



ANNUAL
REPORT
FY 2016-17



OUR STORY

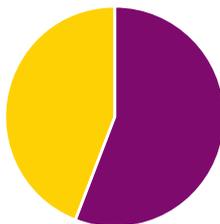


At Denver Kids, Inc., we are on a mission to make high school graduation possible for all Denver Public Schools (DPS) students experiencing poverty. Since 1946, we have partnered with generations of students to cross the finish line with the social, emotional, and academic skills necessary to transition into college or start their careers.

Today, we are one of the largest dropout prevention agencies in Denver, serving 1,150 DPS students in nearly 160 district schools.

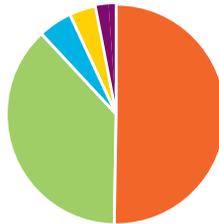
Demographics

Gender



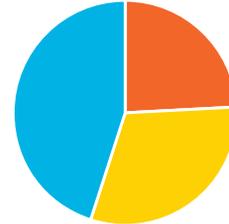
■ 55% Male
■ 45% Female

Ethnicity



■ 52% Latino
■ 39% African American
■ 4% Caucasian
■ 3% American Indian
■ 2% Other

Grade Level



■ 40% Middle school
■ 39% High school
■ 21% Elementary school

The Denver Kids Approach to Positive Youth Outcomes is rooted in:



RELATIONSHIPS



**REAL-TIME DATA
REAL-TIME INTERVENTIONS**



**SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL,
& ACADEMIC SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT**

OUR APPROACH

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, 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 rise to their potential and achieve their dreams.

REAL-TIME DATA | REAL-TIME INTERVENTIONS

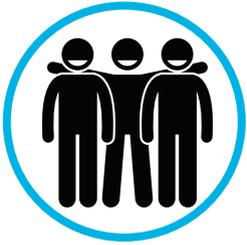


We don't wait for report cards. Our partnership with DPS provides access to real-time student data, allowing us the ability to monitor important student records like attendance, tardiness, and course performance so that we can instantly intervene before the trajectory of disruptive behavior begins.

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.

OUR APPROACH CONT.

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. Two-thirds are the first in their families to do so.

”

I wouldn't have made it [to graduation] without Denver Kids. The program pushed me to try and do whatever it took to succeed.

— Jade, Class of 2017



LILLY

Lilly was in the second grade when she was referred to Denver Kids. As a native Vietnamese, English wasn't her first language. Like so many English as a Second Language (ESL) learners in our program, this often creates several roadblocks both in and out of the classroom. For Lilly, her reading skills were about eight levels behind. She also lacked healthy friendships and struggled to forge new relationships.

Through a series of one-on-one reading interventions with her Educational Counselor—including guided readings, phonemic awareness activities, sight word games, and reading comprehension exercises—and Lilly's own determination, she made huge gains and successfully ended the school year at grade level.

As Lilly began meeting standards in reading, this impacted her success in other subjects and she became a more confident student and engaged learner.

Lilly's confidence in the classroom expanded to other areas in her life. At the urging of her Educational Counselor, she joined an after-school program called Girls on the Run. Here, Lilly is training to compete in a 5K race and making lots of meaningful new friends on her way to the finish line.



DARLA

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 twelve 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, with low frustration tolerance and poor coping skills. 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. Later, his Mom became very ill and he dropped classes to help care for her during her final months. Following her death, and deep in his grief, Gabriel chose not to have his anger direct the course of his life and made a choice to manage his frustrations and evaluate at its root cause. He committed to graduating on time and being a leader. 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.

OUR IMPACT



79%
of Denver Kids students
graduated high school



96%
of Denver Kids graduates
pursued a post-secondary plan
(college, apprenticeships, technical training, military training)

WITHIN DPS:



62%
of DPS students in poverty
graduated high school

NATIONWIDE:



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

American Council on Education

65%

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

63%

of Denver Kids
students reside
in non-traditional
households
(single parent/guardian,
cohabitation, foster care, etc.)

