

**ANNUAL REPORT** 2022-2023



**REACH Prep** provides access to transformative educational experiences that empower underserved, high-achieving Black and Latinx students to graduate from top colleges and emerge as the next generation of leaders.



## **Dear Friends**,

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, it is with immense joy and gratitude that we reflect upon the past year's accomplishments at REACH Prep. Your steadfast support and commitment have propelled our mission forward, and as we celebrate our successes, we also look ahead with optimism and a renewed commitment to our mission in our 30th year.

We are thrilled to share some of the programming highlights from last year. REACH Prep hosted 10 in-person college admissions visits, organized an overnight college tour to visit five campuses in Pennsylvania, led a back-to-school workshop for all our middle school families, and gathered as a community with a family potluck with more than 200 at Greenwich Country Day School.

Like the potluck, the return of our Luncheon after a hiatus since 2019 was a celebration. The warmth and camaraderie in the room were palpable, showcasing the newest independent school students and hearing from author and CNN journalist Zain Asher.

In addition to these events, we are elated to announce the admission and onboarding of our 30th class of students. This milestone is a testament to the impact we have collectively made over the years. REACH Prep is excited to support each admitted student, and your support has been instrumental in creating these opportunities for them.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the leadership and dedication of our Board of Directors, the generosity and commitment of the Associate Board, and the hardworking REACH Prep staff and faculty. On behalf of REACH Prep, we thank you, our cherished donors and partners, for standing with us in our journey toward educational equity. Together, we are making a tangible difference in students' lives and shaping a brighter future for our community.

With Gratitude,

Lauren O'Shaughnessy () Chair of the Board of Directors

Becky Reiser Chief Executive Officer

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### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Becky Reiser** 

# l1m

of need-based financial aid is awarded to our Scholars each year by independent schools and colleges

sending elementary schools

# 56%

of Scholars will be the first in their family to attend college in the USA





### Admission GRADE 4

- Selective application process
- High-achieving, motivated Black & Latinx students
- From underserved communities & families
- In the Bronx, Westchester & Fairfield Counties
- Form a diverse Cohort of 20-25 students entering each year



Prep Academy GRADES 4 & 5

- 15-months: 6 weeks each summer over 2 summers; Saturdays during 5th grade
- Small classes led by faculty from independent schools
- Intensive, interdisciplinary, personalized approach
- Accelerated pace & high expectations



### Independent School **Placement** GRADE 6

- Personal guidance with applications for students & families
- Navigating the financial aid process
- ISEE test preparation
- **Practice interviews**

## 100% of REACH Prep

Scholars are accepted to a college or university

## 90%+

of REACH Prep Scholars graduate from college in 4-6 years National average: 63%



### College Success

- Personal support through transitions
- Goal setting & course selection
- Financial aid re-application guidance
- Campus visits & regional gatherings
- Early career exposure & internships
- Resumé & interview prep





### Middle & High School Support

GRADES 6-12

- Academic, social, emotional monitoring
- Regular check-ins & campus visits
- Promote self-advocacy skills
- Parent & student workshops
- Liaison with schools & parents
- Community service opportunities

### Summer Opportunities

GRADES 6-12

- Pre-collegiate, on-campus immersion
- Academic enrichment coursework
- Volunteer & study abroad programs
- Outdoor leadership skills
- Early career exploration
- Community service opportunities



### College Guidance

GRADES 11 & 12

- Campus tours & admissions info sessions
- Guidance with application
   process
- Financial aid expertise & affordability guidance to minimize student debt
- SAT/ACT test & interview prep
- Help families to determine best academic, social, financial fit

