

AKWAABA FREEDOM SCHOOL

A group of young women are gathered in a classroom, raising their hands enthusiastically. They are wearing casual clothing like t-shirts and shorts. The background shows a classroom setting with a whiteboard and a yellow door. The image is framed with a green, torn-paper-style border.

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

EST. SUMMER 2022

ORIGINAL MISSION & PURPOSE

The Freedom Schools of the 1960s were first developed by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) during the 1964 Freedom Summer in Mississippi. Through reading, writing, arithmetic, history, and civics, participants received a progressive curriculum during a six-week summer program that was designed to prepare disenfranchised African Americans to become active political actors on their own behalf (as voters, elected officials, organizers, etc.). Nearly 40 freedom schools were established serving close to 2,500 students, including parents and grandparents.

Freedom Schools allow students and teachers today to explore the purpose and possibilities of public education.



ADDRESSING GAPS & LOSSES

The "Achievement gap" is
really an

Opportunity gap

Discipline gap

Curriculum gap

Teacher gap

"Summer learning loss"

is really

Summer enrichment &
opportunity gap

3 months
x 12 summers
3 years





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.

EST. SUMMER 2022



AKWAABA

FREEDOM SCHOOL

DAILY SCHEDULE

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	DEAR time
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Enrichment Activities
3:00 PM	Dismissal/After-care

EST. SUMMER 2022

CURRICULUM

By providing K-12 scholars with rich, culturally relevant pedagogy and high quality books that deepen scholars' understanding of themselves and all they have in common with others in a multiracial, multicultural democratic 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...

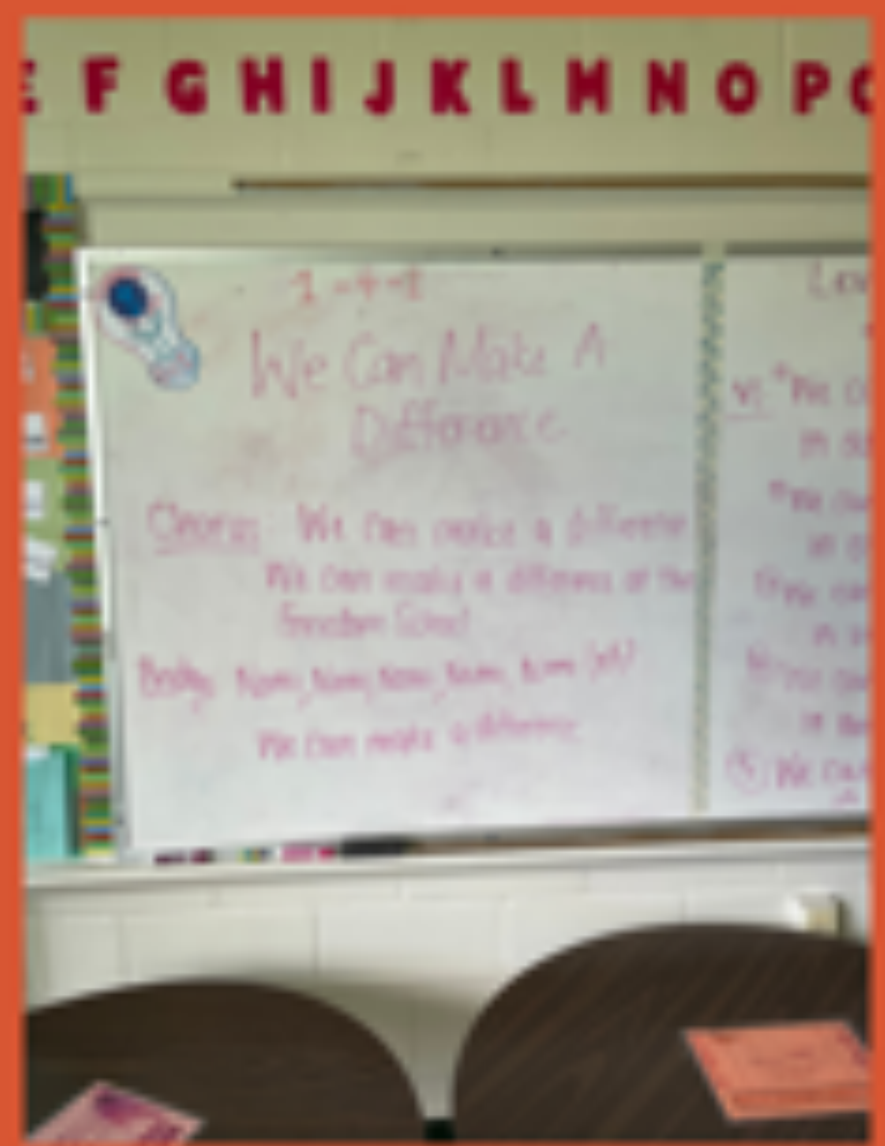
Myself
My Family
My Community
My Country
the World

with hope, education, and action.



