



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 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).

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

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 2010-11 school year are Green Central in south Minneapolis; Olson Middle School in north Minneapolis; Linwood Monroe Arts Plus in St. Paul; and Maxfield Elementary in St. Paul.

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

(more)

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ACES FACTS & HIGHLIGHTS, 2010-11 SCHOOL YEAR

- ACES served more than 400 at-risk students.
- ACES provided more than 25,000 hours of in-class tutoring/mentoring to at-risk youth.
- ACES facilitated more than 50 E-Mentor relationships for middle school students.
- ACES middle school students participated in service learning community projects with more than one dozen Twin Cities organizations over almost 1,000 hours of service.
- More than 150 adults volunteered for ACES.
- ACES leveraged two AmeriCorps Promise Fellows to launch two new school sites.
- Ninety-eight percent of ACES students are minority; 90 percent of ACES students are free/reduced lunch, an indicator of poverty; 49 percent of ACES students are female.
- ACES partners in education include St. Paul Public School Foundation, Students Today Leaders Forever, Minneapolis Public Schools, St. Paul Public Schools, Page Foundation, the St. Paul Saints, and Minnesota Twins, Vikings, Timberwolves, Lynx, Wild, and Swarm.

“I like the ACES program for academic help and social support.” —ACES Parent

“My favorite thing about ACES is getting to help the community.” —ACES Student

According to the most recent analysis conducted by Minneapolis Public Schools, ACES students who regularly attended ACES during the 2009-10 school year were:

- **30 percent more likely to earn one year or more growth in reading than the general student population.**
- **23 percent more likely to earn one year or more growth in math than the general student population.**

“We learned about each other over the course of the program. I enjoyed seeing the mentees open up and gain more comfort in their writing as the program progressed.” —ACES E-Mentor

“I felt like I was helpful and influential with their academic performance. It was an awesome experience, and I learned a lot!” —ACES Program Volunteer

- ACES was featured on WCCO News in May, 2011.
- ACES received the Community Ignition Award from Minnesota Mile in April, 2011.
- ACES welcomed four new directors to its Board: Emily Puetz, Chief Academic Officer of Minneapolis Public Schools; Sharon Freeman, Executive Director of Elementary Education for St. Paul Public Schools; Blois Olson, Executive Vice President of Tunheim Partners; and Jeff Davidman, Director of Government Affairs for Delta Airlines, Inc.

“My favorite thing about E-Mentoring is getting to know someone with a great career.” —ACES Student