

Allen Jay Preparatory Academy



Innovation in Education



Pillars

- CHARACTER AND SERVICE
- ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
- INNOVATIVE INSTRUCTION
- LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
- EFFORT AND COMMITMENT



110 5TH-GRADERS INITIALLY ENROLLED

400 5TH- THROUGH 8TH-GRADERS ENROLLED IN YEAR 4

Phillips Foundation granted \$500,000 to Guilford County Schools in support of the launch of Allen Jay Preparatory Academy, a first-of-its kind magnet school model combining elements from Ron Clark Academy and KIPP Charter Schools, to serve 5th- through 8th-graders across the county.

WHY WE ARE INVOLVED

Allen Jay Prep is designed to accelerate Guilford County students on the pathway to college while providing a supportive and engaging learning environment where middle school students can thrive. The program operates on the basis of five pillars: character and service; academic challenge; innovative instruction; leadership development; and effort and commitment. Its high-energy teaching style utilizes music and dance to keep scholars engaged in the classroom and motivated to achieve their fullest potential.

The pilot school launched with an initial class of 110 fifth-grade scholars, known as “scholars.” Phillips Foundation’s grant supported the launch of the school, providing for critical needs such as administrative and teacher salaries during extended-day and expanded-year periods, professional development for teachers, and tutoring and enrichment activities for scholars. Allen Jay Prep has since expanded from one grade to a full middle school with four grade levels and 410 scholars.

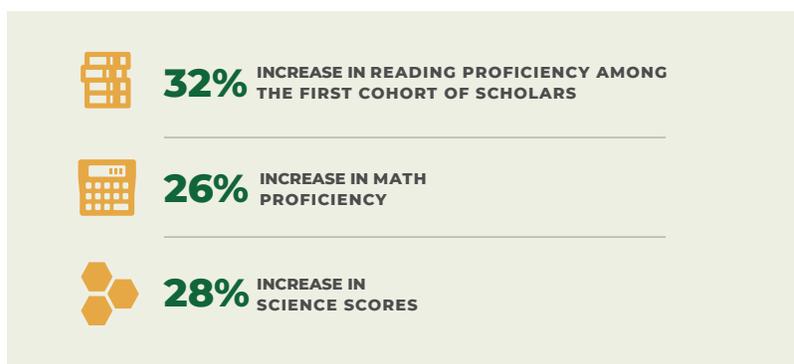
WHAT WE’RE DOING

Our grant helped launch and expand Allen Jay Prep programming to serve hundreds of scholars and allowed for new developments in curriculum and support services. A significant portion of the funding supported implementation of Allen Jay Prep’s extended schedule. Scholars attend school for an additional hour each day and 20 additional days per year, allowing for more critical development and improved academic performance. The grant also supported intensive remediation, tutoring programs and enrichment activities such as college visits and educational field trips. For example, scholars recently visited the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and explored the Discovery Place science museum. To honor Phillips Foundation for

its critical founding support, Allen Jay Prep established an annual award to recognize one female scholar each year who exemplifies outstanding character and academic excellence with the “Phillips Achievement Award.”

WHAT WE’VE ACCOMPLISHED AND WHAT COMES NEXT

The early results of this innovative education pilot are impressive. Allen Jay Preparatory Academy is currently at capacity, with waitlists for every grade. In Allen Jay Prep’s first three years, student achievement and test scores have improved significantly:



Additionally, the school has steadily increased academic performance in every key area in consecutive years with an overall composite score increase of 34 percent since it opened its doors five years ago.

The success of the Allen Jay Prep model led the school board to increase annual funding for teacher salaries and to fully support expenses for the Academy’s extended schedule beginning in the 2016-2017 academic year. We are proud to have served as a lead donor to launch this innovative public magnet school, which has now achieved sustainable funding of \$2 million annually from public and private sources and is considering replication of the model to additional schools in future years.