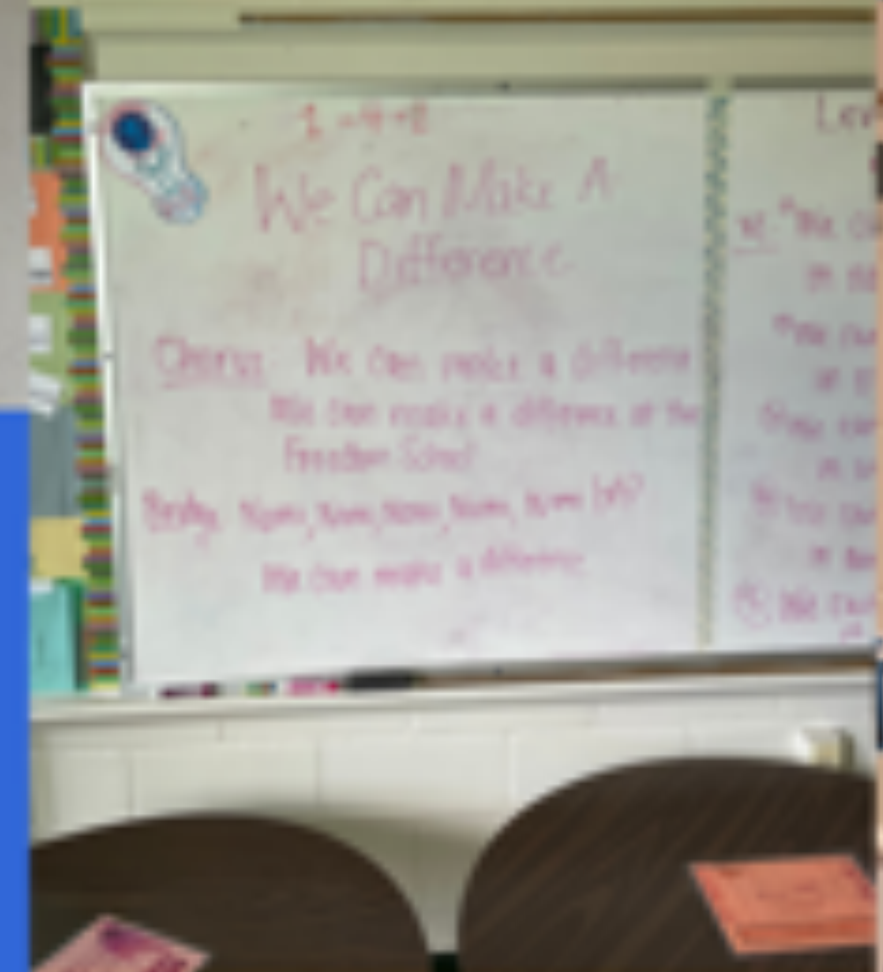
THE SPACE

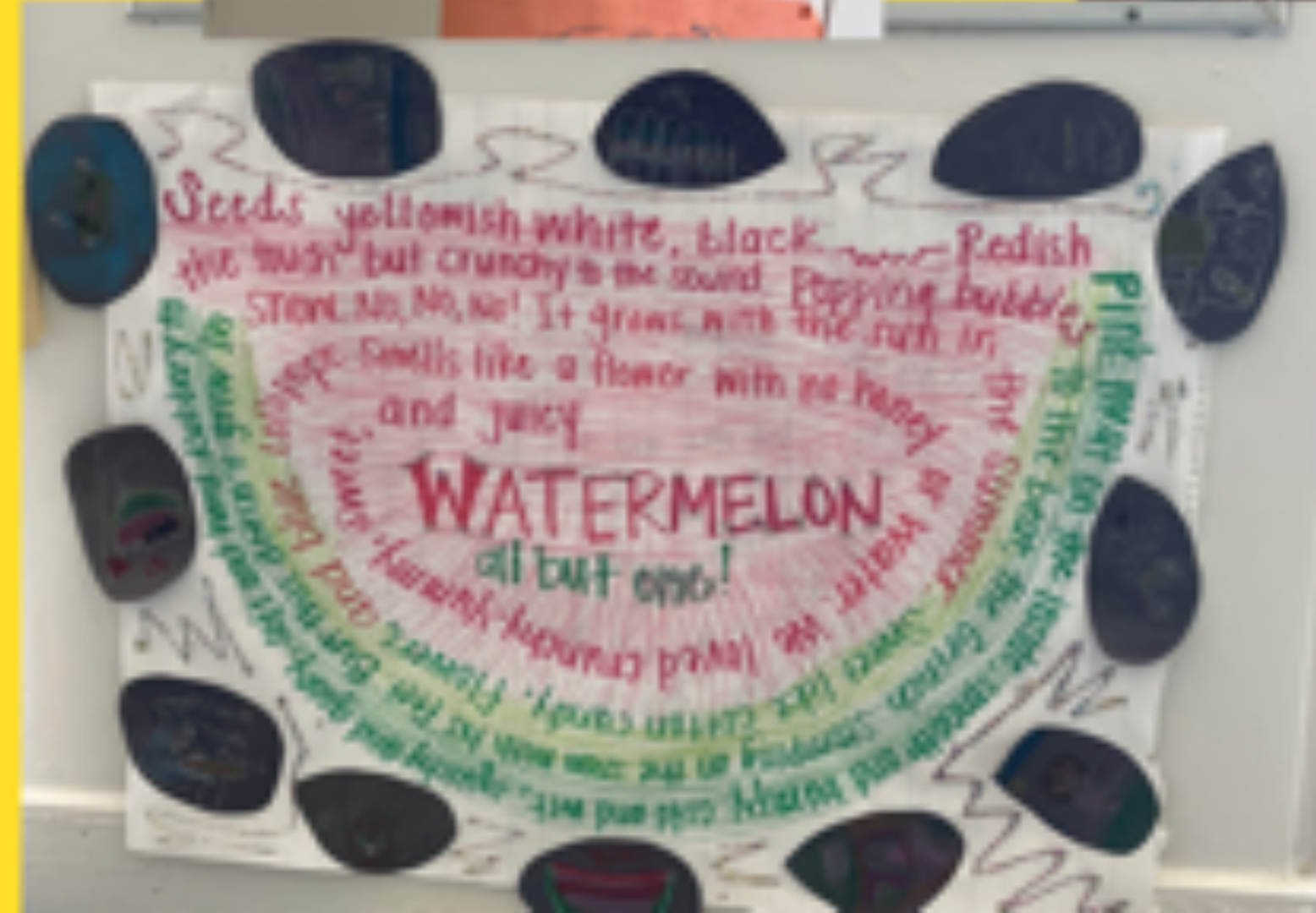
- Warm & inviting
- Themed classrooms
- Uniquely customized
- Student work displayed
- Diverse books & representation
- Affirmations





F G H I J K L M N O P







AFTERNOON ENRICHMENT

Sign language

I am STEM

Montessori Math

Yoga

Soccer

Improvisation

Money management

Latin Dance

Jamaican games

Poetry & spoken word



FIELD TRIPS

AFS Scholars attend a field trip weekly. This summer we visited:

