



Impact Report 2016



“Since my child has been with this program, it has really helped to equip her for each grade. This program is one of the most educational programs that one could ever want their child to be in. I have seen how my child enjoys and longs for this program, and how it has given her an opportunity to learn how to express herself better and meet all different types of people.”

— Jacqueline Roberson, Breakthrough Birmingham Parent

Executive Director's Letter

Dear friends of Breakthrough,

Over the past four years, Breakthrough Birmingham has provided high-quality support to middle school students in Birmingham City Schools and worked to inspire a generation of college students to become best-in-class educators. I am incredibly proud to join Breakthrough to continue the important work that our staff, Birmingham City Schools, and so many community partners and supporters have made possible.



Middle school grades are now widely understood to be a critical period of adolescent development and a sink-or-swim time for many students. Supporting low-income students in these grades can propel them on a path to college success and a lifetime of prosperity. And helping our most talented college students find a passion for teaching and develop skills to be effective educators is critical to long-term positive outcomes for our schools. Here at Breakthrough, we are proud to be part of a community committed to a future of overwhelming possibility for children in Birmingham. We thank you for your commitment to excellence in education and the future our children deserve.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linn Groft". The script is fluid and cursive.

Linn Groft

Executive Director, Breakthrough Birmingham

Our Program

Rigorous academics & engaging enrichment activities

Breakthrough Birmingham’s mission is two-fold: to increase the academic opportunity for highly motivated students in Birmingham City Schools and get them into college ready to succeed; and to inspire and develop the next generation of teachers and educational leaders.

In 2016, 98 Birmingham City School students participated as Scholars in Breakthrough Birmingham’s summer advancement program. Our Scholars developed skills and gained experiences vital to their success in middle school, high school, and college. They also built meaningful, near-peer mentoring relationships with high-achieving college students.

Beginning the summer after sixth grade, Scholars commit to attending the program for three consecutive summers. During the all-day, six-week program, Scholars participate in rigorous academic classes (math, science, writing, and literature), engaging enrichment courses (like dance and art), and college and career exploration activities (Career Day visits with local professionals and campus tours at UAB and Tuskegee University). Classes and activities are led by our Teaching Fellows, college students recruited from top universities nationwide, who receive more than 75 hours of training by our professional team of Instructional Coaches.



5:1

Ratio of students to
trained Teaching Fellows



75

Hours of training
per Teaching Fellow



98

Middle school
students served



471

Hours of learning and support
over three summers



“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.”

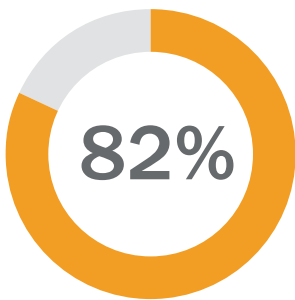
— Breakthrough Birmingham Student

Our Students

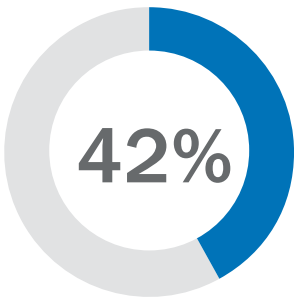
Dedicated scholars on the path to college

Breakthrough Birmingham students are dedicated scholars and positive community members who aspire to go to college. In 2016, Breakthrough Birmingham served 98 traditionally underserved students from 15 Birmingham City schools on their journey to college.

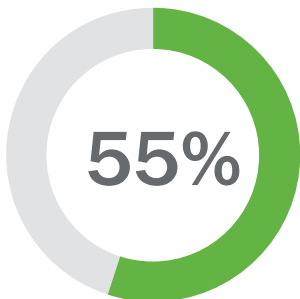
Student Data



From low-income backgrounds



First in families to go to four-year universities



From single parent households

Schools

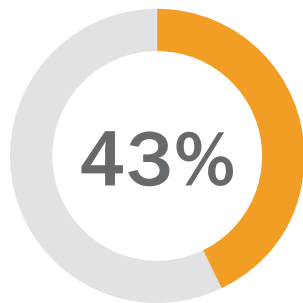
- Arrington
- Bush Hills
- Green Acres
- Hayes K-8
- Huffman
- Inglenook
- Ossie Ware Mitchell
- Phillips
- Putnam
- Smith
- South Hampton
- W.J. Christian
- Washington
- Wilkerson
- Wylam K-8

