



CITY YEAR'S EVIDENCE OF IMPACT

How our holistic approach benefits students, teachers, schools, AmeriCorps members and communities

Students across the country have experienced interruptions in their learning and in their lives because of the pandemic and can benefit from additional support. City Year—leaning into our evidence-based, holistic Whole School, Whole Child (WSWC)¹ services and the strength of our school and district partnerships—has been able to adapt to local needs, innovate and continue serving students, teachers and communities in 29 cities across the country.



Navigating the virtual world has so many challenges. I can't say enough about City Year and their impact on our school, their willingness to support our school's initiatives, and their flexibility in this difficult environment. **-CITY YEAR PARTNER PRINCIPAL, SPRING 2021 SURVEY**

HOW WE HAVE RESPONDED

City Year AmeriCorps members serve in systemically under-resourced schools as student success coaches²—full-time, near-peer tutors, mentors and role models who are uniquely positioned and trained to connect with students and support their academic and social-emotional growth and success. As student success coaches, they focus on:

- Building consistent, caring and positive relationships with students every day
- Partnering with teachers to ensure students are engaged with their learning, which is critical to durable skill development
- Contributing additional joy, stability and belonging to the school experience

City Year is proud to have played a leadership role in the conception and launch of the National Partnership for Student Success. This collective effort, championed by the Biden-Harris Administration, brings together the US Department of Education, AmeriCorps, and a diverse coalition of leading education and youth-serving organizations and school districts, all committed to expanding access to additional tutors, mentors, student success coaches, wraparound service coordinators, and post-secondary transition coaches.



My City Year has been incredibly adaptive and involved given our changing circumstances. Several of my students have said how my City Year has helped them regain their motivation and feel better during online learning. **-CITY YEAR PARTNER TEACHER, FALL 2020 SURVEY**


¹ City Year's Whole School, Whole Child approach. Retrieved from: http://info.cityyear.org/rs/871-RSR-024/images/WholeSchoolWholeChild_Overview.pdf ² Student Success Coaches (SSC): The six drivers of student success coaching. City Year. (2002). <https://www.cityyear.org/national/stories/our-impact/the-six-drivers-of-student-success-coaching/>



CITY YEAR'S EVIDENCE OF IMPACT

How we know it works

- **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:** Studies show that schools that partner with City Year are up to two to three times more likely to improve⁵ in English and math assessments.
- **HOLISTIC GROWTH:** The more time students spend with AmeriCorps members, the more likely they are to improve on social, emotional and academic skills⁶ and on attendance, with students who are furthest behind benefitting the most. The benefits of working with an AmeriCorps member last for multiple years.
- **STUDENT VOICE AND ENGAGEMENT:** A 2021 student survey⁷ found that 84% of students feel that their City Year AmeriCorps member teaches them how to self-advocate and ask for help when they need it, which are critical skills for life and workforce success.
- **ON-TRACK INDICATORS:** There's evidence that our work has an impact on reducing the number of students who are off track⁸ to high school graduation.
- **EDUCATOR SUPPORT:** Our partners⁹ find our work valuable: 95% of principals felt that City Year has been adaptable/flexible in responding to their school's needs and 95% of partner principals and partner teachers say City Year has supported the engagement and participation of students in school during the ongoing pandemic.
- **COST-EFFECTIVENESS:** A 2017 analysis by Deloitte¹⁰ showed that for the schools we partner with, City Year is 78% more cost effective than contracting with individual providers to deliver the same set of services.
- **WORKFORCE AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:** City Year's 35,000 alumni continue to lead and serve across a broad range of professions, including education. According to the 2020 alumni survey¹¹, nearly half of AmeriCorps members—44%—remain in the community where they served, contributing to the local economy, workforce and social fabric.



Student Success Coaches

Student Success Coaches (SSC) help to advance educational equity, representing an intentional counter to inequality and systemic deficits while intentionally promoting thriving across multiple domains for students who experience inequity and injustice. This intentionality is reflected by where SSCs serve, the diversity of teams of SSCs, and their asset-based approach to the work.