University of Florida - Gator for a Day

Cade Museum

Depot Park Splash Pad

Kanapha Botanical Gardens

Florida Museum of Natural History

Santa Fe Planetarium



PARENT MEETINGS

College access & readiness

Money management

Adverse childhood

Experiences

Navigating disabilities & IEPs



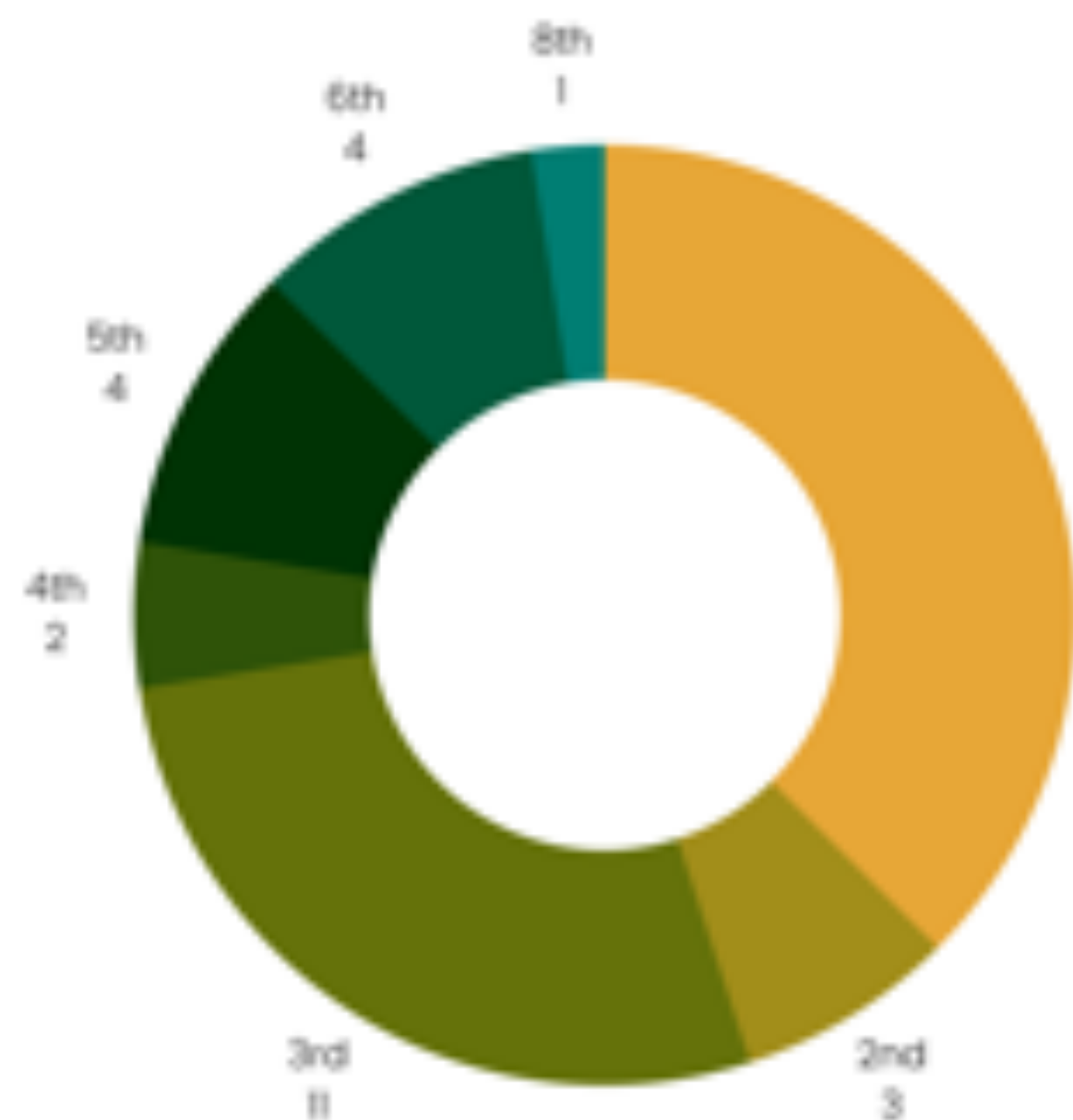


RESULTS



AKWAABA

FREEDOM SCHOOL



Enrollment

40 scholars enrolled
36 participants retained

Racial Demographics

Black/African American 31
Multiracial or Multiethnic 4
White 3
Asian American 0
Hispanic Latino 2

