

Impact Report 2015



Breakthrough
Birmingham



“I have never seen my child so excited about coming to school. The way the Breakthrough teachers greet the students in the morning would make anyone excited about school. She used to hate reading. Now she reads as soon as she gets in so that she can talk about it the next day with her teachers and friends.”

— Breakthrough Birmingham Parent

Executive Director's Letter

Dear friends of Breakthrough,

I am happy to present Breakthrough Birmingham's 2015 Impact Report. Built on Breakthrough Collaborative's Students Teaching Students and Teachers Training Teachers model and partnering with Birmingham City Schools, Breakthrough Birmingham has grown from serving 34 students in our inaugural summer of 2013 to 108 students in 2015. With over 100 hours of training and mentorship from our instructional coaches, our teaching fellows started as excited college students and finished the summer as inspiring and effective mentors and teachers of the Breakthrough students.



Our students are now on a path to high school and college success. That success is a direct result of the collaborative efforts of many people. From our students, parents, and teachers to our donors and Career Day hosts, many people have invested time, energy, and resources to give our students a great academic experience. This impact report shares our collective story. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony J. Oliver". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large initial "A" and "O".

Anthony J. Oliver, ED.M., M.A.E.

Executive Director, Breakthrough Birmingham

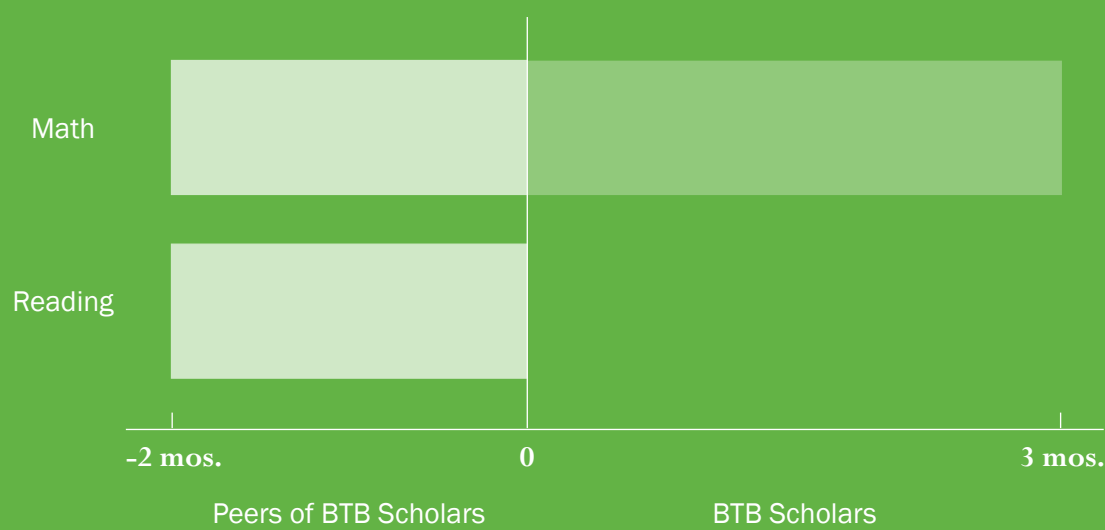
Our Program

Rigorous academics & engaging enrichment activities

Hosted at Hayes K-8 School, Breakthrough Birmingham provides summer and school-year programming for middle-school students beginning the summer after sixth grade. Students complete three consecutive summers and take part in weekly tutoring in math and reading during the school year. During the all-day, six-week summer program, students participate in rigorous academic classes (math, science, writing, and literature) and engaging enrichment courses (like dance and art) as well as extracurricular activities such as Career Day.

In 2015, Breakthrough Birmingham’s summer program helped students prevent summer learning loss in literacy and reverse summer learning loss in math. On average nationally, low-income students lose two months of math and literacy skills over the summer while their more affluent peers make gains. While retaining the literacy skills that they gained during the school year, Breakthrough Birmingham students gained three months in math skills.

