

AKWAABA FREEDOM SCHOOL



CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

**I CAN and MUST
make a
DIFFERENCE!**

Original Mission & Purpose

Rooted in the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer Project, which was a campaign to empower African Americans through civic engagement and education.

These early Freedom Schools aimed to:

- Keep Black children and youth safe and give them rich educational experiences.
- Provide instruction in reading, writing, humanities, mathematics, and science along with subjects not taught in public schools, such as Black history and constitutional rights.
- Encourage children and youth to become independent thinkers, problem solvers, and agents of change in their own communities.





AKWAABA
FREEDOM SCHOOL

The Akwaaba Freedom School program provides summer enrichment through a research-based and multicultural program model that supports K-12 scholars and their families through five essential components:

- high quality academic and character-building enrichment
- parent and family involvement
- civic engagement and social action
- intergenerational servant leadership development
- and nutrition, health and mental health.



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AKWAABA

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DAILY SCHEDULE

Program Days:

June 12th - July 21st

7:45AM - 3:00PM

8:00 AM	Breakfast
8:30 AM	Harambee
9:00 AM	Integrated Reading Curriculum
10:30 AM	Snack
10:45 AM	Integrated Reading Curriculum
11:45 AM	D.E.A.R. time
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Enrichment Activities
3:00 PM	Dismissal



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Curriculum

By providing K-12 scholars with rich, culturally relevant, and high-quality books that deepen scholars' understanding of themselves and all they have in common with others in a multiracial, multicultural society, Akwaaba Freedom School further empowers scholars to believe in their ability and responsibility to make a difference while instilling in them a love of reading to help them avoid summer opportunity loss.

I can and must make a **difference** in

Myself

My Family

My Community

My Country

the World



The Space

- Warm & inviting
- Themed classrooms
- Uniquely customized
- Student work displayed
- Diverse books & representation
- Affirmations





Program Activities

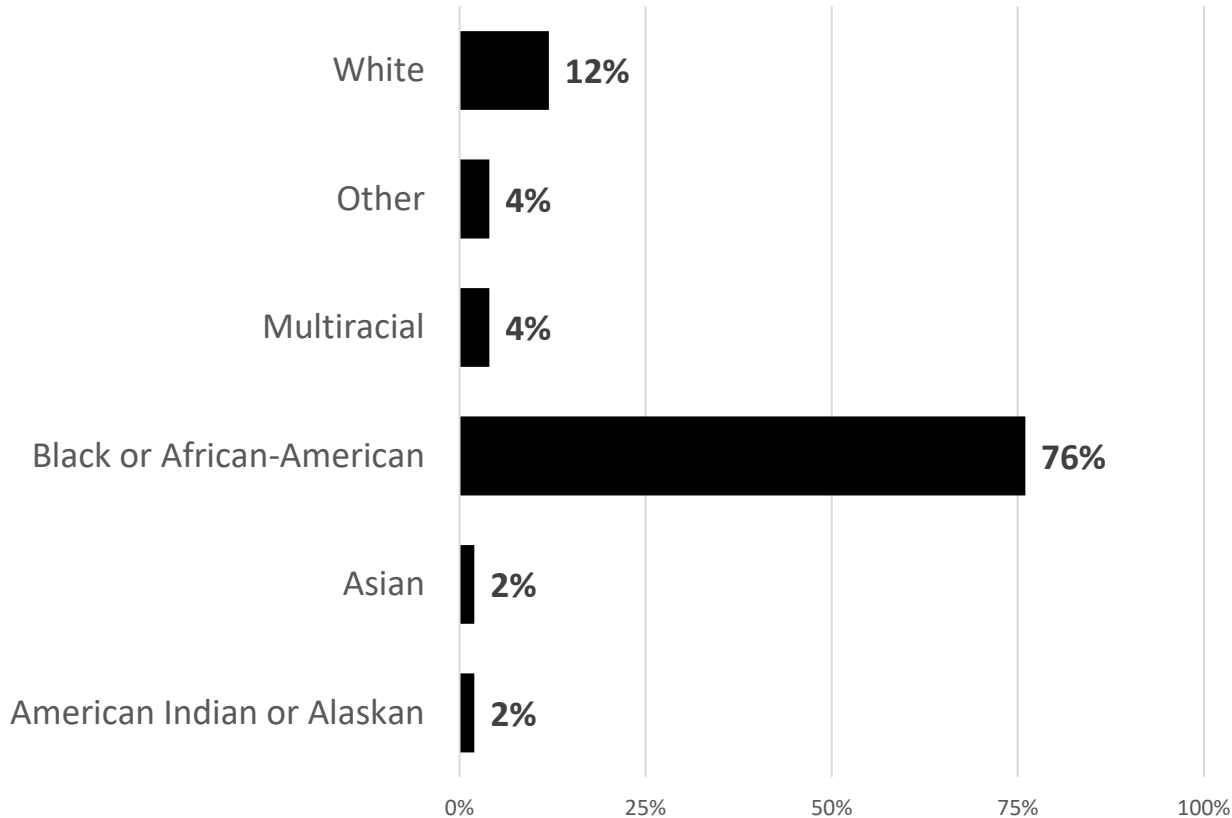
- STEM Activities
- Montessori Math
- Mindfulness
- Physical Activity
- Art & Cultural
- Music & Dance
- Gardening



