



PHILADELPHIA'S FUTURE *STARTS AT SCHOOL*

IMPACT REPORT | 2025

ELEVATE
215

Dear Friends and Partners,

Philadelphia is a city full of promise—its future tied directly to the opportunities we create for our children. At Elevate 215, we are driven by a simple but urgent mission: to increase the number of high-quality schools so that every child, regardless of zip code, has the opportunity to succeed.

We believe progress is possible, and our schools are proving it every day.

We have focused on identifying and investing in Philadelphia's most effective schools—those that are changing the trajectory for children and communities. We are inspired by the academic advancements happening for thousands of students in schools across the city as a result of passionate educators utilizing effective, research-based practices. By scaling what is working in schools, advocating for systemic change, and building broad-based coalitions, we are transforming the education landscape of the city.



WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES:

- **Aligning citywide efforts** to grow and sustain quality schools.
- **Providing targeted support** to schools committed to improvement.
- **Working with citywide partners** to recruit, develop, and retain our teacher workforce.
- **Advocating for policies** that create the conditions for lasting change.

The results have been remarkable. Schools that have embraced high-impact strategies are accelerating growth in student learning and teacher retention. Families are empowered with better choices. A movement for educational excellence is building.

This report tells the story of our impact.

Thank you for standing with us in our mission to ensure that every child in Philadelphia has access to a quality school that prepares them for success in life.

With determination and gratitude,

Dr. Stacy E. Holland
Executive Director

OUR APPROACH

WE'RE COMMITTED

TO **ELEVATING OUR**

SCHOOLS

The Essential Elements of a Quality School

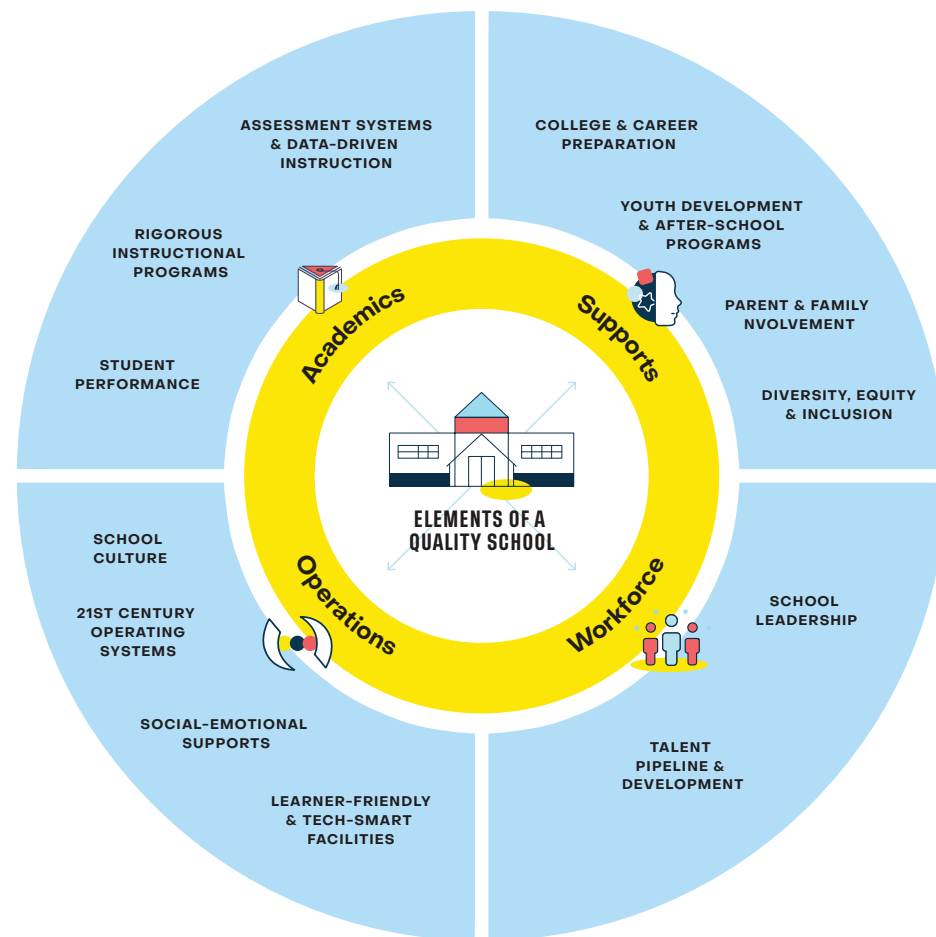
For years, Philadelphia has lacked a clear, unified definition of what makes a quality school, hindering educational progress.