In 2021, City Year partnered with Intentional Futures to explore the key components of student success coach (SSC) programs using a mixed methods research approach that aligns with the organization's equity-based approach to research and evaluation.³ This working hypothesis, or Target Program Profile,⁴ identified six drivers that are essential:

- Authentic coach-student relationship
- Data-informed programing
- Diverse group of skilled coaches
- Intentional school integration and holistic supports
- Ongoing learning and development
- Supportive program structure

³ City Year's Research and Learning Agenda. (2022). Retrieved from: https://www.cityyear.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ResearchAgendaCY_2022_3.25_F.pdf
⁴ Intentional Futures. Student Success Coach Target Program Profile. (2021). Retrieved from: https://www.cityyear.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/TPP_SSCdrivers_1.21.22.pdf
⁵ Meredith, J., Anderson, L.M. Analysis of City Year's Whole School Whole Child Mode on Partner Schools' Performance. (2015). Policy Studies Associates. Retrieved from: <https://www.cityyear.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/PSAstudy2015.pdf>
⁶ Balfanz, R. Byrnes, V. Connecting Social- Emotional Development, Academic Achievement, and On-Track Outcomes: A multi-district study of grades 3 to 10 students supported by City Year AmeriCorps members. (2020). Everyone Graduates Center at the Johns Hopkins University. Retrieved from: https://www.cityyear.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/EGC_CityYearReport_BalfanzByrnes.pdf
⁷ A student survey was administered at one City Year site in February 2021; there were 487 responses, with 480 responses in English and 7 responses in Spanish. Survey items included customized questions from Search Institute's Developmental Relationships survey tool and University of Chicago's Cultivate survey tool.
⁸ MDRC. Addressing Early Warning Indicators: Interim impact findings from the Investing in Innovation (i3) Evaluation of Diplomas Now. (2016). Retrieved from: https://www.cityyear.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Addressing-Early-Warning-Indicators_2016.pdf
⁹ City Year's Spring 2021 Service Partner Surveys. Partner principals n=295; partner teachers n=825
¹⁰ In 2017, Deloitte Consulting LLP was engaged to aggregate and synthesize various industry and internal analyses to help City Year estimate and articulate ROI; City Year costs as compared to benchmark analysis of costs to provide similar services provided by a combination of individual providers.
¹¹ City Year Alumni Survey, April 2020, 21,786 alumni contacted; 20% response rate, which is statistically significant.



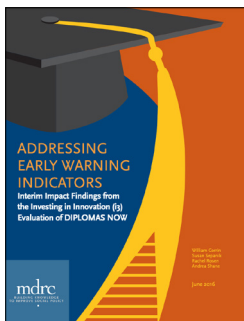
CITY YEAR'S EVIDENCE OF IMPACT



Our evidence of impact meets the definition of “Evidence-based Interventions” under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

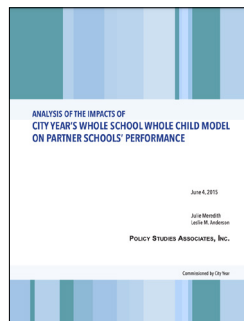
ESSA EVIDENCE TIERS

- **TIER 1: STRONG EVIDENCE** from at least one well-designed and well-implemented experimental study
- **TIER 2: MODERATE EVIDENCE** from at least one well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study
- **TIER 3: PROMISING EVIDENCE** from at least one well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias
- **TIER 4: DEMONSTRATES A RATIONALE** based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluation that such activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve student outcomes or other relevant outcomes



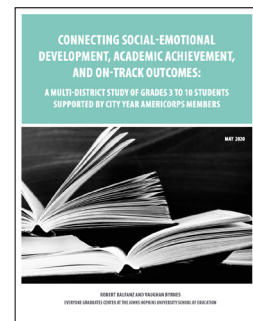
ON-TRACK INDICATORS

There's evidence that City Year AmeriCorps members, in partnership with other multi-tiered support providers, have an impact on reducing the number of students who are off track to high school graduation.



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Studies show that schools that partner with City Year AmeriCorps members serving as student success coaches are up to two to three times more likely to improve in English and math assessments.



HOLISTIC GROWTH

The more time students spend with City Year AmeriCorps members, the better students' social, emotional, academic and attendance outcomes, with students who are furthest behind benefiting the most. The greatest gains occur when social-emotional skill building is combined with an academic activity—reinforcing the need for City Year's holistic, evidence-based approach.