with their parents or guardians, families, teachers, and schools. By connecting all parties, we form the strongest possible foundation for learning – one where all students have the ability to fulfill their potential and achieve their dreams.

REAL-TIME DATA | REAL-TIME INTERVENTIONS

We don’t wait for report cards. Our partnership with DPS provides access to real-time student data, allowing us the ability to monitor important student records like attendance, tardiness, and course performance so that we can instantly intervene before the trajectory of disruptive behavior begins.

The most cost-effective place to stop the dropout pipeline is as close to the beginning as possible. That’s why we intervene as early as kindergarten and select students who would benefit most from our program.
The Denver Kids approach to positive youth outcomes is rooted in:

- **RELATIONSHIPS**
- **REAL-TIME DATA**
- **REAL-TIME INTERVENTIONS**
- **SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL & ACADEMIC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**
We help students excel not just in academics, but also in social and emotional skills such as empathy, collaboration, resilience, and grit.

Ensuring our students are prepared for life after high school is a critical component of our program. As early as elementary school, students participate in future-focused conversations and career exploration opportunities. By senior year, Denver Kids students are actively engaged in college tours, financial aid counseling, interview workshops, and job shadowing. As a result, more than ninety percent of our graduates pursue post-secondary education. On average, 70 percent of those students are the first in their families to do so.

“My Educational Counselor, Ms. Darla, has helped me establish a positive mindset. She showed me that I matter and that I can have a huge impact in the world if I just believe in myself.”

— A.D., Denver Kids Student
Year in Review

- **82%**
  - Our graduation and completion rate.

- **831**
  - Number of households served.

- **1,042**
  - Number of students served.

- **7+**
  - Average number of years a student spends in our program.
Year in Review Cont.

182
Number of Denver Public Schools we worked in.

100%
Our entire Denver Kids programming team received certification or advanced training in Social, Emotional, and Academic Learning (SEAL).

22
Number of programming team members employed.

243
Number of Denver Kids students who received the additional support of a caring volunteer mentor.
Denver Kids commits to children for the long-term—an average of seven years. Each student is matched with an Educational Counselor (EC), like Darla, who works to position them for success both in school and in life. Some days, that means creating a multiplication wheel together to help reinforce concepts learned in math class. Other days, it’s guiding students through stress management exercises to help them cope with conflict. Often, ECs are the first people called upon when a crisis occurs with students or their families.

ECs guide students in charting a course to reach their goals while helping to develop their social, emotional, and academic potential. Just like a co-pilot, they make sure students reach their destination—high school graduation—and are right by their side to help navigate any turbulence along the way.

Q&A with Darla.

*How many years have you worked in education or direct service?*
More than thirteen years.

*What age groups do you support?*
I work with students in elementary school, middle school, and high school.

*What do you enjoy most about working with the students you serve?*
Seeing a student smile with possibility.

*Describe a graduation story that stands out to you.*
I began working with Gabriel in elementary school. At the time, he was angry, had poor coping skills, and unable to tolerate frustration at any level. There were lots of difficulties at home. In high school, Gabriel was often absent and quickly fell behind on credits.

In his senior year, Gabriel experienced a home invasion and was shot in the arm. That same year, his mom became very ill and he dropped classes to help care for her during her final months. Following her passing, and in a state of deep grief, Gabriel realized that his anger was steering his life in a direction he didn’t like. In that moment, he made a choice to change his behavior. Working through his anger, he committed to graduating on-time and being a role model. After months of hard work, Gabriel graduated. It was an honor to be by his side as he successfully navigated through such a difficult time.

Being an Educational Counselor is one of the greatest jobs in the world: We get to facilitate magic for our young people, their families, and our entire community.
The transition from middle school to high school often stirs up many emotions for adolescents, ranging from excitement and anticipation to fear and anxiety. For Alondra, those feelings lasted well beyond the first few weeks of ninth grade. Now in a giant new school and a sea of strangers, Alondra felt small and alone. Quiet and reserved, she struggled to make friends with other students and often recoiled in her seat when called upon to participate in class. It wasn’t long before her grades and attendance started to slip.

