

EastSide Community Learning Center Foundation

In Support of EastSide Charter School



Annual Report

2016-2017

EastSide Charter School—Annual Report 2016-2017

Dear Friends, Families and Supporters,

In the 2016-2017 school year we officially launched our Vision Academies network of schools (including Charter School of New Castle), saw our graduates enter top private and public high schools, and watched magic take place in classrooms. We saw students who read below grade level catch up and saw students who read above grade level reach even higher. We saw the students at Charter School of New Castle grow more than double the state average growth in Reading and seven times the state average growth in Math on the state mandated test - SBAC (a considerable feat). We saw our educators strengthen their craft and put in countless hours of work for the benefit of our children. At EastSide Charter School we saw a disappointing decline in our state scores. In response we have infused the school with more experienced teachers and leadership who are making a huge impact with the returning staff and students.

As we look forward to the 2017-18 school year we look forward to seeing growth for all of our students. We are also looking forward to the beginning of our College Then Career Program. Thanks to the support of our donors we have been able to make a commitment to our alumni. We commit to support them through high school, through college and into their first careers. We want to ensure that the hard work that our teachers and families have put into their children from Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade leads to choice filled lives in the future. While we are the only network of schools that works with students from Pre-Kindergarten through age 23 we are hoping to inspire others to make similar commitments to our youth. In addition we are excited to launch the second year of our Leadership Development Program. This past year we were able to graduate 6 leaders who are taking on great responsibility inside and outside of our network. This upcoming year we have decided to open our program to emerging leaders anywhere in Delaware. This means that educators who are looking to become leaders in charter, district and private schools can come to Vision Academies to improve their craft.

2017-2018 promises to be a big year. We look forward to celebrating 20 years at EastSide Charter School. We look forward to helping students connect with their visions. We look forward to engaging with our community and making an impact on education.

We are excited for the future and grateful for your support of our mission.

Sincerely,

Charles S McDowell, Board Chair

Aaron Bass, CEO



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Suit Up—Show Up

On the first day of the new school year arriving EastSide students were met by the unexpected sight of some two dozen professional men in suits, joined by Wilmington police officers in uniform. They were there as a part of the ***Suit Up Show Up*** program. In association with the Fellowship of Black Male Educators for Social Justice, the ‘greeters’ shook the hands of and spoke with each and every arriving scholar—offering them a unique welcome to their first day of classes.

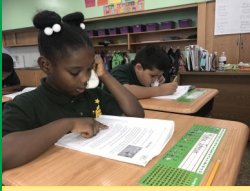
The visitors, from various professions and educational backgrounds shared an important part of their workdays with the EastSide Eagles to enable the children to “*see their future*” and what, with application of their skills and talents, might be ahead in their lives.

Role modelling is so very important for young students; and these professional role models added to the strong role-modelling students receive away from school to offer them encouragement in their educational and vocational journeys.



Schools Focus and Highlights

- ⇒ Charter School of New Castle students’ academic performance grew at rates 2 times the state average growth in math and 7 times the state average growth in ELA.
- ⇒ A broad array of after school activities with transportation for students with activities like: chess, soccer, basketball, track, volleyball, cheer/dance, tutoring, and more!
- ⇒ Students in all grades have the opportunity to engage in Social Emotional learning that focuses on their own mental health, social skills, and preparedness for college and life.
- ⇒ Implementation of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), a rigorous teacher evaluation and professional development model, developed at EastSide, and which has been adopted by numerous Delaware Schools better preparing our teachers to provide top level instruction on a daily basis.
- ⇒ Development and implementation of a Leadership Excellence Framework (LEF) a similarly rigorous leaders evaluation and professional development model, preparing our leaders to provide top level programmatic and institutional service to the Team.
- ⇒ A Child Study Team, with a school Psychologist among the members, that seeks to prevent and support issues surrounding behavior, bullying, suicide prevention, and academics; bringing cutting edge methodologies to the assistance of our students
- ⇒ A solid and state recognized Leadership Development program preparing leading teachers for advancing roles as school leaders—to be open to teachers from all state schools in FY2018
- ⇒ Our Vision Planning and College Then Career programming (discussed elsewhere in this Report)
- ⇒ The following programs received continued support through supplemental funding provided by generous individuals and the corporate and philanthropic community:
 - Universal free breakfast and lunches
 - Free after-school tutoring
 - Community service days
 - A Summer Enrichment Program targeted at academic performance of new and struggling students
 - A Mentoring program with some 100 mentoring pairs
 - Supplemental school counseling and special education services



A unique commitment to a strong education ... and a rewarding life

Recognizing that far too many of his students who had graduated from college soon found themselves working in retail alongside former HS classmates who hadn't gone to college, Aaron Bass believed that one strong determinant of reality was a lack of a supportive network to assist young scholars with right choices leading to just opportunities as adults. Assuming the lead for the Vision Academy schools, Mr. Bass has determined to create that network.

Every year each student in grades K-8 writes a **Vision Plan**, reviewed by staff and families 3x per year - committing to career goals and an impact on their community and family. Students compare their goals to outcomes they can expect from their current conduct and academics. Students are challenged to connect their level of commitment and investment in their education to their plans, goals and dreams.

The ***College Then Career (CTC)*** program at our schools embraces our "***K through 18***" commitment to our students based on the belief that our responsibility to alumni doesn't stop until they have graduated from college and entered their chosen career field. The program—unique to Delaware education—provides empowering connectivity between our schools and our students from K-18 (K through high school, college, and 2 years in the workforce). Success in school must translate into success in life. For most of our students, college is key to achieving life goals. But nationally, for students of the lower economic quartile, only 7 in 10 graduate from high school; only 6 in 10 matriculate to college; and fewer than 1 in 10 graduate.