Preventing Summer Learning Loss: Math and Reading Skills





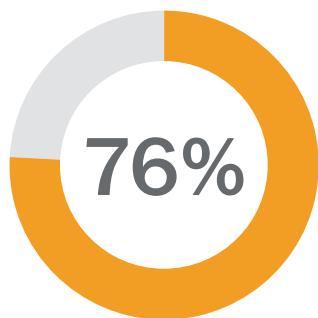
“I like Breakthrough Birmingham because it’s fun and educational. We get to do a lot of things we don’t do during the school year, and we have the opportunity to learn new subjects.”

— Breakthrough Birmingham Student

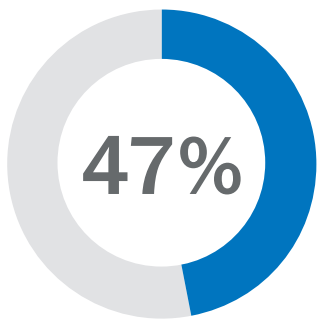
Our Students

Dedicated scholars on the path to college

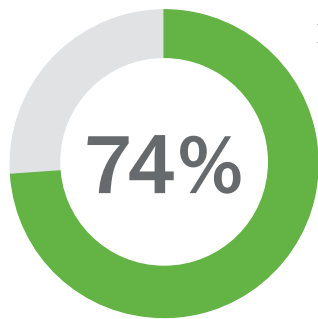
Breakthrough Birmingham students are dedicated scholars and positive community members who aspire to go to college. In 2015, Breakthrough Birmingham supported 108 traditionally underserved students on their journey to college. During our summer program, we worked with students from 15 schools within Birmingham City Schools.



From low-income backgrounds



First in families to go to four-year universities



Completed the three-year program
(2013 inaugural class of students)

Schools

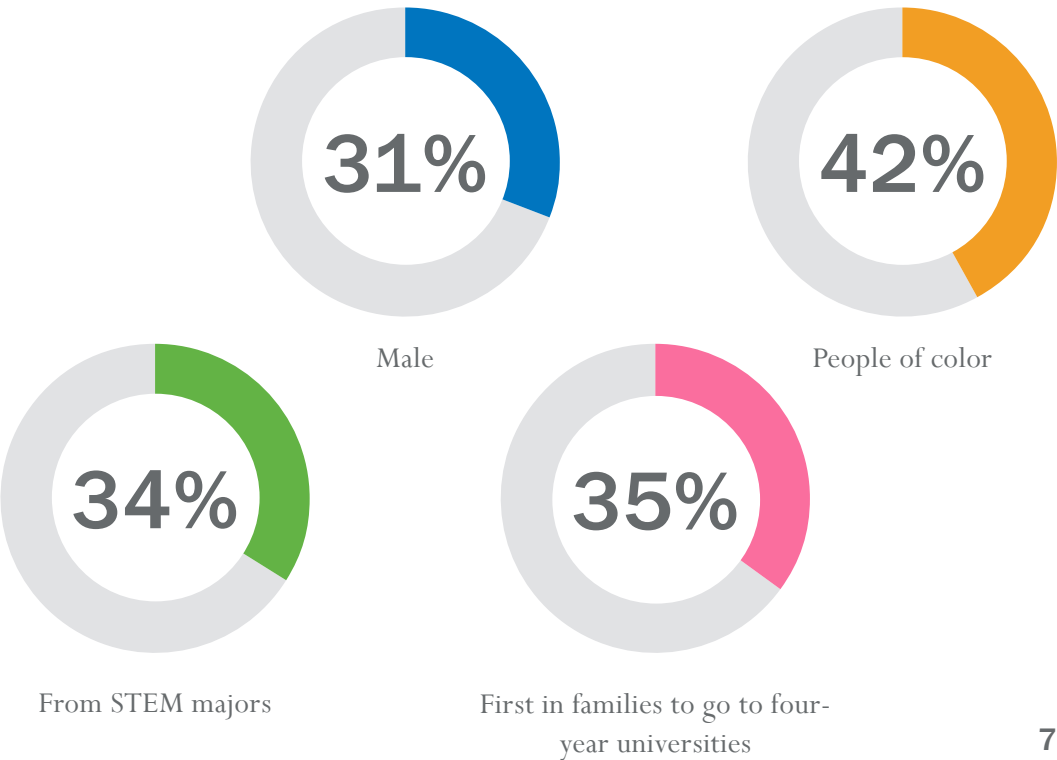
- Arrington
- Bush Hills
- Bush K-8
- Hayes
- Huffman
- Jones Valley
- Ossie Ware Mitchell
- Phillips
- Putnam
- Smith
- South Hampton
- W.J. Christian
- Washington
- Wilkerson
- Wylam K-8

