

achieve

...opening a world of possibilities



DESCRIPTION

achieve is a year-round, four-year college preparatory program for underserved students from low-income families. Eighty-eight students currently participate in this scholarship and enrichment program, attending Bay Area parochial high schools: Holy Names in Oakland, St. Joseph Notre Dame in Alameda, and Mercy and Archbishop Riordan in San Francisco.

MISSION STATEMENT

achieve opens a world of possibilities to underserved, low-income high school students by providing access to a quality education including cultural, career and community service experiences. The goal of **achieve** is to produce successful citizens who will, in turn, give back to the community.

HISTORY

achieve was founded in 1997 by Barbara Bass Bakar, former chief executive officer of several major retail firms. She mentors current students and also counsels **achieve** alumni while in college and after graduation.

REQUIREMENTS

Students are selected on the basis of academic achievement, leadership potential and motivation to excel. They are expected to maintain a 3.0 unweighted GPA while taking rigorous course loads. Active parental support and participation are required.

CURRENT PARTICIPANTS

98% will be first generation college students.

- Female 51%
- Male 49%

Ethnic/Racial Background (self-identified):

- Hispanic/Latino 57%
- African-American 21%
- Asian/Pacific Islander 21%
- European American/Caucasian 1%

STAFF

The program has a staff of five, including three full-time credentialed educators, dedicated to supporting and motivating the students. Volunteers provide additional support.

GRADUATES

To date, 203 students have graduated from **achieve**.

- Matriculated to 4-year colleges 96%
- Matriculated to 2-year colleges 4%
- Currently in college or have graduated 89%
- Military or trade school 2%
- Left college 2%
- Unknown or deceased 7%

PROFILE OF THE CLASS OF 2018

- Matriculated to 4-year college 100%
- Attend private colleges/universities 93%
- Attend out-of-state colleges/universities 87%

SERVICES PROVIDED TO STUDENTS

ACADEMIC: Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 unweighted GPA to remain in the program. **achieve** teachers conduct a twice-weekly study hall on the campus of each of our partner schools. The program provides academic support, writing, presentation and study skills, as well as educational workshops.

CULTURAL: Students attend theater, dance and musical performances at professional venues throughout the Bay Area. Visits to museums and science academies augment their cultural experiences.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: In addition to group service projects, **achieve** students are required to complete a 40-hour focused community service project each year. Most **achieve** students far exceed the hours required.

SOCIAL: **achieve** is, first and foremost, an extended family. Students meet weekly in both large and small group settings. Quarterly family meetings are held at each of the partner schools. **achieve** staff is available to students and families by cell phone and through **achieve**'s email system. **achieve** hosts an annual holiday party for current students and an annual alumni event for graduates.

LEADERSHIP: **achieve** students are constantly challenged to go outside their comfort zones and to grow as leaders, not only in their schools, but in the community. Students are required to participate in extra-curricular activities and strongly encouraged to take on leadership roles. Upper division **achieve** students are trained to be role models and mentors to their younger counterparts.

COLLEGE PREPARATION: College counseling begins as soon as students enter the program. Representatives from private colleges all over the country provide special presentations for **achieve** students. Junior year begins with an East Coast college tour. Test prep classes (PSAT, SAT, ACT) are an essential component of the program. During junior and senior years, students are provided with extensive one-on-one college counseling and writing support to make the college application process and transition to college as smooth as possible.

CAREER: **achieve** students have busy summers, participating in various educational programs on college campuses or in 6-week paid internships provided by **achieve**. Internships include positions in business, the arts, and the medical field, among others. This provides an opportunity for students to explore various career interests while learning about the world of work. Educational workshops are provided to help students with resumes, interview skills and job etiquette. The majority of money earned during internships is placed in a college savings account that students receive at graduation.

FINANCIAL: **achieve** provides a four-year high school scholarship based on a sliding scale. Each student is provided with a supplemental fund to offset costs of books, uniforms, college applications and other educational expenses.

COLLEGES ATTENDING: CLASSES 2015 – 2018

Albion College	Davidson College	Juniata College	University of California, Davis
Allegheny College	Dominican University	Lawrence University	University of California, Riverside
Brown University	Earlham College	Macalester College	University of Chicago
Carleton College	Gonzaga University	McDaniel College	Wesleyan University
Cal State, Bakersfield	Guilford College	Middlebury College	Willamette University
Cal State, San Francisco	Gustavus Adolphus College	Ohio Wesleyan University	Williams College
Centre College	Hampshire College	St. Olaf College	Yale University
Colgate University	Haverford College	Stanford University	
College of Wooster	Hope College	Trinity College	