# THE REACH PREP 12-YEAR CONTINUUM

### **COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES**

Amherst College Amherst College Barnard College Bates College **Boston College** Boston University Bowdoin College Brandeis College Brown University Bryn Mawr College Bucknell University Carnegie Mellon University Colgate College Columbia University Cornell University Dartmouth College **Duke University** Emory University Fordham University Franklin & Marshall College George Washington University Georgetown University Gettysburg College Harvard University Howard University Johns Hopkins University Lafayette College Lehigh University Massachusetts Institute of Technology Middlebury College New York University Northeastern University Northwestern University **Oberlin College** Princeton University **Providence College** Renesselaer Polytechnic Institute **Rice University** Smith College Spelman College Stanford University Swarthmore College Syracuse University Trinity College Tufts University University of California University of Chicago University of Connecticut University of Notre Dame University of Pennsylvania University of Virginia Vassar College Villanova University Washington and Lee University Washington University Wesleyan University Williams College Yale University

\*This is a partial list of schools to which our Scholars have been accepted over the last 10 years.

## **REACH PREP VOICES**

"REACH Prep has changed my life for the better. They have given me access to opportunities I wouldn't have otherwise had. I am a sophomore at Lafayette College studying economics and have the skills and confidence to succeed thanks to REACH Prep.

Last summer, I worked as an academic advisor for Prep Academy, and this summer, I will be at Union Capital. REACH Prep prepared me for these opportunities through resume workshops and practice interviews. I am forever grateful to REACH Prep for shaping me into the young man I am today."



ISAIAH ALTEUS Cohort 20 King School '22 Lafayette College '26

MARIE ALEXANDRE Mother of Isaiah (Cohort 20)

**"Enrolling Isaiah in REACH Prep was the best decision that I ever made.** REACH Prep inspired, built, and transformed him in ways I couldn't have imagined. They instilled a strong sense of confidence that changed him from being a diffident student to a more determined, responsible, and self-motivated young man.

REACH Prep challenged him academically, shaped him to become a better student, and made the transition to King and college easier for him. Their unwavering support, invaluable assistance, and dedicated staff helped him find his path to success in school, college, and life. Isaiah would not be who or where he is today if it wasn't for REACH Prep. Isaiah and I are forever grateful for all REACH Prep does and will continue to do." "**REACH Prep's support of my family and me didn't stop when I completed Prep Academy.** Staff helped me find tutors for courses I struggled with, secure scholarships for summer enrichment programs, and helped demystify the college admission process.

REACH Prep gave me the confidence to follow my dreams, be unafraid to fail, and pursue a career that I'm passionate about. I've become a professional speechwriter and political strategist. I was the Chief Speechwriter for the former DC Attorney General Karl Racine, the first Black and independently elected attorney general for the District of Columbia. In my current role, I support former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg with speechwriting, message development, communications planning and execution, and high-level briefings."



**BRANDON VELEZ** Cohort 12 Greens Farms Academy '13

University of Virginia '19 Bloomberg Philanthropies, Executive Speechwriter



ANGELIQUE PARNELL

Cohort 9 Hackley School '10 Cornell University, Bachelor's '14 Georgetown University, Master's '19 Manager at Ernst & Young (EY)

"Looking back, I recognize how critical it was to have a community outside of my immediate family provide me with positive reinforcement of my potential to succeed. Prep Academy was unapologetically hard and demanding, but it made me gritty and resilient. I learned mental and emotional lessons heading into sixth grade at independent school that my peers didn't learn until college, which gave me an incredible advantage.

Currently, I support Fortune 500 companies undergoing transformations on people-related matters, including organizational change management, culture, diversity, equity, and inclusion."



"Over a decade ago I remember sitting with the team from REACH Prep and talking about using Greenwich Country Day School as the site for both the full summer program and the year-long Saturday program. More than ten years later, I am marveling at the challenging educational experiences the REACH Prep program has provided for so many students. We have been honored to have hosted this program, and we have been so blessed to have had scores of REACH Prep Scholars become GCDS students and graduate from our school. While we will miss the close contact, we stand ready to continue our full support of the program and people going forward."