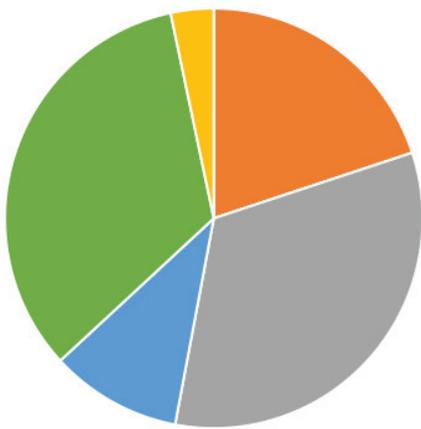
40%

of Denver Kids
students are the first in
their families to
graduate from high
school

FINANCIALS

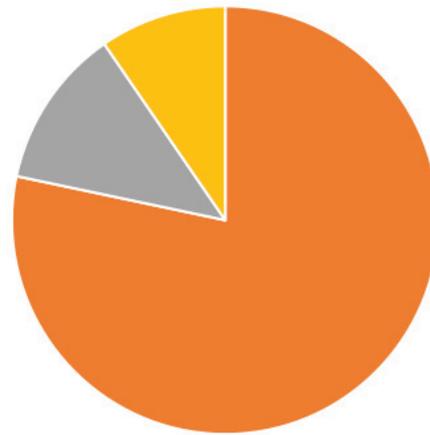
Thank you to every individual, corporation, foundation, trust, and estate that made a gift from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017. The generosity of more than 1,600 donors contributed nearly \$3,000,000 to Denver Kids.

Sources of Revenue



■ 34% Individuals
■ 33% In kind
■ 20% Foundations & Corporations
■ 10% Sponsorship
■ 3% Investment income
Total: \$3,209,415

Use of Funds



■ Programs: 78%
■ Fundraising: 12%
■ Administrative: 10%
Total: \$3,201,594



My mentor and my Educational Counselor have been two of the biggest influences in my life.

— Rosmina, Class of 2013

Year in Review

79%



Denver Kids' on-time graduation rate.

71



Number of high school graduates.

1,150



Number of students served.

7

Average number of years a student spends in our program.

Year in Review Cont.

159

Number of Denver Public Schools we worked in.

1K



Number of Denver Kids students engaged in summer programs.

26



Number of full-time Educational Counselors employed.

258

Number of Denver Kids students who received the additional support of a caring volunteer mentor.

OUR TEAM

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Dwight Gentry
Christa Lyons, LCSW
Gabriel Rodriguez
Emily Weiss, MSW
Jason Wilson, M. Ed.

Northeast Satellite

Millicent Ratliff-Brewer
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Jordan Evans
Darla Harrah, MA
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Cristina Chacon, Future Options Program
Coordinator
Audrey Reyes, Manager of Volunteer Mentor
Program

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Bridget Boyd, Director of Marketing &
Communications
Kelsey Grayson, Development Officer
Michelle Maldonado, Director of Development
Lisa Mauldin, Director of Finance & HR



MISSION

Denver Kids helps Denver Public Schools students, grades K-12, who face the personal challenges of higher risk environments to successfully complete high school, pursue post-secondary options, and become contributing members of the community.

VISION

Every student counts. Every student graduates.

CORE VALUES

Courage to Excel

We never give up on achieving our dreams no matter how difficult or impossible it may seem. We believe in ourselves and that through perseverance, dedication, resiliency, and hard work we can accomplish anything.

Integrity

We are truthful, fair, and accountable in words and actions – even when it is hard or when no one is looking.

Lifelong Learning

We strive to challenge ourselves and one another to grow and develop to our fullest potential. Lifelong learning occurs in the classroom and also through enrichment opportunities and other life experiences that encourage deeper thinking, a broader range of feeling, physical challenge, and emotional development.

Partnership

We are committed to working together as a community toward a common goal, empowering one another to create positive change.

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Denver Kids is extremely fortunate to have three sponsoring organizations that support our agency with significant annual financial and in-kind contributions and leadership. They are vital partners in helping end the dropout crisis in Denver Public Schools.





1860 Lincoln St.
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Denver, CO 80203
DenverKidsInc.org



Donate



Advocate



Volunteer



501(c)3 EIN #84-1244211

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