DEFINING A QUALITY SCHOOL

A quality school is a safe and inspiring learning environment where all students have access to effective, inclusive instruction within a service delivery system that consists of evidence based practices that are designed to allow students to gain the knowledge and skills they need to thrive.

TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES

By defining these essential elements, **we provide targeted support to transform schools and accelerate academic outcomes for all students.**



THE FOUR REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESS

We believe quality is achievable when schools focus on elevating the four essential areas outlined in the 'Elements of a Quality School' graphic.

Our Strategic Approach

THE CHALLENGE

Increasing the number of quality schools so that every student has access to an excellent education.

Decades of underfunding, a lack of a unified citywide strategy, and uneven support for middle-tier schools have stalled progress, leaving too many students without the opportunities they deserve.



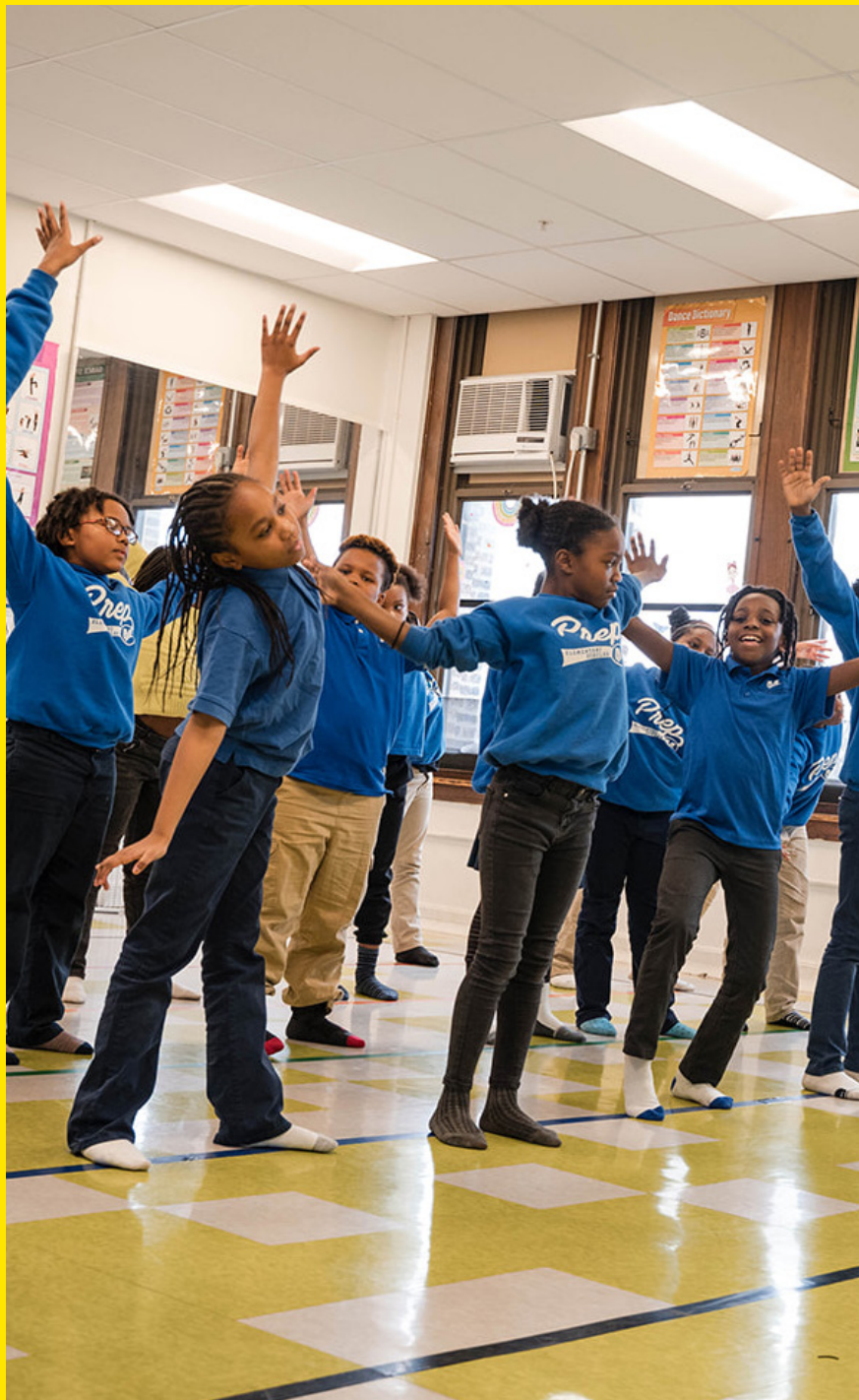
THE SOLUTION

Supporting the improvement of schools, expanding opportunities at existing quality schools and launching new school models.

We are advancing a bold, research-based strategy with the goal of achieving a 20% increase in the number of quality schools citywide. To date, we've been able to **elevate 24 schools serving 15,597 students** through targeted grants in three key areas:

- **School Capacity Building**
- **School Growth**
- **School Startup**

To create more robust and effective student learning experiences, we've tailored our supports to elevate the quality of English Language Arts (ELA), math, and the educator workforce.



GOAL

Add 50 more quality schools, impacting 30,000 more students in Philadelphia.

