

2024-2025 PROGRAM RESULTS

This has been a year of growth, impact, and resiliency for Aspire. We celebrated the organization's 30th anniversary and finished our three-year strategic plan (July 2022 - June 2025), having met all goals outlined in the plan. We continued to build upon the long-standing work and partnerships that Aspire has established in the Arlington community, including expanding our school-based sites and finishing the build out of our STEM Makerspace.

While we were impacted by the federal funding cuts to AmeriCorps, we are proud of our growth and impact over the past year, and grateful for our partners and supporters. Even during these challenging times, we remain deeply committed to children and families in Arlington.

YEAR-END RESULTS SUMMARY

We served a record number of students and opened 2 additional classrooms at our school-based sites. While most students entered 2+ grade levels behind in reading and math, they made incredible gains! We saw the greatest improvement in students who have been with us for multiple years, especially our middle schoolers.



67%

of students
improved
their
reading

57%

of students
improved
their math

84%

of middle
schoolers
improved
their reading

205

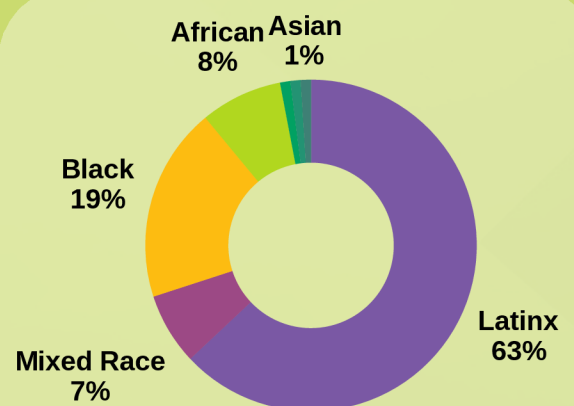
unique
students
served

154

students
served after
school

136

parents
attended a
program



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Aspire students reflect the diverse cultures of the Arlington community. 99% are students of color, 98% are from low-income households, and 62% of students speak a language other than English at home.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



COMMUNITY STORIES

We saw amazing improvement in many students, and especially in our middle school class, where most students have been attending Aspire for 4+ years. For instance, one of our 6th grade students started off the school year testing one grade level behind in reading and math. Thanks to dedicated support, daily homework check ins, and study skill practice, she ended the year on a 9th grade level in math and reading! **That's 3 grade levels above her age!** And parents see the impact as well. One shared that **"kids don't see Aspire as just a place to be, it is HOME."**

EXPANSION OF SCHOOL-BASED SITES

After our successful pilot year of school-based sites, Aspire opened two additional classrooms at Title 1 elementary schools in South Arlington (one classroom at Randolph Elementary and one at Drew Elementary) with support from new Virginia state funding. These new sites are a big deal: they are a testament to Aspire's impact and innovation, and they are already making a critical difference for students. As a result, we served more students this year than ever before. **Dr. Emma Violand-Sánchez, former Chair of the Arlington Public Schools Board, shared that "Aspire is, and always has been, a critical part of our community."**



STEM MAKERSPACE AND PROGRAMMING

Aspire is excited to announce that after several years of planning, design, and fundraising, our new 1,400 square foot "Makerspace" is officially open. We are still furnishing and equipping the space, but the space will allow us to deepen and expand our STEM programming and partnerships to incorporate science labs, coding classes, robotics demonstrations, and more. These activities will introduce students to new skills and technologies that are relevant to STEM-related academic and career pathways.

FUNDING CUTS TO AMERICORPS

Unfortunately, Aspire was one of 1,000 organizations nationwide to have our AmeriCorps funding cut in April. While this has been an incredibly challenging time, we quickly pivoted and harnessed the support of 300+ community partners, funders/donors, parents, former AmeriCorps members, local businesses, community leaders, and media partners to build awareness, raise funds, and support our families.

We brought back 15 of our 17 former AmeriCorps members in part-time, temporary contracts and kept our afterschool program running at full capacity through the end of the school year. This is a true testament to the role Aspire plays as a pillar of the Arlington community. **Despite this progress, we still face a funding gap that could mean 1 in 3 students lose access to Aspire next school year.**