As Karina guided Alondra in developing self-confidence and self-advocacy skills, Alondra started to ask for help when she needed it.

Gaining these foundational social and emotional skills unlocked a world of new opportunities for Alondra. In time, her grades and outlook began to improve. By tenth grade, Alondra tried out for—and made—the volleyball team, and even joined student council to help improve the overall student experience at North High School. In her own words, Alondra “found her voice.”

Alondra is currently taking honors-level classes and completing college-level Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) coursework at CEC Early College to prepare for her lifelong dream of becoming a registered nurse. Her goal is to serve the Latino community and populations who lack access to healthcare.

When Alondra crosses the graduation stage in May 2019, she will become the first of her siblings to graduate from high school.

Freshman year has long been considered a “make or break” year, as it’s essential in deciding whether a student drops out or stays in. Research shows that failing just one course in the ninth grade decreases the likelihood of graduating by 30 percent.

But when students are supported, those statistics get shattered.

Fortunately for Alondra, her Denver Kids Educational Counselor, Karina, was there to support her through this tough passage. Karina helped demystify many of the initial procedural obstacles—like understanding her daily schedule, school rules, finding her classes, and following the bell schedule—that Alondra was immediately experiencing.

From there, they worked on establishing positive relationships with her new high school teachers so that Alondra felt more comfortable in class. Karina also helped Alondra become aware of the many extracurricular activities available to her and how to get involved.
Thank you to every individual, corporation, foundation, trust, and estate that made a gift in FY 2017-18. The generosity of more than 1,600 donors contributed nearly $3,000,000 to Denver Kids.

Sources of Revenue
- In-kind: 30%
- Individuals: 29%
- Foundations & Corporations: 23%
- Sponsoring Organizations: 14%
- Investment income: 4%
Total: $2,923,684

Use of Funds
- Programs: 79%
- Fundraising: 13%
- Administrative: 8%
Total: $2,919,825

"Denver Kids taught me to never give up on what’s important, no matter how hard life gets.

— Alexus, Denver Kids Student"
OUR SUPPORTERS

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS
Our sponsoring organizations support our agency with significant annual financial backing and leadership. They are vital partners in helping end the dropout crisis in Denver Public Schools.

CHAMPIONS
The Denver Kids Champions program builds off our long-term relationship model and invites donors to invest in our students and program by making a minimum annual contribution of $5,000 for five years. We thank the following individuals and organizations for their engaged philanthropy and for making a five-year pledge of support.

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<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Pledge Range</th>
<th>Supporters</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Empowering Circle</td>
<td>$50,000 – $124,999 pledge</td>
<td>Scott and Teresa Binder, Joan Brennan, William and Krista Brown, Adriana and Brian Carpenter, James and Kathy Emme, Charles and Marty Everill, Eric and Jessica Gutknecht, Jan and Jerry Hanson, Janet and Doug Hazlett, Ryan and Dana Krauser, Linda and Adam Lipsius, James and Anne Mack, Lee Mayer, Stephanie and Dan McCoy, Charles Miller, Mary and Roy Penny, Ward and Karen Polzin, Katie Reilly and Shane Harvey, Rich and Linda Schierburg, Ryan and Taylor Surroz</td>
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INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE
We extend our sincere thanks to the following members of our Investing in Our Future Giving Circle for making a minimum five-year major gift pledge in support of the growth and sustained impact of Denver Kids.

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<td>$50,000 – $124,999 pledge</td>
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<td>Inspiring Circle</td>
<td>$25,000 – $49,999 pledge</td>
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<td>Supporting Circle</td>
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The following people have made a commitment to Denver Kids’ future by including our organization in their estate planning.

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<td>Philip A. Baumgartner (d)</td>
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<td>Wendy Bergen (d)</td>
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<td>Roslyn Brewer</td>
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<td>Sue Davis Hornby</td>
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<td>John Decio (d)</td>
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<td>Cara Elias Sterling</td>
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<td>Charles and Marty Everill</td>
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<td>Nancy Felker and Don Heppermann</td>
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<td>Scott and Denise Hasday</td>
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