

achieve

...opening a world of possibilities



DESCRIPTION

achieve is a year-round, four-year college preparatory program. Eighty-three 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, Mercy in Burlingame, and Archbishop Riordan in San Francisco.

MISSION STATEMENT

achieve opens a world of possibilities to underserved high school students from low-income families by providing access to a quality education including cultural, career and community service experiences, as well as extensive college counseling. 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

95% will be first generation college students.

- Female 45%
- Male 55%

Ethnic/Racial Background (self-identified):

- Hispanic/Latino 60%
- African-American 19%
- Asian/Pacific Islander 16%
- Biracial/Other 5%

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, 302 students have graduated from **achieve**.

- Matriculated to 4-year colleges 99%
- Currently in college or have graduated 91%
- Military or trade school 2%
- Left college 1%
- Unknown 5%
- Deceased 1%

PROFILE OF THE CLASS OF 2024

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

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 or Midwest 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 5-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 2020 – 2024

Agnes Scott College	Colgate University	Juniata College	Smith College
Allegheny College	College of the Holy Cross	Lawrence University	Swarthmore College
Amherst College	Columbia University	Lehigh University	Trinity College
Beloit College	Cornell University	Macalester College	University of Puget Sound
Berea College	Dartmouth College	McDaniel College	University of Rochester
Boston College	Davidson College	Oberlin College	University of St. Thomas
Boston University	Emory University	Reed College	Valparaiso University
Carleton College	Gettysburg College	Ripon College	Wesleyan University
Clark University (MA)	Hope College	St. Olaf College	
Coe College	Howard University	Seattle University	