-ADAM ROHDIE, HEAD OF SCHOOL



## GREENWICH COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL THANK YOU FOR 10 YEARS!

**REACH PREP EXTENDS OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE** for the unwavering support of Greenwich Country Day School over the past decade. Their generosity in hosting REACH Prep has played a pivotal role in the success of Prep Academy. The use of the GCDS campus and facilities, both during the summer and on Saturdays, has been instrumental in creating enriching experiences for our youngest Scholars. GCDS, thank you for being a steadfast partner in our mission to provide access to transformative educational opportunities. We deeply appreciate their commitment to REACH Prep.



## **Spotlight on Admissions**



ach year, REACH Prep encourages motivated
Black and Latinx fourth-grade students from underserved communities to apply to become
REACH Prep Scholars.

We admitted our 30th Cohort of Scholars in spring 2023 and are excited to support these students through their college graduation in 2035!

Our admission process mirrors that of an independent school. Families begin by attending an information session to learn more about our program and the 12-year education continuum. The next step is for families to submit their applications and supplemental materials and for students to take the entrance exam. Finalist families are invited for an interview, and applicants are notified of their acceptance the spring before they begin Prep Academy. Each year, approximately 20-25 students are accepted to REACH Prep to begin their 12-year journey.

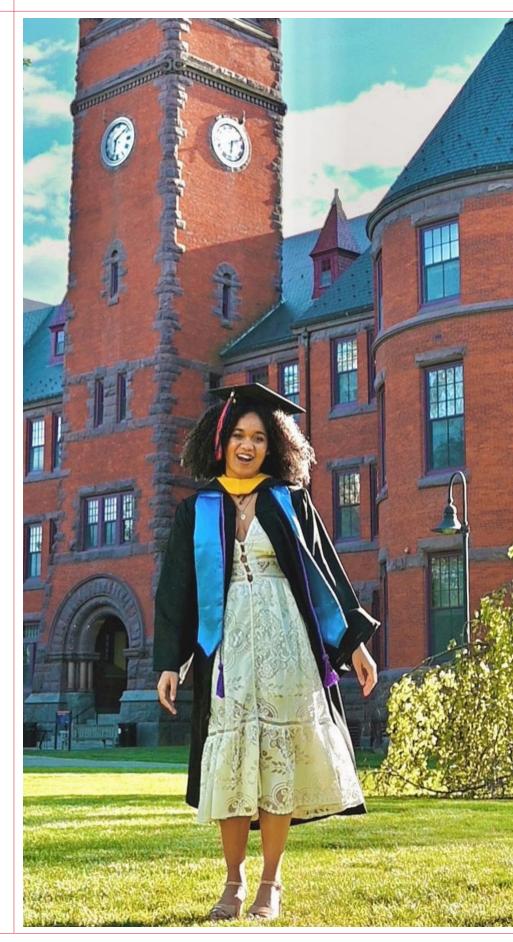
### **ADMISSION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- → Black or Latinx students in the 4th grade during the school year in which they are applying
- → Students with strong attendance and academic records
- → Students enrolled in a public or parochial school in Fairfield County (CT), Westchester County (NY), or the Bronx (NY)
- → Students that are U.S. Citizens or U.S. Permanent Residents

## Admitted Scholars and their families become part of the REACH Prep community for life!

# SPOTLIGHT ON COLLEGE SUCCESS

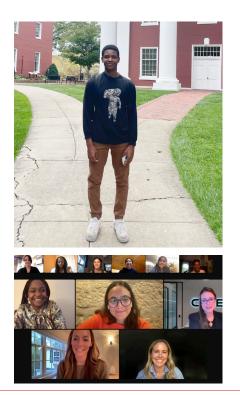
We continue to grow our college program, which has become increasingly vital for our Scholars to be successful in college and beyond. As approximately 56% of our Scholars are the first in their families to attend college in the United States, this program is crucial in navigating higher education and supporting students who may experience obstacles to success, such as economic insecurity and lack of social/emotional support.



### **INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT**



**Our Director of College Success** regularly meets with our Scholars virtually, in the office, and on their campuses to monitor academics and social well-being. The College Success Program also supports students reapplying for financial aid, connects them with internship opportunities, and guides Scholars in accessing resources on campus.