Our Instructors

Committed teaching fellows & professional educators

In 2015, Breakthrough Birmingham hosted 26 undergraduate teaching fellows from universities across the U.S. These high-achieving teaching fellows completed two weeks of intensive training before courses began. Our fellows were mentored by four professional educators, who acted as our program's instructional coaches. These coaches provided 52 years of combined teaching experience to our program. Nearly 100% of our teaching fellows and instructional coaches expressed deep satisfaction with their summer experience, reporting marked improvements in their teaching and leadership skills. Breakthrough's pioneering Students Teaching Students and Teachers Training Teachers model ensures that both our middle-school students and undergraduate teaching fellows receive valuable mentorship.

Teaching Fellow Data



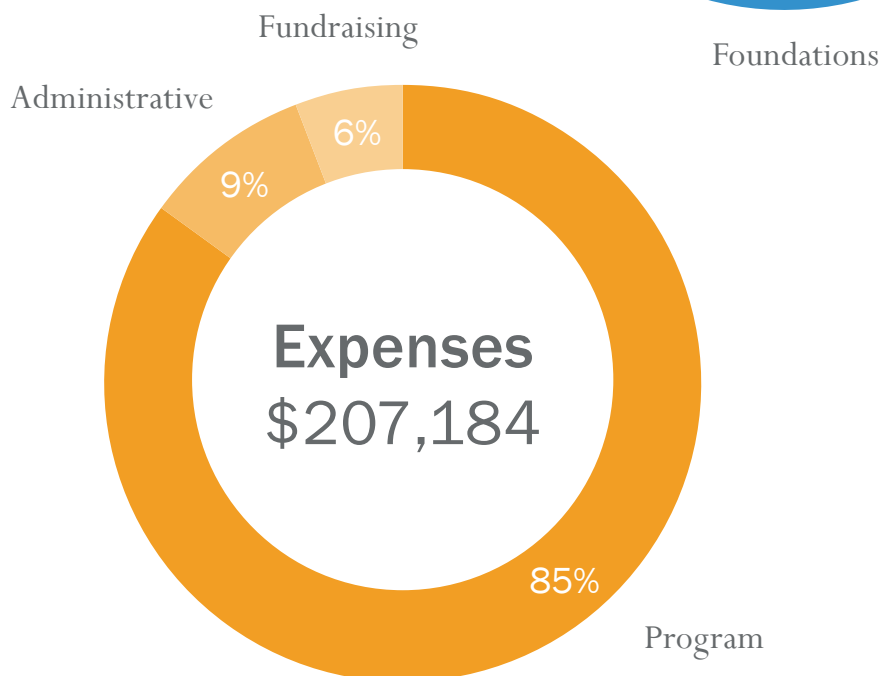
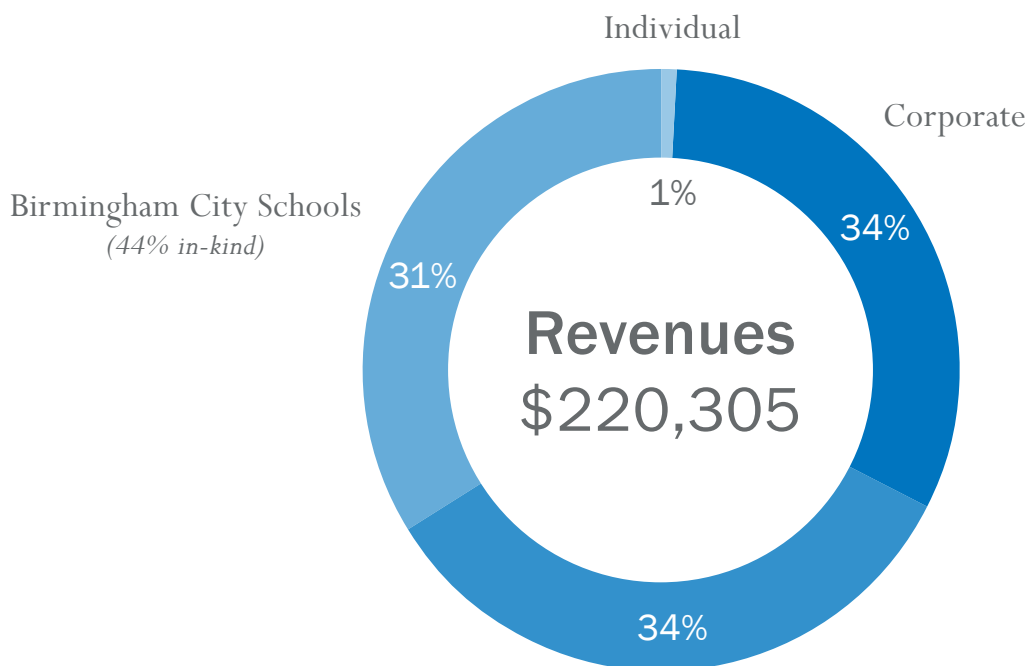