93%

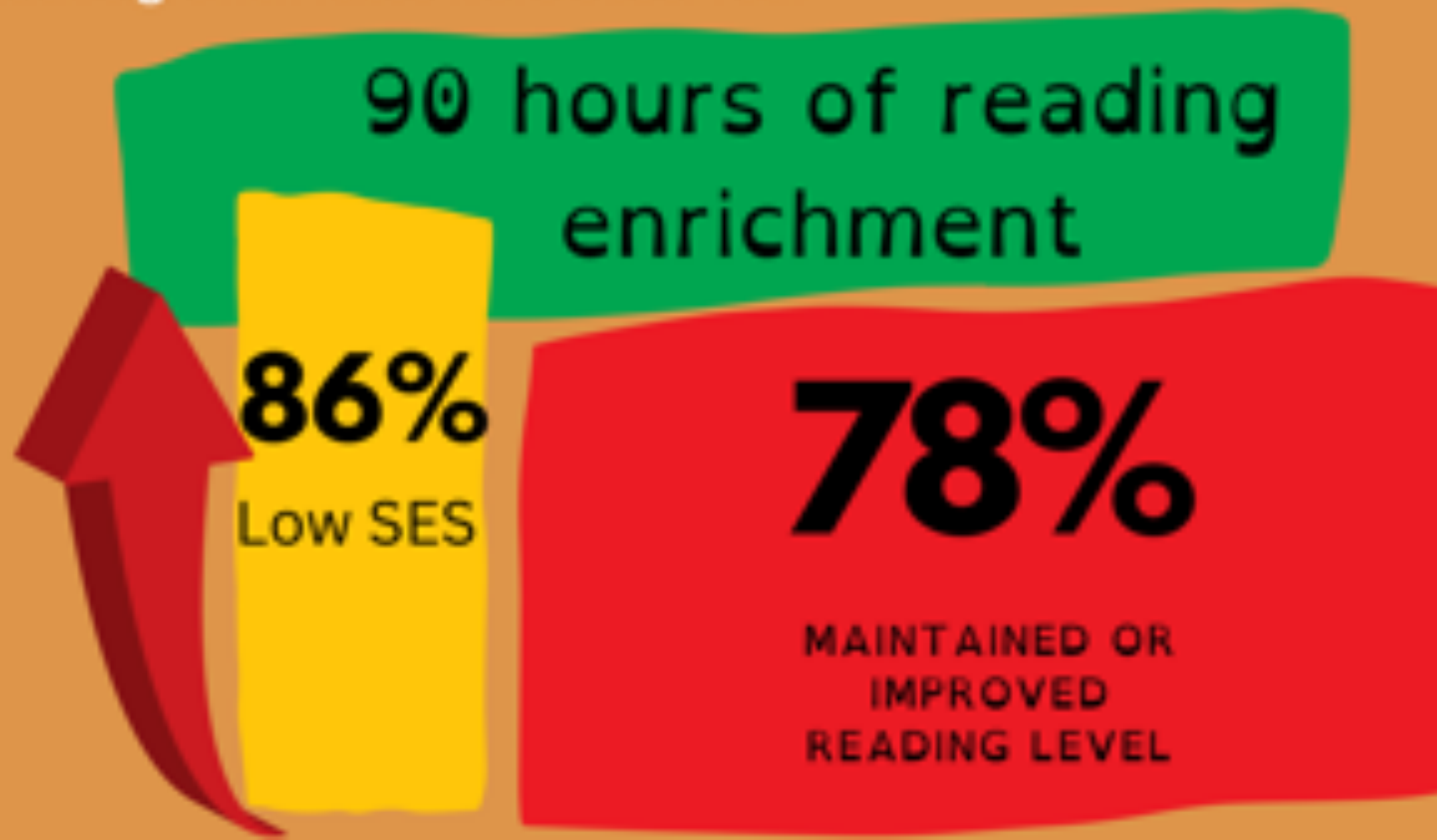
ATTENDANCE
RATE

REMEDYING SUMMER OPPORTUNITY LOSS

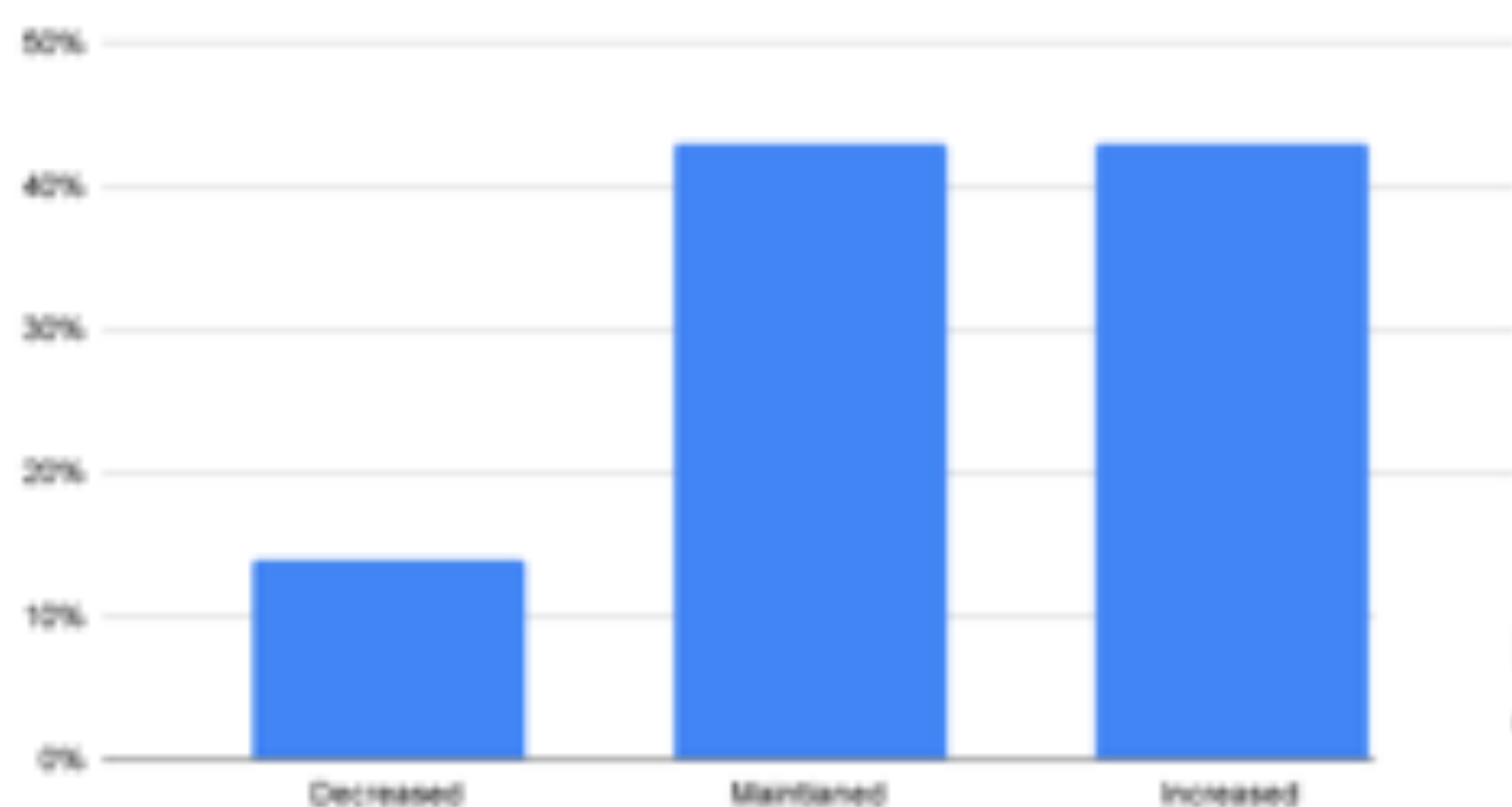
"When comparing students to national benchmarks, although study participants started at lower skill levels than the national averages, they kept pace with the national rate of improvement for their respective grade levels. This is a strength of this study that both personal growth and normative growth rates were observed."