### **MENTORSHIP**



Before setting foot on campus, all first-year college students attend a series of summer workshops hosted at the REACH Prep office. Guests and staff cover the academic and social transition, financial aid, and social-emotional health. Older REACH Prep College Scholars and alumni join to add their own wisdom about the college experience.



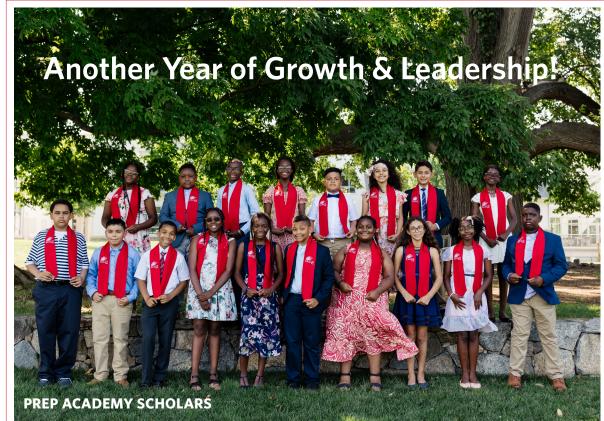
### **EARLY CAREER EXPLORATION**





Throughout the year, REACH Prep hosts many corporate-sponsored workshops, panels, and roundtable discussions focusing on various industries and skill development. Our workshops and panels include speakers from the healthcare sector. finance, commercial real estate, marketing, law, and philanthropy. As we believe students must have access to all necessary resources, including the right wardrobe for professional settings, Scholars participated in "A Day with Macy's" last spring, in which a Macy's stylist assisted each Scholar in selecting appropriate business attire.

REACH Prep continues to provide financial stipends for travel and additional needs to ensure our Scholars can participate in professional internships. During the summer of 2023, REACH Prep college Scholars held internships at Abilis, American Airlines, ACLU, CBRE, Finn Dixon, GE-Haier, Horizons, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Pubmark, Talbots, and Union Capitol, among others.





Throughout the year, REACH Prep provides a variety of in-person and virtual programs and workshops for our Scholars and their families. This includes robust Prep Academy classes, Alumni and college student meetings, high school transition workshops, school visits, and additional learning opportunities.















### **HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARS**













### **COLLEGE SCHOLARS**















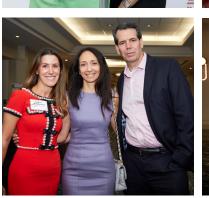


Our Annual Benefit Luncheon returned for the first time since 2019 on Monday, April 24, 2023 at The Hyatt Regency Greenwich. The room was filled with supporters, partner schools, and Scholars, and drove funding and awareness for our mission. The successful event was led by co-chairs Carolina Cardoso, Judy Collins, and Erin Jensen, and we were thrilled to have author and CNN journalist Zain Asher as our keynote speaker.