“When I came into Breakthrough, I was excited to gain experience teaching, and knew it would look excellent on my resume. But I quickly realized that Breakthrough is all about the kids. Breakthrough has reminded me what work is really important in this world.”

— Breakthrough Birmingham Teaching Fellow

Our Finances

A summary of revenues & expenses FY 2015



Our Supporters

Those who make our work possible

Funders

Alabama Power Foundation
Birmingham City Schools
Birmingham Jewish Foundation
Breakthrough Collaborative
The Caring Foundation of Blue
Cross Blue Shield of Alabama
The Daniel Foundation of Alabama
GEAR UP Birmingham
Healthsouth
Independent Presbyterian Church
Foundation
Mike and Gillian Goodrich Foundation
Protective Life Foundation
Thompson Foundation
Vulcan Materials

Donors

Blake Gottesman
Hiromi & Yoshiki Kubagawa

Community Partners

Cahaba River Society
Community Foodbank of Central Alabama
Jones Valley Teaching Farm

Career Day Hosts

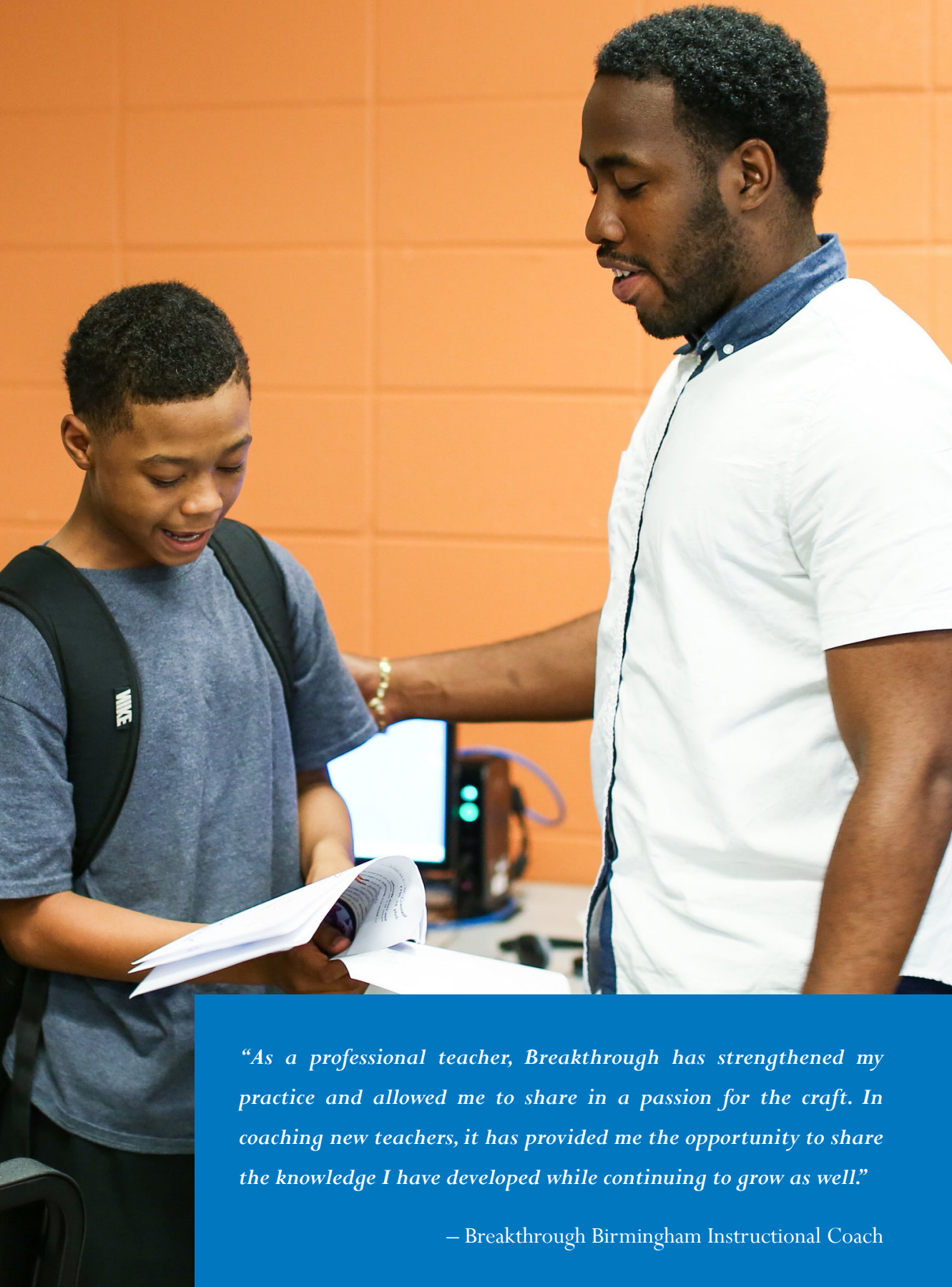
Alabama Power: Tammie Griffin
America's First: Jimese Harkley
Balch Bingham, LLP: Jesse Unkenholz
BBVA Compass: Martha Emmett