"Students who participated in this 9-week summer program (approximately 36 hours of intervention/enrichment) were able to preserve their reading fluency skills."

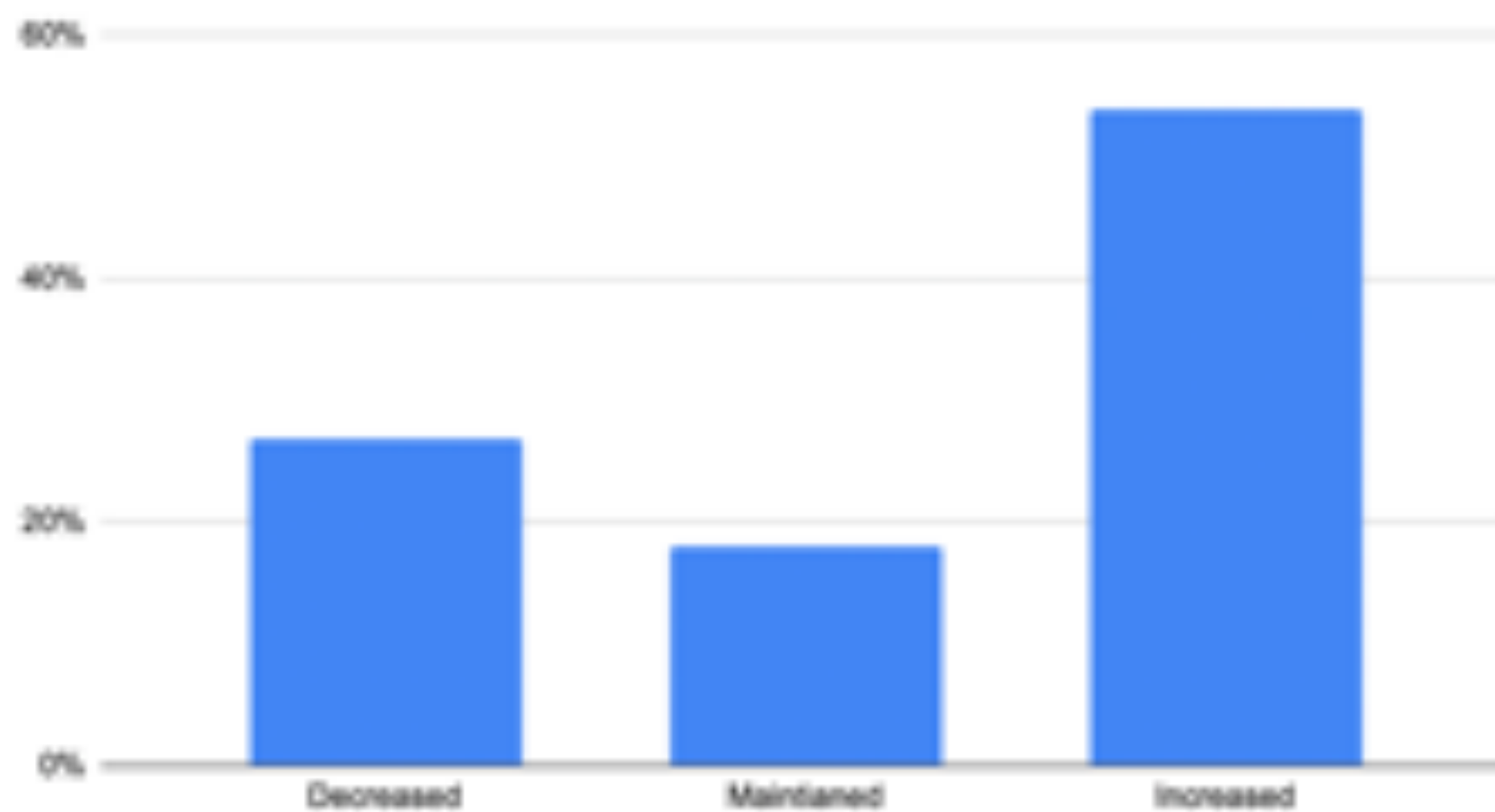
"...providing easy access to self-selected books for summer reading over successive years does, in fact, limit summer reading setback."