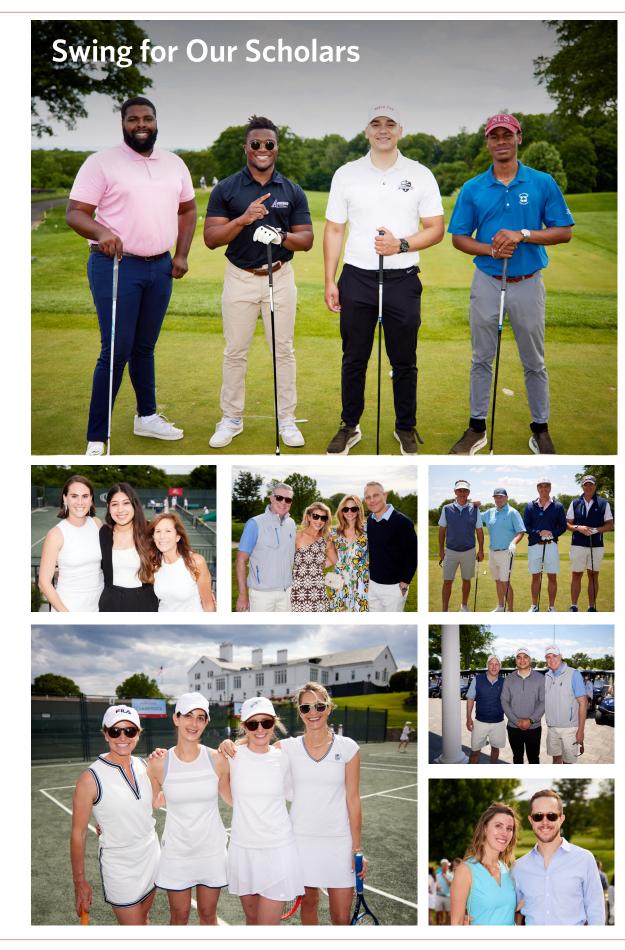












Our 3rd Annual Swing for our Scholars Golf & Tennis Outing was hosted at Greenwich Country Club on June 5, 2023 and led by co-chairs Sarah Aerni, Tracy Grossman, Kevin O'Keeffe, and Jeff Volling.











## **REACH Prep's Associate Board Launched!**









**The REACH Prep Associate Board** was launched in July of 2022 to enable a new generation of professionals and philanthropists to promote the mission of REACH Prep through fundraising, volunteering, and networking. This dedicated group utilizes their talent, life experiences, and time to make an impact in a few significant ways.

The Associate Board supports programming by conducting practice interviews for Prep Academy Scholars, making introductions for internship or job opportunities, sharing their career pathways, participating as panel speakers, hosting workshops at their companies, and utilizing their skills to support our mission and Scholar needs.

Associate Board members are also committed to the organization's fundraising initiatives, consistently making introductions to individuals or companies with an affinity for educational access and supporting at least one event annually through committees or leading as co-chairs.

The 2022-2023 Associate Board had 44 active members, and was led by Chair, Margo Cole.

### REACH PREP ASSOCIATE BOARD 2022-2023

### Margo Cole, Chair

Jeff Aerni

Sarah Aerni **Emmy Bealle Griffin Bealle** George Boudria Kate Boudria Clay Cole Margo Cole Jackie Dimitri Alex Elv Christina Failing Field Failing Kelly Fobar Davis Asya Geller **Nicole Geotes George Geotes** Carl Jean-Pierre Alex Karnal Cassaundra Karnal Ali Kavulich Steve Kavulich Conor Malloy **Emily Malloy** Kevin O'Keeffe Margaret O'Keeffe Lizzie Parker **Rvan Parker Isabel Phillips** Scott Phillips Katie Poznyakov Vlad Poznyakov **Daisy Sanders** Lauren Schweibold Skyler Serenbetz Jessica Thomson Christina Tilt Lisa Volling Sydney Williams Brian Williams Amanda Wilson Sam Wilson Leigh Wit

# **THANK YOU!**

We are tremendously grateful for the generous contributions received throughout the year from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

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"Thank you for your contributions to REACH Prep. Our lives are changed because of your generosity." SOFIA I., COHORT 22

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### **Gifts in Memoriam**

Frances Berger James R. Berger

Robert Capalbo Paul McNamara

Henry Hoffman Nancy Hoffman REACH Prep was created by volunteers back in 1994; community support continues to be a vital force in our success. Thank you to all the volunteers, guest speakers, independent schools, colleges, and local businesses who give their time, resources and expertise to make our work possible.

#### College & University Representatives

Amherst College Bowdoin College Middlebury College **Brown University Claremont Colleges:** Pomona College Scripps College Pitzer College Harvey Mudd College Colgate University College of the Holy Cross Lehigh University New York University Princeton University Trinity College University of Rochester Brandeis University Washington University of St. Louis