Career Day Hosts *(Cont.)*

Belk: Ken Crow
Birmingham Business Journal: Ginger Aarons
Community Foundation of Birmingham:
JohnQueta Bailey
Crowne Partners: Alan Engel
Kinsight: Charlie Haines
Littler Mendelsohn, P.C.: Katie Suttle Weinert
Maynard, Cooper, and Gale, P.C.: Starr Drum
Mayor's Office: Eric Fancher
MBA Engineers: Cale Smith
McWane Center: Bob Levine
Protective Life: Jennefer Meyer & Edna
Boatright
Regions Bank: Jim Screws
Samford University: Keya Kraft
Schaeffer Eye Center: Brooke Kaplan
UAB: Janice Wagnon & Dr. Anthony Hood
U.S. Attorney's Office: Praveen Krishna & Chinelo
Dike
Vulcan Materials: Sam Todd
Wiggins Childs Pantazis Fisher & Goldfarb, LLC:
DG Pantazis

Special Thanks

Birmingham Board of Education, Cedric Tatum,
Dadron Ham, Faculty & Staff of Hayes K-8 School,
Jared Weinstein, Kent Haines, Miho Kubagawa,
Summer Adventures in Learning (SAIL), School
Transportation Solutions, Inc., Zoe Burgess



“As a professional teacher, Breakthrough has strengthened my practice and allowed me to share in a passion for the craft. In coaching new teachers, it has provided me the opportunity to share the knowledge I have developed while continuing to grow as well.”

– Breakthrough Birmingham Instructional Coach



Breakthrough Birmingham

www.breakthroughcollaborative.org/birmingham

info@breakthroughcollaborative.org

Breakthrough Birmingham, founded in 2013, is a national site of Breakthrough Collaborative. A pioneer in education reform, Breakthrough is more than an organization. It is a nation-wide movement, tackling the achievement gap with a groundbreaking approach. Breakthrough increases academic opportunity for highly motivated middle- and high-school students, putting them on the path to college; provides best-in-class pre-professional training for undergraduate teaching fellows; and offers leadership opportunities for professional educators, who serve as instructional coaches. Breakthrough does this work across a collaborative network of 26 affiliates throughout the U.S. and in Hong Kong.

Since its founding in 1978, Breakthrough has served more than 40,000 students and teachers. To learn more, visit www.breakthroughcollaborative.org.