



DREAMER SNAPSHOT

NOV
2014

“Just knowing that someone is here for me is most definitely the best part of I Have a Dream.”
– Middle School Dreamer

“I Have A Dream” Foundation-Los Angeles (IHADLA) works to break the cycle of poverty by sponsoring entire classes of third graders in low-income academically at-risk schools, working with students for 10 consecutive years through high school graduation and into college. Upon the completion of high school, each student is guaranteed an \$8,000 scholarship to be used for college or career training. IHADLA helps inner-city youth who are at risk for school failure reach their full potential. The sponsored students, who we call “Dreamers,” are not the only ones who benefit from the program; siblings, parents, other students in the school, and local community members also feel the positive impact of IHADLA’s educational and enrichment offerings.



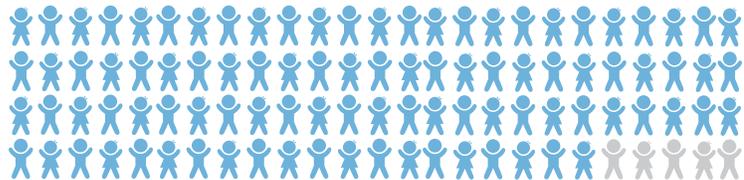
As calls for more academic rigor spur school reform, many have begun to argue that academic instruction may not be enough. Students must want to come to school, work hard, and enjoy the learning process if they are going to graduate from high school, go to college, and reach their full potential (Diplomas Count, 2014). IHADLA adopts a **Whole Child Approach**—in addition to providing traditional academic assistance through tutoring and mentoring, IHADLA offers cultural and enrichment activities, depression screenings, case management, and referrals to community partners who provide specialized services (e.g., counseling).

Serving the Whole Child through Trusting Relationships

One of the most effective ways to motivate children academically is to build trusting relationships with them.

- Less than ½ of students in California feel connected to their school (45%) and only 62% of students feel they have a teacher or some other adult at school who really cares about them (CA Healthy Kids Survey, West Ed, 2013).

Dreamers, through ongoing contact (often daily) with IHADLA staff and mentors, develop meaningful, trusting relationships. In the most recent evaluation of the program,



95% of Dreamers reported that IHADLA program staff and mentors are like family to them.

- 94% reported that IHADLA staff provide them with role models.
- 98% said IHADLA staff help them prepare for college.
- 100% reported that IHADLA staff help them believe in themselves.



“If it was not for I Have a Dream I would have never met my mentor who has been with me since I was in 2nd grade. My mentor has helped me get through school. She encourages me. She tells me she knows I am someone important and that I can achieve my dreams.”

– High School Dreamer



Serving the Whole Child through Key Community Partnerships

GIRLS ON THE RUN

A nationwide physical activity based positive youth development program for girls in 3rd – 8th grade. This program teaches life skills and confidence through interactive exercises and running games.

FIRE CADET PROGRAM

A life skills program run through the fire department for boys that focuses on responsibility, respect, and future goals.

THE MAPLE COUNSELING CENTER

An agency that provides comprehensive mental health services to individuals, couples, families, and groups throughout Los Angeles County.

AMANECER

A community-based nonprofit organization providing a wide range of personalized, bilingual/bicultural, behavioral health care and intervention services at no cost to those in need.

PROJECT WISDOM

A national character education program that promotes self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, relationship skills, and responsible decision making.

“The best thing about I Have a Dream is that they help me and make sure I am the best of what I can be.”
– Middle School Dreamer



Evidence IHADLA Makes a Difference

Dreamers are engaged in school and motivated to succeed:

- 100% of elementary school Dreamers and 95% of middle and high school Dreamers report that they love learning new things.
- **100%** of Dreamers report that they expect to graduate from high school.
- 98% of elementary school Dreamers and 100% of middle school Dreamers report that graduating from college is important to them.

These Dreamer statistics stand in stark contrast to findings that suggest only 78% of children in the US want to go to college, let alone find college important or expect to graduate.

Dreamers demonstrate marked improvements in mental health:

Over the past year we see decreases in key symptoms of depression as children have been exposed to greater IHADLA programming.

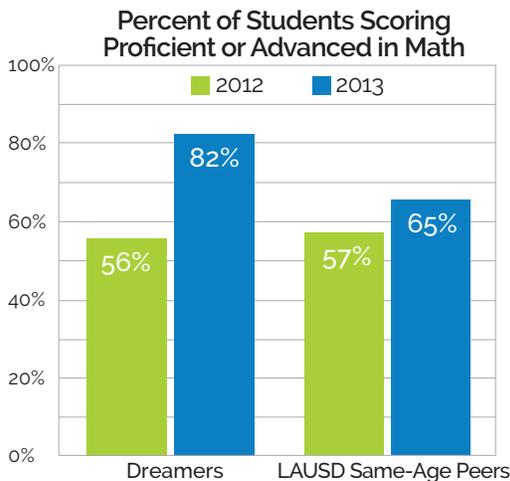
- A 17% reduction in the number of Dreamers reporting that they are tired many days or all of the time.
- A 10% reduction in the number of Dreamers reporting that they have trouble sleeping.

Dreamers excel academically:

29 countries outperform students in the US in math (Program for International Student Assessment; National Center for Education Statistics, 2014). Although children throughout the country are falling behind the rest of the developing world in acquiring the knowledge and skills they need to be competitive and succeed in the increasingly global economy, Dreamers excel academically, especially in math. **From 2012 to 2013, there was a 25% increase in the number of elementary school Dreamers scoring proficient or advanced on state-wide math tests.** Further, Dreamers clearly outperform their same-age peers in math—in 2013, after Dreamers had been exposed to just 1 year of IHADLA programming.



82% of Dreamers scored proficient or advanced on state-wide math tests.



CALL TO DONATE OR VOLUNTEER

“I Have A Dream” Foundation – Los Angeles
634 S. Spring Street Ste. 812
Los Angeles, CA 90014
(213) 572 - 0175
www.ihadla.org

“The best thing about I Have a Dream is that I know I can be myself.”
– Middle School Dreamer