Reading Grade Level Changes of Low-Income Scholars

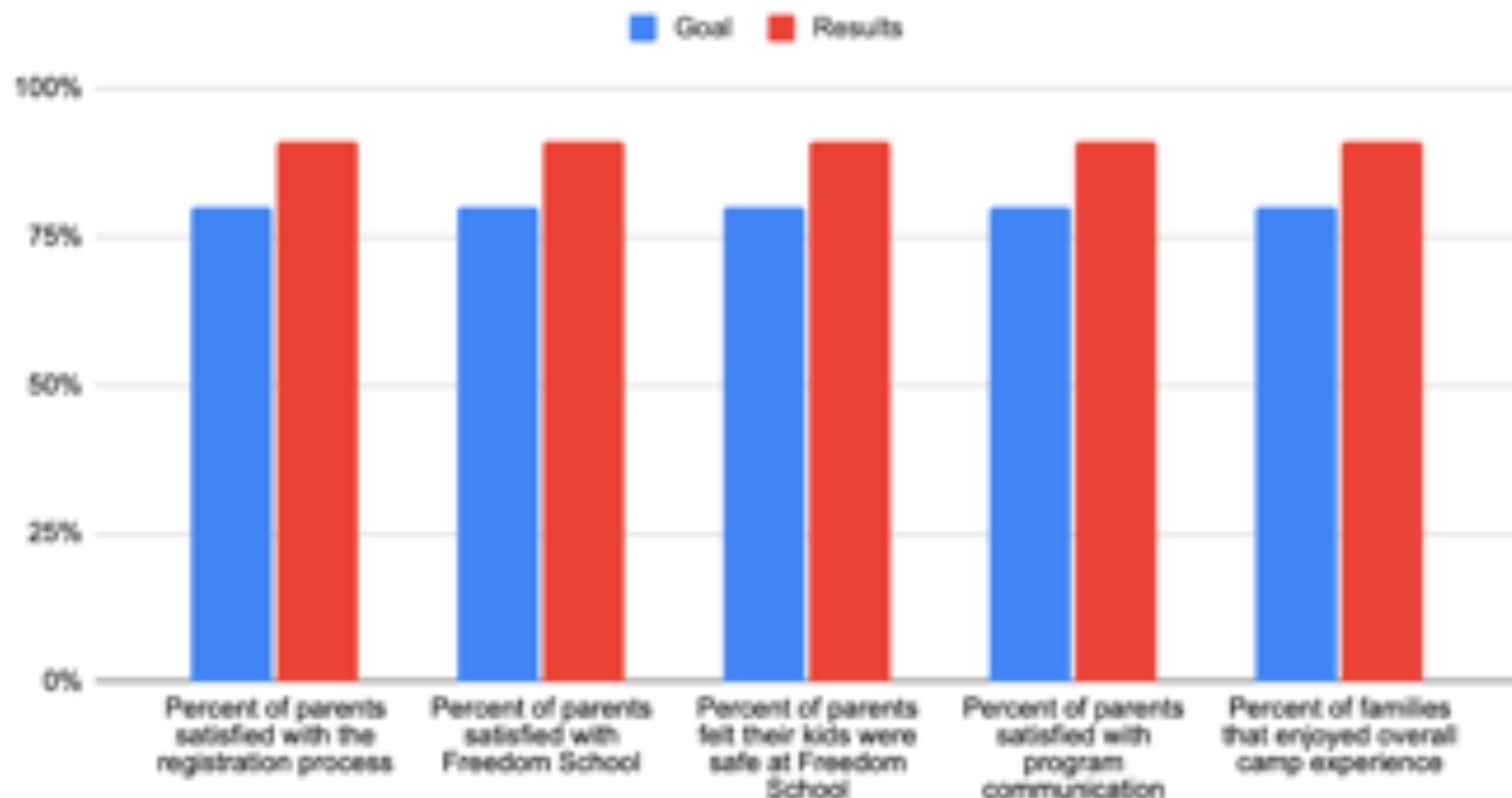


Reading Grade Level Changes of Non-Low-Income Scholars



PARENT SATISFACTION

Akwaaba Freedom School Parent/Guardian Satisfaction



FUTURE GOALS

Improve
STEM:

Enjoyment
Self-perception
Motivation
Achievement





*I can
&
I will*

My children's black identity was celebrated at Freedom school. At home my kids began to vocalize how they value their brown skin. They did not feel like the minority in the classroom and that made a big difference in their confidence boost. They felt valued by all teachers and volunteers. My kids enjoyed the cultural exposure and Harambee the most. I am confident that this will be an experience they will never forget because of the amazing community, the exciting and energetic instruction, and the celebration of their black American culture.

My child showed much more personal interest in reading after attending the program.

I hope it comes back in a year round capacity.y

TESTIMONIES

MY DAUGHTER DEFINITELY INCREASED HER LOVE FOR READING.

I am so glad my kids had this opportunity to experience learning in a context where they felt intellectually safe and loved. I appreciate that they were able to discuss issues and ideas relevant to their experiences and that would help make them active participants in civic engagement. I am glad they had an opportunity to enjoy learning to the point where they consistently wanted more--more reading, science, math, outdoor time, chanting, singing! Akwaaba Freedom School feeds the whole child.

"At our school, you sit there, like writing on a piece of paper solving math problems, or you sit on a computer to figure out math problems. But when you come to Freedom School, it's all about communication because they put you in groups. And so it's all about communication and working together, which is called teamwork. And the thing that's different between Freedom School and our schools, because at our school, you sit there with a piece of paper, figuring out problems and either on a computer, either or, but at Freedom School, you use physical things to like touch with their hands, like the 1000 beads." (Scholar Focus Group part II, Pos. 132)

"One thing I learned that is like, it's really easier to understand something when you're when you're like reading something if you'd like discussing with somebody...like the writing was reading. If you discuss it and think about it a lot more, I learned that it's just really easy to do it. You just have to put your mind to it."

"I think that the space definitely allowed the scholars to be comfortable enough to be themselves and true to who they are. And not only that, but apply that to like, just education in general. So like for Samuel, he read out loud for the first time in a year in Freedom School, but that's because, one, he felt comfortable in the space. We encourage them to do that.

CHANGE

"IT [WAS] REALLY FUN [BECAUSE] THE READING WAS DIFFERENT. BECAUSE WE GET, WE GOT TO HAVE THIS CERTAIN TERM CALLED DEAR TIME. AND WE GOT TO READ A LOT OF DIFFERENT BOOKS. OUR CLASS REALLY LIKED A BIGGIE BIGGIE, OUR CLASS REALLY LIKED THE BIGGIE, BIGGIE BOOKS, AND SO, SO WE WOULD SHARE THEM, SO WE WOULD SHARE THE BOOKS TOGETHER."

"One thing that I noticed with Freedom School, versus you know, regular school is that like, in regular school if a kid does something that's basically not the norm, then essentially [they] like get in trouble. Whereas, you know, in Freedom School, you know, it was us saying, Well, you did something that made this person feel this type of way, and you know, how did you feel in this situation and what meant to the situation and essentially, you know, there was a process behind it just to get them to think through like what they did, you know possible solutions. Like, I've never seen that in regular school. So that was something that was very different."

COSTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

CHILDREN'S TRUST OF
ALACHUA COUNTY

60K

CDF curriculum & training
fees, salaries, books,
supplies, snacks

Other

Parent food donations
Parent supply donations
Volunteer readers
Extracurricular volunteers

UE

5K additional staff
8K Field trips, supplies, books
8K subsumed faculty salaries
1am STEM Curriculum
2 full-time unpaid interns
3 part-time unpaid intern
Staff donations

~36K

LOOKING FORWARD:

SERVING MORE, SERVING BETTER

60K

- 40 Scholars
- 4 Servant Leader Interns
- Site Coordinator
- Some supplies
- \$250/scholar per week

110K

- 50 Scholars
- 5 Servant Leader Interns (5K)
- 2 Floaters
- Field Trips
- Supplies/books
- Extracurricular support staff/program
- \$370/scholar per week

180K

- 80 Scholars
- 8 Servant Leader Interns (5K)
- 2 Site Coordinators
- 2 Floaters
- Field Trips
- Supplies/books
- Extracurricular support
- \$375/scholar per week

Thank
you!