Our Instructors

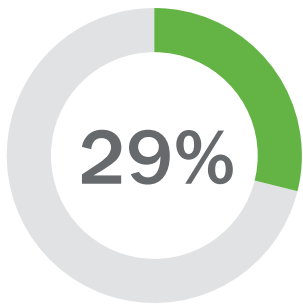
Committed teaching fellows & professional educators

Breakthrough’s pioneering Students-Teaching-Students and Teachers-Training-Teachers model ensures that both our middle school students and undergraduate Teaching Fellows receive valuable instruction and mentorship. Our 21 high-achieving Fellows completed two weeks of intensive training by our Instructional Coaches – four professional educators with a combined 73 years of experience. Teaching Fellows demonstrated marked improvements in teaching skills, increased knowledge of personal strengths and areas for growth as educators, and a fuller understanding of the demands of being a teacher.

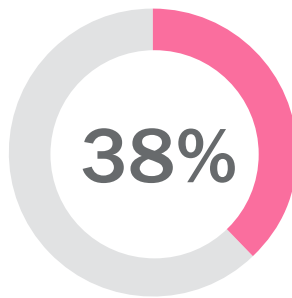
Teaching Fellow Data



People of color



From STEM majors



First in families to go to four-year universities

Universities

- Bethune-Cookman University
- Fisk University
- Mercer University
- South Carolina State University
- Texas A&M University
- Tuskegee University
- University of Alabama
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- University of California-Berkeley
- University of New Mexico
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of Pennsylvania
- Wheaton College
- Xavier University of Louisiana
- Yale University

