



ACES MISSION is to close the academic achievement gap of at-risk inner-city students in grades four through eight.

[My ACES student] has earned higher grades due to academic support in areas I can't help him, like algebra. —ACES parent

ACES BEGAN IN 1994, when co-founders Rajiv R. Shah, M.D. and Rhoda Au, Ph.D. designed the ACES after-school tutoring/mentoring program based on 14 educational and psychological principles. Both realized the importance of having a proven rationale for ACES' methods of educational enhancement. ACES is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary by sharpening its focus and realigning its strategic plan with the academic challenges of today: helping fourth- through eighth-grade students in lower-income, lower-achieving schools overcome the fourth-grade slump.

ACES FOCUSES ON academics, behavior, and community— the ABCs of ACES—to help inner-city fourth- through eighth-grade students conquer the fourth-grade slump. This slump can last through eighth grade and is recognized as a major contributor to the achievement gap. “The fourth-grade slump can be prevented or alleviated by educators who are genuinely caring, highly competent, and deeply responsive to children’s learning strengths and needs” (Sanacore & Palumbo, 2009).

My favorite thing in ACES is to learn how to do homework. —ACES student

ACES STUDENTS attend program two days per week, October through May. The core elements that ACES utilizes to help fourth- through eighth-grade students overcome the fourth-grade slump are:

- Dedicated in-school reading and vocabulary time.
- Involving families in their ACES students' education and lives via family nights, regular phone contact, and home visits.
- A 1:4 adult:student ratio that enhances impact by providing small-group and one-on-one tutoring and mentoring relationships.
- Engaging ACES curriculum that meets states standards.

ACES SCHOOL SITES for the 2009–10 school year are Green Central in south Minneapolis and Linwood Monroe Arts Plus in St. Paul.

My favorite thing about ACES is working with an adult and doing my homework. —ACES student

(more)

For more information, contact [Chad Caruthers](#)

ACES
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ACES AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING/MENTORING PROGRAM FACTS

- ACES served more than 350 students during the 2008-09 school year.
- ACES provided more than 17,000 hours of in-class tutoring/mentoring to inner-city fourth through eighth graders during the 2008-09 school year.
- ACES families cite both improved academic performance and better behavior as outcomes of participation in ACES.
- ACES middle school students participated in service learning community projects with one dozen Twin Cities organizations in 2008-09.
- More than 250 individuals volunteered for ACES in 2008-09.
- 96 percent of ACES students are eligible for free/reduced lunch, an indicator of poverty; 98 percent are minority; 51 percent are male, 49 percent female.
- ACES year-to-year student-retention rate is 15 percent higher than the national average despite high mobility rate of its student populations.
- ACES partners include Students Today Leaders Forever, Minneapolis Public Schools, St. Paul Public Schools, Page Foundation, the St. Paul Saints, and Minnesota Twins, Vikings, Timberwolves, Lynx, Wild, Swarm, and Thunder.
- ACES is a 501(c)(3) organization.

She has improved reading skills and is better about turning in her homework due to ACES. —ACES parent

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