### **Independent School Partners**

**Browning School Brunswick School** Choate Rosemary Hall Columbia Grammar & Prep Concord Academy Convent of the Sacred Heart, New York City Ethical Culture Fieldston School Fairfield College Preparatory School Fairfield Country Day School Greens Farms Academy Greenwich Academy Hackley School Hamden Hall Country Day School Hopkins School Horace Mann School **King School** New Canaan Country School Northfield Mt. Hermon Phillips Academy Andover **Pierrepont School Ridgefield Academy** Rippowam Cisqua School **Riverdale Country School** Rye Country Day School Sacred Heart Greenwich School of the Holy Child Spire School St. Luke's School St. Mark's Taft School The Calhoun School The Foote School The Greenwich Country Day School The Harvey School The Hotchkiss School

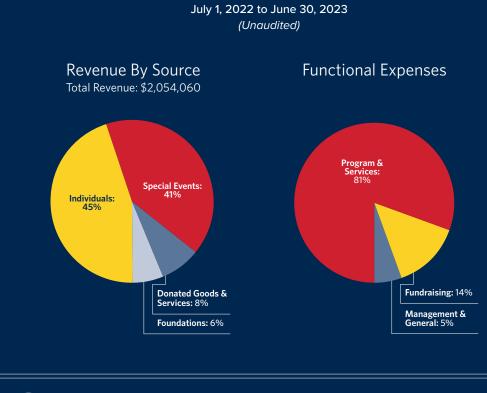
The Masters School Trevor Day School Whitby School Wooster School

### **Summer Partners**

A Thousand Summers (John Austin Cheley Foundation) Access Exeter **Bentley University** Camp Jewell (YMCA) Camp Runoia Camp Wa Wa Segowea Camp Woodstock French Woods Camp Great Books Summer Programs Marist College Pre-College School of Interactive Arts School of the New York Times Smith College **SoundWaters** Student Diplomacy Corps Summer at Brown University Syracuse University Temple University University of Connecticut Victory Briefs Institute Worcester Polytechnic Institute Yale Young Global Scholars

### **Special Thanks**

Carnegie Prep CoCreate at GE Julia Simmons



**FINANCIAL STATEMENT** 



For more information, please visit our website at reachprep.org or call us at 203-487-0750







## WAYS OF GIVING

our gifts, large or small, go to support our long-term goal of helping underserved students gain access to exceptional educational opportunities. It is because of your ongoing investment in our mission that our Scholars continue to achieve college success at unparalleled rates and emerge as leaders, well positioned to create positive change in the world. Thank you!

### **GIFTS BY CHECK**

Please make your check payable to REACH Prep and send to: One Dock Street, Suite 100, Stamford, CT 06902.

### GIFTS CREDIT CARD OR WIRE TRANSFER

Visit reachprep.org/support to make a secure online gift or to find wire transfer instructions.

### **MATCHING GIFTS**

If your employer has a matching gift program, please contact us at Development@reachprep.org.

### **GIFTS OF STOCK**

Gifts of appreciated stock qualify for a tax deduction based on the fair market value of the stocks at the date of transfer. Securities can be wired directly to our brokerage account:

Attn: Laurie Golden Jeffrey Morgan Stanley Wealth Management One Fawcett Place, 3rd Floor Greenwich, CT 06830-6516 Direct: (203) 625-4817 Laurie.goldenjeffrey@morganstanley.com

For the benefit of REACH Prep Inc. ADTC Security No. 0015 Account No. 409-070377-251

Please notify REACH Prep of your securities transfer by contacting Development@reachprep.org.

### **PLANNED GIFTS**

Retirement Accounts or Life Insurance Policies: You can make REACH Prep the beneficiary of your IRA or other retirement account, or of a fully paid life insurance policy.

**Gift in Your Will:** You can make a gift in your will, either a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the total value before (or after) other gifts have been made.

### **GIFTS IN HONOR/MEMORIAM**

These special gifts will be listed separately in our Annual Report and the honoree or their family will be personally notified of your kindness.

REACH Prep is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our Federal Tax ID Number is 06-1438889. All gifts are tax deductible to the extent of the law.



One Dock Street Suite 100 Stamford, CT 06902

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4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF & TENNIS OUTING May 20, 2024 Round Hill Club

**30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA** October 19, 2024 Belle Haven Club