In FY2018, our CTC program will help students close the *Life Gap* just as our educational supports assist with closing the K-12 Achievement Gap. Through CTC, our staff will work with students on their Vision Planning. In 6th through 8th grades, our staff will work with students to attend high schools to prepare them for their life goals, arranging school visits and meetings with high school personnel, providing assistance in financial aid applications, and offering tutoring for entrance exams. We also sponsor scholarships for select students who seek to attend private academically challenging secondary schools. After our children are in high school, our staff will perform check-ins to ensure that our alumni get support with classes, and will offer SAT/ACT tutoring, pointing students to extra-curricular activities that will benefit their college connectivity. One main goal of our program is to connect every student with an internship, preferably in an area aligned with their life goal. When our alumni reach 12th grade, our staff will work with each family on their child's college applications, helping students pick the perfect schools that will best prepare them to continue to pursue their goals, providing FAFSA and other financial aid/scholarship application assistance.

Our staff will continue check ins with our college alumni, offering guidance in selecting courses, monitoring GPAs, and connecting students to resources on and off campus that can help them continue to pursue their goals. We will work to replicate our internship model during college. Internship opportunities will increasingly be provided by our own alumni whose successful career arcs permit them to reach back to help those who follow them. Internships will enable Alumni to connect with jobs in their fields of career choice. [Read about our CTC leader, *Ankur Arya* on the next page].

The Connector behind College then Career

Ankur Arya joined the team at EastSide Charter School and Charter School of New Castle this year, coming to us with important accomplishments as a molders of and tireless advocate for the children our schools serve.

Ankur grew up in the West Philadelphia area, and attended a Title I middle school. He received financial aid and a scholarship to Episcopal Academy, a prestigious private high school in the area. Despite the challenges of adjusting to a rigorous academic curriculum, Ankur flourished in the new environment and, through hard work, prepared himself for the next step of his academic arc. His life experience gives him a unique perspective on the students that he serves.



Applying to elite colleges during his senior year, he chose and attended Haverford College, graduating with a BA in Political Science in 2012.

While at Haverford, Ankur interned with Wilmington's Rodel Foundation. Immediately after graduation, Ankur joined the corps of Teach for America Delaware, and committed his next five years to teaching math to 7th and 8th graders at Wilmington's Thomas Edison Charter School, earning kudos and awards along the way. During his formative time at Edison, he became aware of the alarming statistic that only *1 in 10 students from low-income communities in Delaware graduate with a college degree* by the age of 24. He shared this statistical reality with his students in the classroom, extolling them to be the students who would break the mold of college disappointment. But he knew he could do more to change the tide for the students he taught and served each day.

Ankur began meeting with a hardworking and talented group of students to prepare them to apply to top performing high schools in the area. These collaborative afterschool efforts were the beginning of Leading Youth through Empowerment, which Ankur developed into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in November 2014. Through the LYTE program, dozens of children have received scholarships to independent schools and acceptances to top performing public high schools in the state. LYTE increased access for low-income middle school students to connect in meaningful ways with top performing Delaware high schools through personal mentoring, rigorous teaching, and leadership. The students in the program have shown augmented ability to succeed in challenging high schools, and also beyond in college; and the program tracks many of the goals and techniques of our College Then Careers program.

His move to our schools and his stewardship of our College then Career effort permits him to expand the number of children that he assists; and he's excited to maintain contact with the accomplishments of the alumni from our schools as they seek to make their lives meaningful through education.

PreK

An outstanding preK program for 4 year olds is a major commitment of the EastSide Community Learning Center Foundation. We want to work with children at this young age so they will enter Kindergarten on grade level and never fall behind. The State of Delaware does not provide any funding for preK programs through its education budget; but some of our families are able to obtain some state funding for "child care" for working parents. Even though our program has the highest state rating, Star 5, this limited state funding and some modest parent revenue still leaves us with an operating deficit of about \$2,513 per student. With a total complement of 66 students the total annual operating deficit for this program will be more than \$165,000.



Operating Revenue:	
Private (Family Contribution)	\$ 37,156
Purchase of Care (State of Delaware)	\$ 200,584
Total Receipts	\$ 237,741
Operating Expenditures:	
Salaries	
Teachers (3)	\$ 149,457
Para Professionals (3)	\$ 69,729
Director/Instructional Coach	\$ 23,486
Other Employment Costs	\$ 116,723
Learning Materials	
Field Trips	\$ 2,500
Supplies	\$ 600
Maintenance	\$ 500
Expenditures Before General Overhead	\$ 362,996
Operating Deficit Before Gen Overhead	\$ (125,255)
General Overhead Allocation	\$ 40,630
Operating Deficit After Gen Overhead	\$ (165,885)
Foundation subsidy per student	\$ 2,513



You are crucial to the achievement of our mission.

We greatly appreciate all of those listed below who generously contributed to our successful 2016-2017 school year. With your continuing support, we will achieve our goal of changing the face of urban education in Delaware. Every dollar directly affects the education of EastSide scholars.

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Sincere thanks, one and all !

Strive. Succeed. Soar.

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Every dollar donated is a dollar that enables us to improve students' lives. So please ... Choose one of these 3 easy ways to donate to **EastSide Community Learning Center Foundation**.

- ◆ Cash/Check/Credit Card Gifts may be mailed to:

EastSide Community Learning Center Foundation
1101 Delaware Street
New Castle, DE 19720

- ◆ Online Donations can be made by visiting the EastSide Charter School website - **www.eastsidecharterschool.org**
- ◆ EastSide Community Learning Center Foundation donations can be made through the **United Way of Delaware—Donee # 12775**

Thank you for your support.



EastSide Charter School's mission is to change the landscape of urban education in Delaware; changing others' expectations, others' actions, and the futures of our kids.

Strive. Succeed. Soar.

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