PROGRESS

24
Schools

15,597
Students

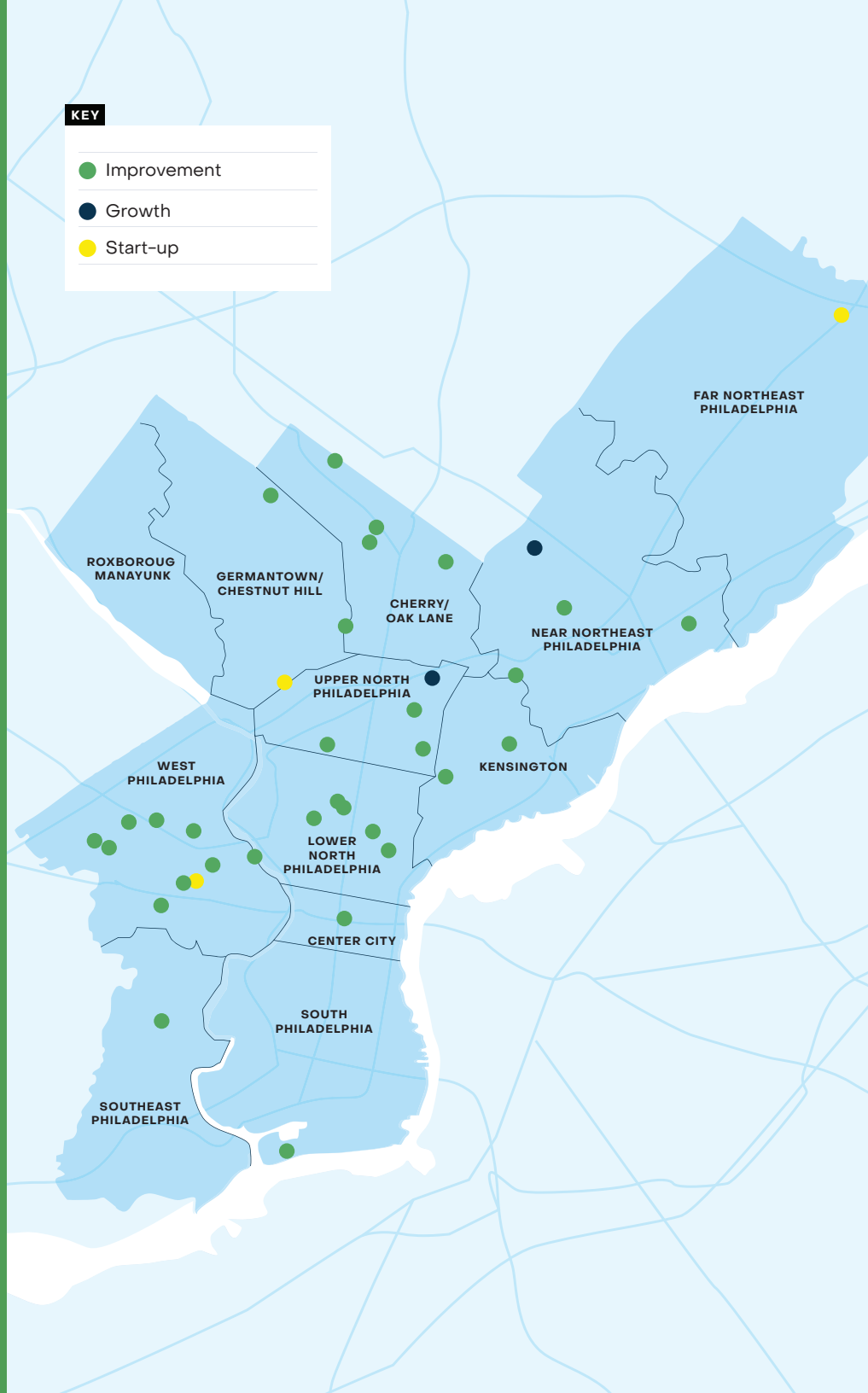
OUR SCHOOL IMPACT

PROVEN

STRATEGIES

LED ^{TO} REAL

RESULTS



Elevating Philadelphia by Investing in School Quality

We are committed to increasing the number of quality schools across the city so that every child—regardless of zip code—has the opportunity to succeed.

This map highlights our school-based grantees across three key investment areas:

- **Enhancing Excellence:** Strengthening existing quality schools to deepen their impact.
- **Driving Growth:** Supporting schools on the path to becoming quality schools.
- **Innovating for the Future:** Launching new, student-centered school models to meet evolving needs.

Improving Outcomes Through Collaboration

Juniata Park Academy, a K-8 district school serving a diverse population, is strengthening student success through leadership, data-driven instruction, and professional learning. By implementing Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), educators have structured time to collaborate, refine instructional strategies, and use real-time data to improve student outcomes.



RESULTS:

13%

increase in math proficiency on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

85%

of students reported positive adult-student relationships, a four point increase from the previous year.

16%

increase in teacher retention, demonstrating stronger support for educators.

KEY PRACTICES

- **Weekly Professional Learning Communities (PLCs):** Teachers meet regularly to analyze data, adjust instructional strategies, and center student needs.
- **A Focus on Data-Driven Decision-Making:** Educators use real-time assessments to track student progress and refine lesson plans.
- **Partnerships for Continuous Improvement:** School leaders receive guidance on effective leadership practices through Innovageous, an educator coaching firm.
- **Empowering Teachers as Leaders:** Training and supporting effective teachers to lead their grade-level teams.

Expanding Access to Advanced Math

Exposure to Algebra 1 before high school is a key predictor of future academic success, yet many students of color do not have access to this opportunity. The **African American Charter School Coalition (AACSC)**—a network of Black-led charter schools—is working to close this gap through a comprehensive program that includes in-school instruction, Saturday sessions, and a Summer Bridge Program. These efforts help ensure more students are prepared for advanced coursework before high school.



RESULTS:

100%

of students from two participating schools demonstrated one year of math growth.

3

participating schools had 100% of students scoring at or beyond an 8th grade level on the iReady post-assessment.

42%

of students scored Proficient or Advanced on the Keystone Algebra 1 assessment.

