



Item:

Children's Defense Fund - Akwaaba Freedom School - Program Review for FY24 (Belita James)

Requested Action:

Receive the information.

Background:

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Akwaaba Freedom Schools, a six-week summer reading camp that aims to motivate low-income and racially minoritized children to fall in love with reading. The Akwaaba Freedom Schools focus on addressing summer slide, where children fall behind academically because their families and/or community lack the resources to engage them in high quality summer programs. Freedom Schools also emphasize how scholars (students) can make a difference in themselves, their families, school community, the country and world. Specific program activities include:

- Integrated Reading Curriculum (3 hours/day)
- Weekly field trips
- Weekly parent meetings/workshops
- Extracurricular activities (e.g., music, dance, sports, arts, etc.)
- STEM development
- Weekly programming at the intersection of arts, culture, entrepreneurship, education, and wellness
- Teacher candidate and teacher professional development

Annual assessments of CDF Freedom Schools have shown that the program has a statistically significant, positive effect on children's reading skills, attitudes toward learning, and belief in themselves, and in their ability to make a difference in the world around them.

This report will provide a review of participants, activities, outcomes, and areas for improvement.

Attachments

Akwaaba Freedom School Presentation

Programmatic Impact:

Goal 2 - All children can youth learn what they need to be successful.

Fiscal Impact:

\$114,400 FY24

Recommendation:

Receive the information