



2019 IMPACT REPORT

Founded in 2013, we partner with Birmingham City Schools City Schools and are one of 24 national affiliates of Breakthrough Collaborative.



OUR MISSION

**At Breakthrough Birmingham,
we pursue a dual mission:**

Increase academic opportunity for highly motivated, underserved students and get them into college ready to succeed.

Inspire and develop the next generation of teachers and educational leaders.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

What an incredible summer it's been! Witnessing and participating in my first Breakthrough summer has only proven what I already knew to be true: quality education changes the lives of young people.

Over the past seven years, Breakthrough Birmingham has provided high-quality support to rising 7th, 8th, and 9th graders in the Magic City. During that time, the name has become synonymous with "excellence" and "joy." This was evident in the six weeks we spent together at Huffman Academy.

This year, college students from 17 colleges and universities around the US joined Birmingham City School students on the Breakthrough journey, where learning and fun go hand-in-hand. Our teaching fellows were able to see firsthand what makes Birmingham magical by developing strong bonds with our students that will last a lifetime.

Breakthrough Birmingham began in 2013 as a response to the "summer slide." On average, students from under-resourced areas lose two months of learning growth in reading and math they made during the previous school year as compared to their more affluent peers. Imagine what that means for students by the time they get to high school! When it comes to college, students from high-income backgrounds are seven times more likely to attain a bachelor's degree when compared to students from low-income backgrounds (79% vs. 11%). Research shows that having a bachelor's degree leads to earning \$1 million more over a lifetime compared to simply having a high school diploma. A person's quality of life is drastically changed by completing this degree.

Breakthrough targets the educational inequity that students in Birmingham face. We offer our summer program to middle school students who are on a path to college while offering a challenging teaching residency for college undergraduates under the guidance of professional teachers. We know that dedication to excellence, commitment to growth, and implementing tried and true methods are essential to impacting the lives of young people. This in turn changes the landscape of the world of tomorrow.

Thank you for your continued support. Our Breakthrough journey would not be possible without you!



Mariohn Michel,
Executive Director



Hosted at Huffman Academy in 2019, Breakthrough Birmingham provided summer programming for middle school students beginning the summer after 6th grade. Students complete three consecutive summers where they spend six weeks with us, from 8am to 2pm. Students participated in academic courses and engaging enrichment activities as well as experiential events such as College Trips. On average nationally, low-income students lose two months of math and literacy skills over the summer while their more affluent peers make gains. **In 2019, Breakthrough Birmingham students gained eight months in math skills while reducing the loss of literacy skills by half.** Beginning in Fall 2019, high school students will continue their Breakthrough journey in the form a college bound program.

OUR 2019 PROGRAM

Rigorous academics and engaging enrichment activities

SINCE 2013:



BIRMINGHAM STUDENTS SERVED:

370+



TEACHING FELLOW ALUMNI

134



STUDENTS SERVED

111



TEACHING FELLOWS (TF)

23



RATIO (STUDENT:TF)

5:1



VOLUNTEER HOURS

Over 380

"The teachers are very encouraging. I've seen a change in my child during and after the program. He has more self-esteem, has developed social skills, and has made improvements with writing. He smiles more while discussing his future and did not want this program to end. I think every student should experience this program."

7th grade parent

STUDENT HOURS SPENT WITH BREAKTHROUGH BIRMINGHAM OVER 3 SUMMERS:

555+



CORE SUBJECTS

Reading
Writing
Science
Math
High School 101
(for 9th graders)

ELECTIVES OFFERED

Arts/Crafts	Girls Mentorship
Boys Mentorship	Historical Investigation
Carpentry	Poetry
Chess	Self-Care
Coding	Sports/PE
Dance	Theater
Debate	World Music



BREAKTHROUGH SCHOLARS

Dedicated students on the path to college

Breakthrough Birmingham students are dedicated scholars who want to impact their communities and go to college. In 2019, Breakthrough Birmingham supported 111 students from under-served communities on their path to college. We worked with students from 15 schools in the Birmingham City Schools in our summer program.



OUR STUDENTS CAME FROM 15 BIRMINGHAM CITY SCHOOLS:

- Arrington Middle
- Bush Hills
- Bush K-8
- Green Acres
- Hayes K-8
- Huffman Middle
- Inglenook
- Jones Valley Middle
- Ossie Ware Mitchell
- Phillips Academy
- Putnam Middle
- Smith Middle
- Wilkerson Middle
- W.J. Christian
- Wylam K-8

"I'm most proud that I overcame struggles in some of my classes because sometimes math and science can be hard. As I kept going, I learned more and I got better at it. Now when I go back to school, I will be ahead of everyone else."

Jaida B., 9th grade scholar

WHO ARE OUR STUDENTS?

95%



of students come from low-income backgrounds.

39%



of students come from single-parent households.

42%



of students will be the first in their family to graduate from a four-year college or university.

89%



of students completed the program this summer.

"Breakthrough showed me that it doesn't matter where you start, it only matters where you finish."

Daja S., 7th grade scholar

SAMPLE STUDENT SCHEDULE

Time	Class	Teacher
7:30-7:55	Breakfast & Cheers	
8:00-8:55	8th Grade Science	Ms. Erica
9:00-9:55	8th Grade Reading	Ms. Denezia
10:00-10:55	8th Grade Writing	Mr. David
11:00-11:30	Lunch & Recess	
11:35-12:30	8th Grade Math	Ms. Adrienne
12:35-12:55	Advisory	Ms. Sarah Beth
1:00-1:45	Elective: Carpentry	Ms. Allison
1:48-2:00	Daily All School Meeting	

TEACHING FELLOWS

Training and inspiring the next generation of educators

Breakthrough Birmingham hosted 23 undergraduate teaching fellows from universities across the United States in 2019. These high-achieving fellows completed two weeks of intensive training before students started the program. They were mentored by four veteran educators of Birmingham City Schools who acted as our program's instructional coaches. These coaches provided over 50 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.



OUR TEACHING FELLOWS REPRESENTED 17 SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

- Alabama A&M University
- Auburn University
- Brandeis University
- Florida A&M University
- George Washington University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Howard University
- Jackson State University
- Minerva Schools at KGI
- Mount Holyoke College
- The University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa)
- Tuskegee University
- University of Alabama-Birmingham
- University of Kentucky
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of Tennessee Knoxville
- Virginia Tech

WHO ARE OUR TEACHING FELLOWS?

50%



identify as a person of color.

29%



are the first in their family to go to college.

35%



are STEM majors (science, technology, engineering, math)

25%



come from a low-income background.

"Breakthrough allowed me to get a taste of my dreams for my future, and allowed me to confirm that this work is most definitely where I belong."

Adrienne D., University of Kentucky

AFTER A BREAKTHROUGH SUMMER...

100% of our fellows say they better understand the demands of teaching

100% of our fellows say they would recommend Breakthrough to a friend interested in education

Our Teaching Fellows have spent 400+ hours training, teaching, and getting hands-on experience with students and curriculum

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Breakthrough Birmingham works because we have the support of our community.

SPONSORS

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Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham
Goodrich Foundation
Independent Presbyterian Church Foundation
Protective Life Foundation
Regions Bank
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Mayor Woodfin and his team
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Morehouse College
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The University of Alabama
Turkey Creek Nature Reserve



GET INVOLVED!

Want to support Breakthrough Birmingham or learn about partnership opportunities? Contact us!

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