5

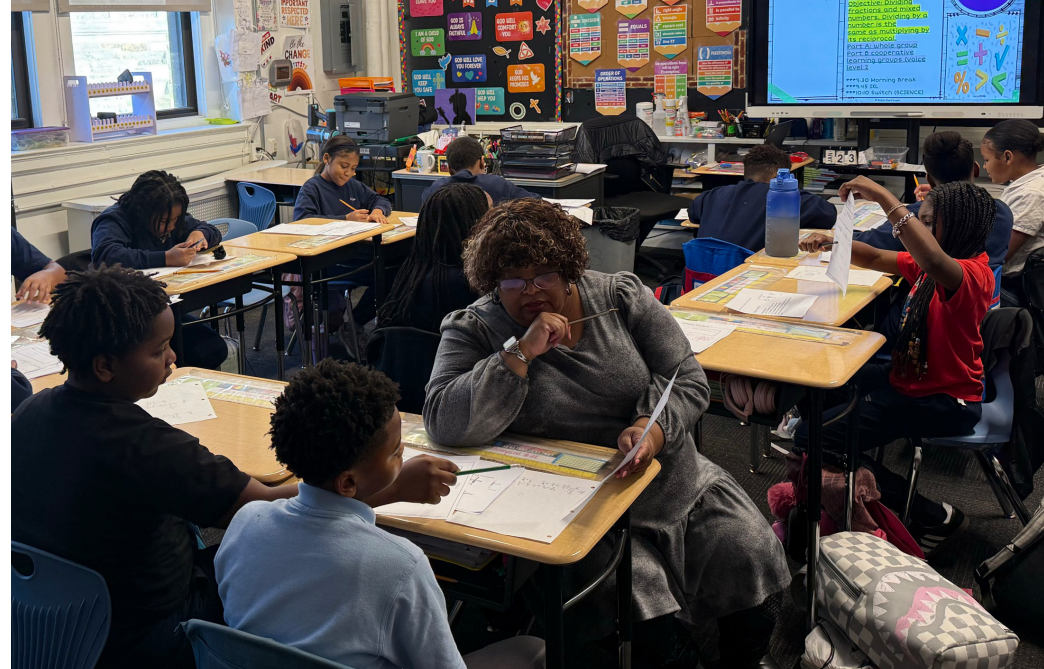
schools had students that showed significant improvement, with 67-100% demonstrating two years of growth in key math standards.

KEY PRACTICES

- **High-Quality Summer Bridge Programs:** Intensive, four-week summer courses designed to accelerate math skills.
- **Small-Group, Student-Centered Learning:** Direct instruction and peer collaboration foster deep engagement.
- **Real-World Math Applications:** Algebra is taught through practical, problem-solving approaches to strengthen comprehension.
- **Targeted Support for Success:** Diagnostic assessments ensure students receive the right level of instruction to prepare for high school.

Closing the Opportunity Gap

Independence Mission Schools (IMS), a network of 14 Catholic schools serving over 3,000 students in Philadelphia, is closing the opportunity gap through strong instruction in ELA and Math. St. Rosa of Lima Catholic School is leading the charge in math acceleration, giving underrepresented students early access to algebra and advanced coursework.



RESULTS:

63%

of 7th grade students met their expected growth targets in math.

100%

of students in the accelerated math program met their growth targets on the Winter NWEA MAP assessment, a nationally normed test.

KEY PRACTICES

- **Accelerated Math Pathways:** High-performing 7th graders join 8th-grade math classes twice a week, gaining exposure to advanced content.
- **Dual-Focus 8th Grade Curriculum:** Students take both 8th-grade math and introductory algebra, giving them a competitive edge for high school admissions.
- **Data-Driven Instruction:** Teachers leverage student performance data to personalize instruction and track growth.

OUR TALENT IMPACT

STRENGTHENING

THE TEACHER

WORKFORCE

Quality Schools Need Effective Teachers

A collective impact approach is essential to building a robust educator talent pipeline that can support a city with 50 different school systems employing over 12,000 teachers.

Elevate 215 convenes the **Philadelphia Citywide Talent Coalition**—a network of 35 organizations including district and charter schools, education preparation programs, nonprofits, and city agencies—to drive the initiatives aimed at recruiting, developing, and retaining current and future effective and diverse teachers.



Building a Thriving Teacher Pipeline

The **Philadelphia Citywide Talent Coalition** brings together data, resources, and member expertise to strengthen recruitment, development, and retention strategies—driving measurable progress across every stage of the teacher pipeline.



DATA-DRIVEN

- Conducted original reports and analysis of Philadelphia's teacher workforce, including findings from a **survey of over 700 public school teachers**.