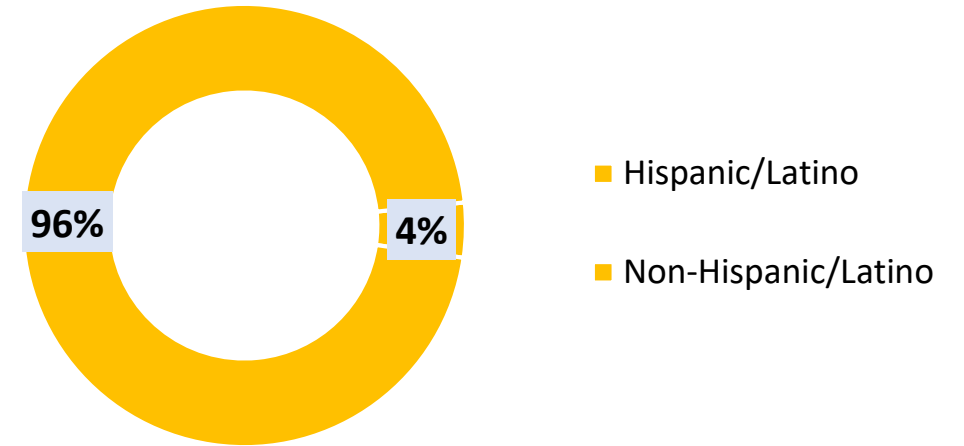
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Demographics of Freedom School children.

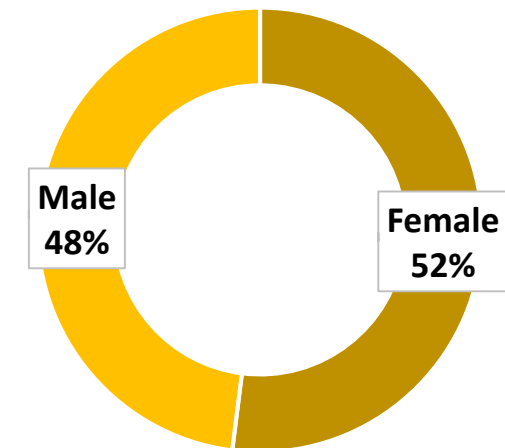
Majority of children are Black or African American.



Large majority of children are Non-Hispanic.



Slightly more females than males.