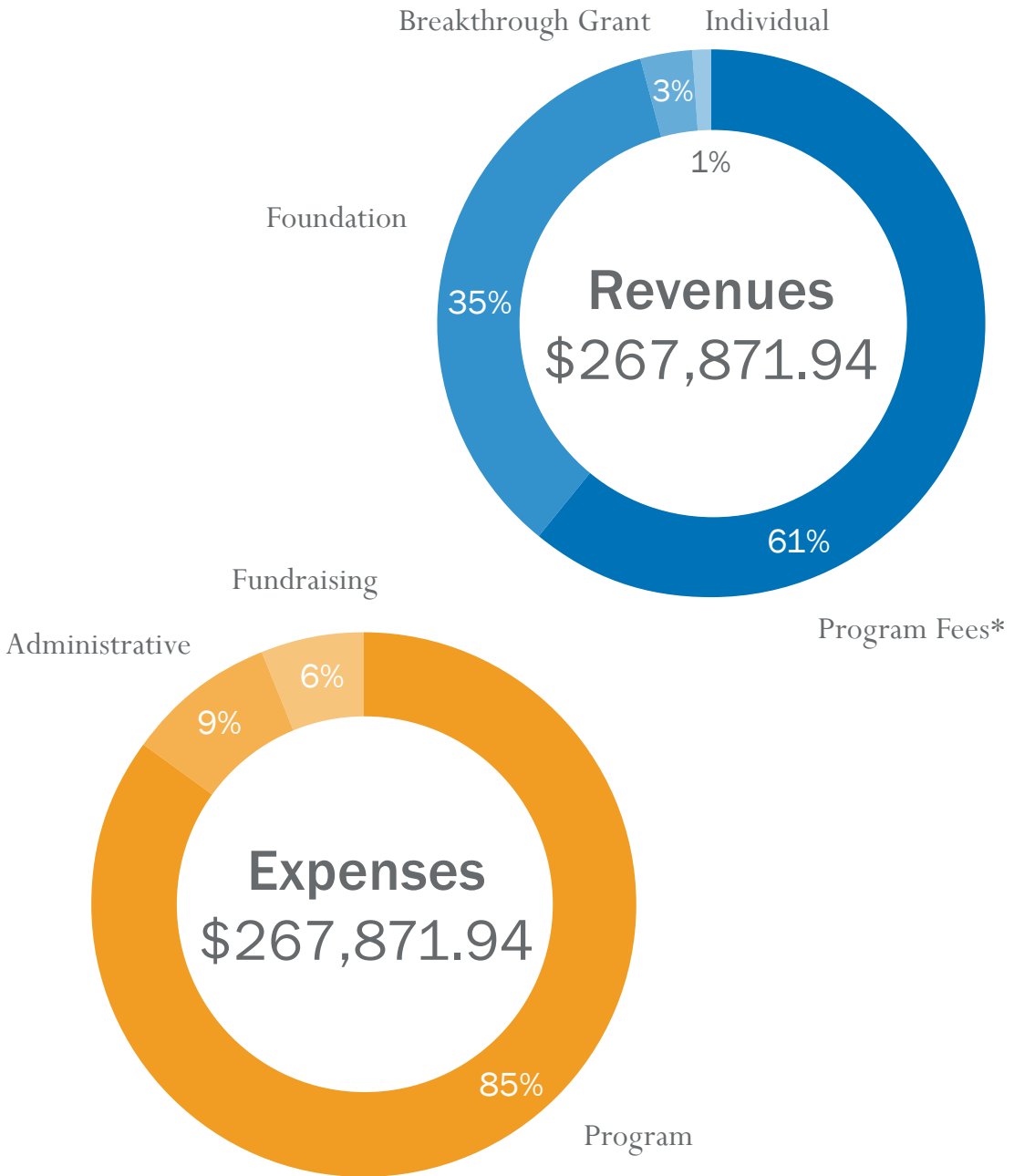


“From my time as a Teaching Fellow, I learned that the children of our country are one of the most important groups we can invest in. The students I’ve come to know have so much potential and it is a great joy to see them access that and excel in their school work. I’ve gained so much valuable insight from their unique view of life. I look forward to continuing to work with them beyond this summer.”

— Hannah Jolly, Breakthrough Birmingham Teaching Fellow

Our Finances

A summary of revenues & expenses FY 2016



**Birmingham City Schools provided \$98,000 of support for Summer 2016*

Our Staff & Supporters

Those who make our work possible

Breakthrough Birmingham is a partnership with Birmingham City Schools and is hosted each summer by a participating school.

Funders

Alabama Power Foundation
Birmingham City Schools
Birmingham Jewish Foundation
Mike and Gillian Goodrich Foundation
Independent Presbyterian Church
Foundation
The Caring Foundation
Protective Life Foundation

Donors

Miles Grimshaw

Community Partners

Cahaba Environmental Center
Southern Environmental Center through
Birmingham Southern College
Turkey Creek Nature Reserve
UAB Recreation Center

Career Day Hosts

Alabama Power: Erica Coney, Tammie Griffin
Alabama Public Television: Tracy Neeley
America's First Federal Credit Union:
Alan Stabler, Jody Mattson

Career Day Hosts (Cont.)

American Family Care: Catherine Sartin
Birmingham Business Journal: Ginger Aarons
Glenwood Autism and Behavioral Health Center:
Katie Garfinkle
Protective Life: Charmeretta Timothy,
Frank Sottasanti
U.S. Attorney's Office: Praveen Krishna, Honorable
Judge Abdul Kallon
UAB: Janice Wagon

Special Thanks

Birmingham Board of Education
Piyush Borge and Brian Rice
Deon Gordon
Mr. Cedric Tatum, Mr. Dadron Ham, and
Ms. Tarja Lawson
Faculty and Staff of Hayes K-8 School
Miho Kubagawa and Jared Weinstein
School Transportation Solutions, Inc.
Summer Adventures in Learning (SAIL)
Tuskegee University
University of Alabama at Birmingham



“Serving as an Instructional Coach with Breakthrough has allowed me to share my passion for the teaching profession with young, energetic college students. The process of sharing my own experiences with potential future educators is a rewarding way to pass the torch to the next generation of teachers. As I observe and collaborate with the Teaching Fellows, I build on my own professional practice by bringing fresh, exciting ideas and teaching strategies into my classroom”

— Cathy Clark, Breakthrough Birmingham Instructional Coach



Breakthrough Birmingham

205 20th Street, N., Suite 822

Birmingham, AL 35203

lgroft@breakthroughcollaborative.org

www.breakthroughbirmingham.com

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 25 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.