RECRUITING

- Launched TeachPHL, a centralized hub with job information across **all 49 public district and charter networks**.
- **Attracted over 1,250 aspiring teachers** through a citywide outreach and marketing campaign.

DEVELOPING

- Supporting nearly **120 paraprofessionals** on their path to full certification—with **44 now serving as certified teachers**.
- Introducing students to the teaching profession early by expanding formal programs in **five Philadelphia high schools**.

RETAINING

- Cultivating inclusive, supportive spaces through the Affinity Network to help retain **200 teachers of color**.
- Created a Teacher Retention Toolbox and worked with **16 organizations and 60 school leaders** on plans to integrate best practices into school-based strategies.

OUR SYSTEM-LEVEL IMPACT

CREATING CONDITIONS

FOR *QUALITY SCHOOLS*

TO THRIVE



Unlocking the Power of Quality Schools

Increasing the number of quality schools in Philadelphia requires citywide systems that remove barriers and expand opportunity. Schools must be equipped to grow and sustain quality, and families need clear pathways to identify and access those options. We are aligning leaders, resources, and strategies to create the conditions for schools to thrive.

- **Empowering Families:** GreatPhillySchools provides tools that help **over 200,000 families explore more than 400 school options** and choose the best fit for their children. At the annual K-12 Philly School Fair, **6,000 families** connected directly with representatives from over **200 schools**.
- **Expanding Access:** Apply Philly Charter streamlines the application process, helping **nearly 26,000 families apply to 78 charter schools** through a single, common system.
- **Improving Supports:** Published a report informed by charter school leaders to help transition the city's charter accountability process toward a more collaborative and transparent approach.

Pursuing Progress, Together

“Philadelphia’s future depends on ensuring every child has access to a quality education. But real change requires bold leadership, investment, and collaboration. Elevate 215 is making that possible by uniting city leaders, educators, and funders around a shared vision for quality schools. Their ability to align resources and scale what works is helping more students graduate prepared for life—securing a stronger, more prosperous future for our city.”

**CHERELLE L. PARKER,
PHILADELPHIA MAYOR**

“We are proud to invest in Elevate 215 and partner in their Beat the Odds school investment strategy to improve the quality of education for so many young people in our city. Elevate 215 combines an evidence-based approach with practical solutions and deep collaboration. Their evidence of success gained our confidence. We know our support helps Elevate 215 to continue to act as a trusted leader in education and a driving force for improved educational outcomes for all students.”

HAMILTON FAMILY CHARITABLE TRUST

“As educators, we see the challenges vulnerable students face every day. However, our partnership with Elevate 215 allows us to turn those challenges into opportunities by strengthening instruction, supporting teacher development, and investing in schools ready to improve. With their support, we’re not just working harder—we’re working smarter to ensure students receive the quality education they deserve.”

**MARISOL RIVERA RODRIGUEZ,
PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL DISTRICT’S
JUNIATA PARK ACADEMY PRINCIPAL**



“We prepare students to lead with cultural pride, academic excellence, and a deep sense of community. Public charter schools like ours need partners who uplift diverse, student-centered models that work. Through strategic investment and collaboration, Elevate 215 is helping schools like ours reach our full potential.”