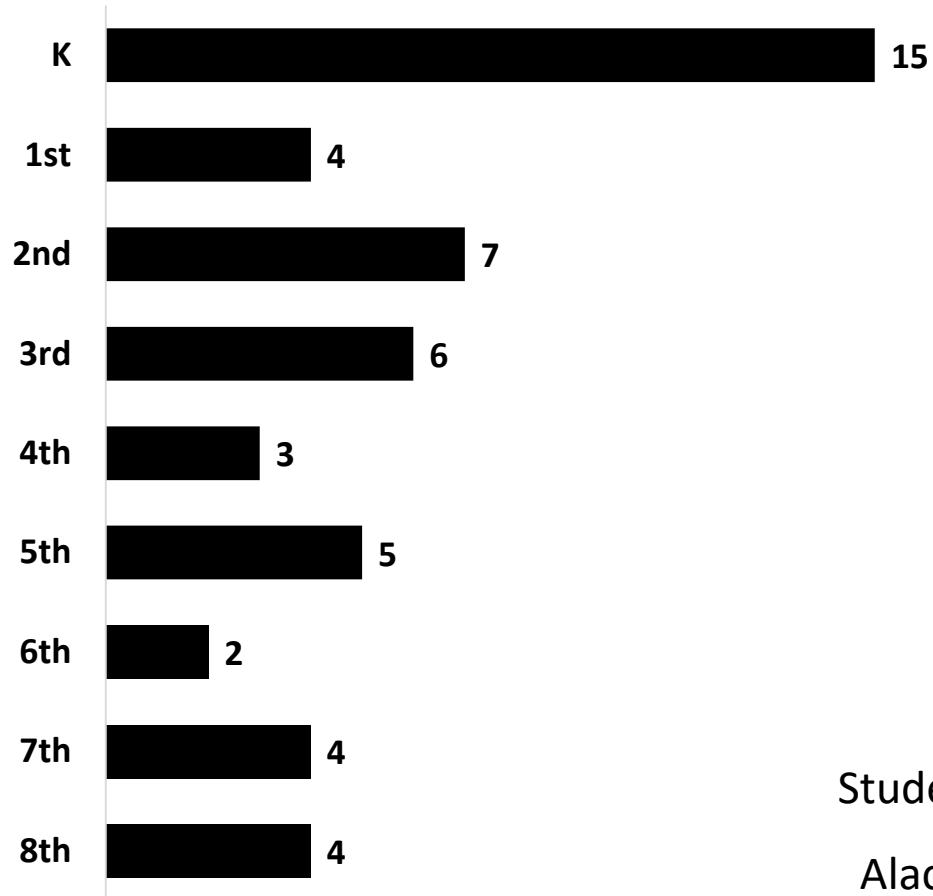


**Akwaaba
Freedom School
saw higher
enrollment among
younger students.**

80% of children are rising **elementary school** students.

Average Age = **8.36** years old

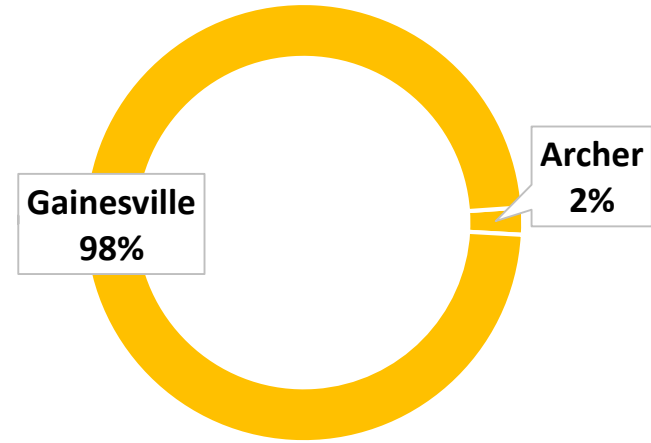
Grade in **2023-2024** school year.



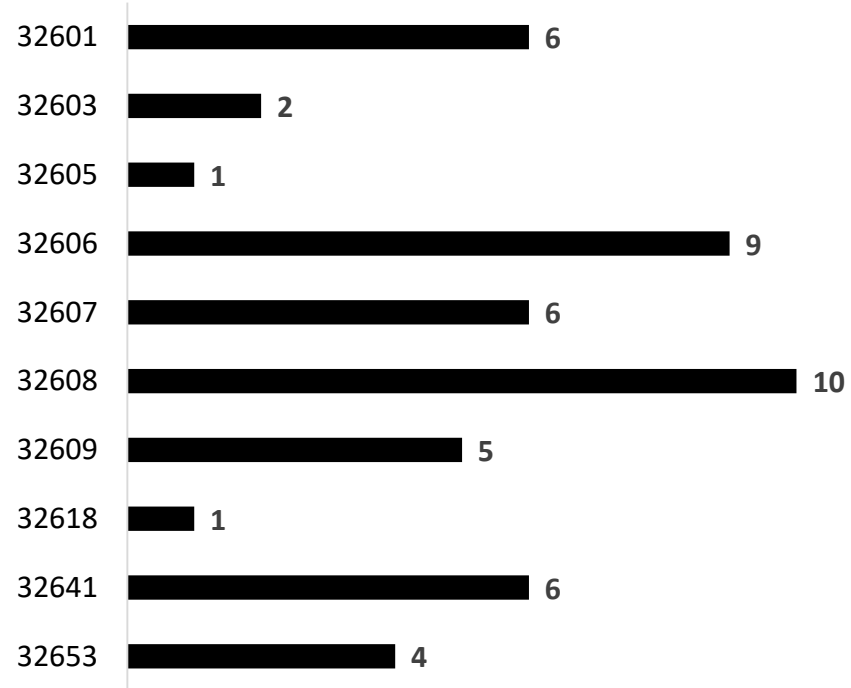
Students from 24 different
Alachua County schools.

Almost all children served reside in Gainesville.

Children served by City.



Children served by Zip Code.



Results

- Students who participated in the Akwaaba Freedom School summer program were able to preserve their reading fluency skills.
- The summer programming provided easy access to self-selected books for summer reading.
- When comparing students to national benchmarks, although study participants started at lower skill levels than the national averages, they kept pace with the national rate of improvement for their respective grade levels .



Parent Feedback

What did your child(ren) like best about the program?

- Learning history & reading activities
- Chants and the amazing teachers
- Building relationship with staff and students, field trips, extracurricular activities, opportunities to do fun activities tied to reading, books they enjoy reading
- Freedom school was her happy place to be, she wanted to come every day and enjoy. It is also a great place to learn

What did your child(ren) like least about the program?

The lunch

It was too short, she wanted to stay more time

Not enough outside playing

Long presentations sometimes. Didn't like the gun violence topics

Areas for Improvement

- Extend camp days and hours
- Offer partial scholarships and slots for private pay families
- Offer programming in rural areas of the County. (long-term goal)