**DR. AYESHA IMANI
SANKOFA FREEDOM ACADEMY CHARTER
SCHOOL CEO/HEAD OF SCHOOL**

WHERE YOU COME IN

EVERY CHILD

WILL BE ON THE RISE

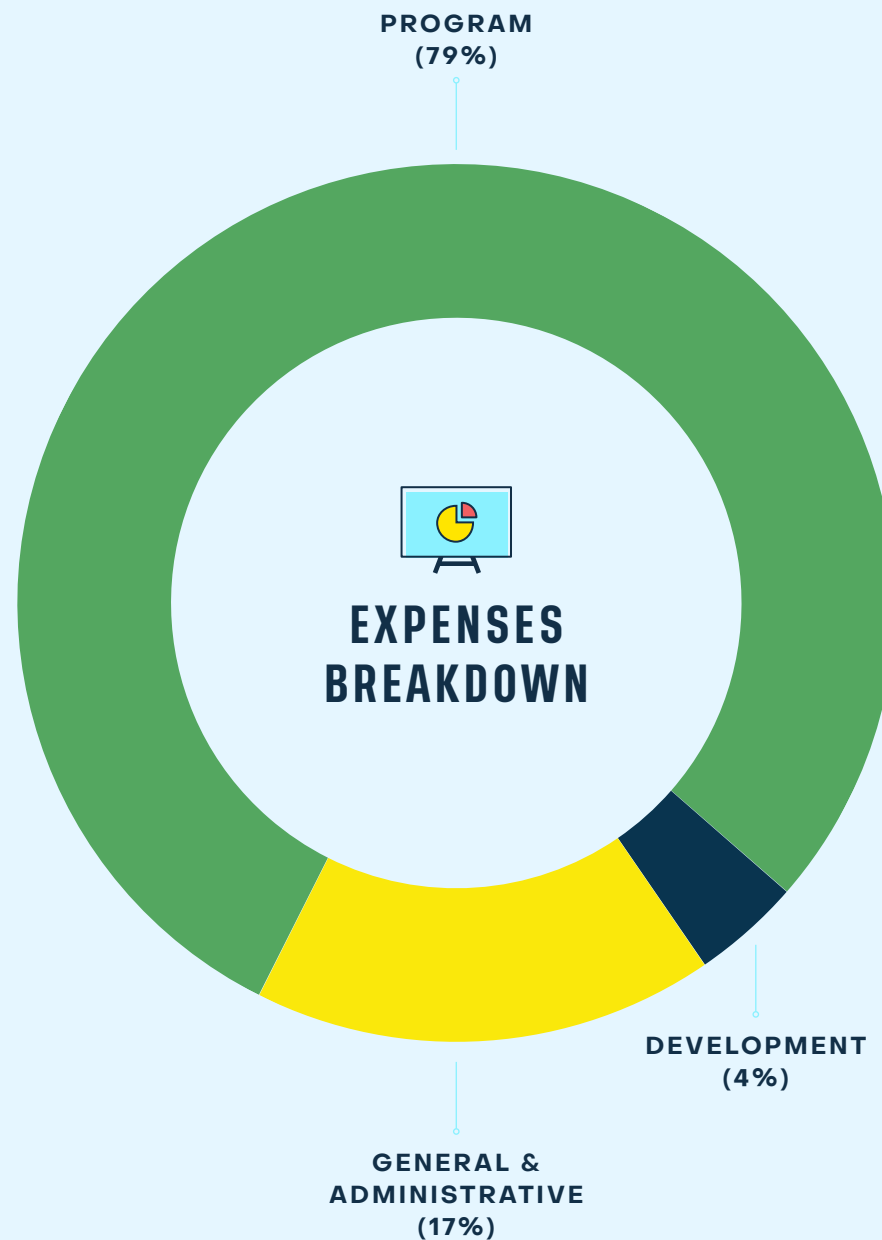
IF WE WORK

TOGETHER

Financial Summary

For the Period 1/1/23 - 12/31/24

Budget	\$12,072,187
Beginning Balance	\$11,713,803
Revenue	\$8,340,820
Expenses	\$13,945,341
Ending Balance	\$6,109,282



Our Supporters Make Quality Education Possible



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Brown Brothers Harriman

Children's Scholarship Fund of Philadelphia

Chubb

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Zakiyyah Boone

Join us



The future of 50 Philadelphia schools and 30,000 students depends on the choice you make today.

DONATE

Make a gift today to support schools, educators, and students.

PARTICIPATE

Partner with us to drive systemic change in education.

ADVOCATE

Champion policies that ensure equitable access to high-quality learning.

**CHAMPIONS
FOR QUALITY
SCHOOLS**

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LET'S *CONNECT*

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OUR MISSION

Elevate 215 is a catalyst for preparing students for the world of tomorrow by modernizing the learning experience in Philadelphia schools today. We do this by: investing in schools and talent, collaborating with our partners, expanding access and resources for families, and advocating to create the conditions for success.

OUR VISION

All schools are designed as vivid and inspiring learning environments where students discover and reach their fullest potential.