

2024 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

*NO ONE GETS
THERE ALONE*

ELEVATE
BRIDGEPORT



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am thrilled to share with you the remarkable achievements and impactful initiatives that have defined this past year at Elevate Bridgeport. As we take a moment to reflect on the significant transformations and experiences that our students have undergone, I am reminded of the profound words of Theodore Roosevelt: *"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."* This sentiment resonates deeply with our work at Elevate Bridgeport, where our team consistently demonstrates care and dedication in guiding young individuals through critical and vulnerable phases of their lives.

A significant highlight from this school year was the summer college and cultural tour to upstate New York, where students explored Buffalo University, Niagara Falls University, and landmarks significant in American history, such as stops on the underground railroad. Additionally, programs like *FitFam* and *Beauty & Brilliance* provided a platform for students to address traumas, develop accountability, tackle mental health challenges, and partake in valuable prosocial activities. Our teacher-mentors' presence during the school day has proven instrumental in preventing and de-escalating conflicts, fostering emotional regulation, and cultivating a positive school environment.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to our donors, mentors, and partners for their unwavering support and commitment to our cause. Your collective efforts have truly made a difference in the lives of our students, encouraging them to excel and embrace growth opportunities. At Elevate, we show up not because it is easy or convenient, but because we genuinely care. It is through the relationships we have nurtured and the dedication we exhibit that our students find value, support, and inspiration to exceed expectations, even amid challenges.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Elevate Bridgeport community, and let us continue to champion the potential and success of every student we serve.

Sincerely,
Eric Torres, Executive Director
Elevate Bridgeport



ELEVATE BRIDGEPORT SHOWS UP

“Having a class where I can talk about life has helped me to be a better person. It’s given me a chance to reflect on my experiences and understand myself better. The Elevate Bridgeport class has helped me with my self-esteem by making me feel heard and valued.”

- *Bassick High School Student*

“Elevate Bridgeport has made a significant difference in the lives of students and staff at The Bridge Academy. Through their mentoring and teaching, they have brought invaluable support to the school community, enriching the educational experience. Their presence has positively shaped the atmosphere, fostering growth and development for everyone involved.”

- *Tyrone Elliott, Superintendent & High School Principal, The Bridge Academy*



Based on Deep-Trusted Teacher-Mentor Relationships, Our Students Have Increasingly Reported:

80% *Help Their Struggling Peers*

Believe They Are Hard Workers **70%**

60% *Think About the Future Before Making Decisions*

Are Not Afraid to Try New Things **60%**

60% *Expect to Have a Great Future*

“Every time I walk into the Elevate Bridgeport classroom, I know I will not be judged and I can just be myself. I love how the Elevate classroom feels like a big happy family.”

- *Bassick High School Student*

ELEVATE BRIDGEPORT ENSURES NO ONE GETS THERE ALONE

“Elevate Bridgeport has helped shape the Bridge Academy into what it is today. Through this amazing program, we gain knowledge, integrity, and compassion for the youth behind us to look upon and see. Our Mentors help us understand the concept of being leaders in our community. This program has left me and the rest of the Bridge Academy with a print of hope to go into the world knowing that we are capable of fulfilling our hopes and dreams, and to inspire the young generation to do the same.”

- Senior at The Bridge Academy

2456

Hours of
Mentoring

100%

Of Seniors
Graduated High School

116

High School Students Led Little Elevate in Grade
Schools and Middle Schools, Turn-Keying
Lessons in Life Skills and Character Development

99%

Acquired a College & Career
Credit Towards Graduation

451

Students Served in the
2023-2024 School Year

85%

Of Students
Attended School Regularly

119

Students Participated
In Small Group Mentoring

95%

Of Students Progressed
to the Next Grade Level

25

Participants in Earn & Learn
Summer Internship Program

“I am proud to watch our dedicated Teacher-Mentors work tirelessly to meet Elevate Bridgeport students where they are at, seeing the bright light within each of them. Year after year, our students continue to achieve new heights academically, push their boundaries and comfort zones professionally, and find themselves looking in the mirror with more joy and hope in their futures.”

- Bob Niedermeier, Board Chair



ELEVATE BRIDGEPORT LOOKS TOWARD THE FUTURE

"We continue to be amazed by Elevate Bridgeport! The academic, social, and spiritual growth the students achieve is a testament to the commitment of the students and their mentors. We are proud to be associated with these successes."
- Mr. & Mrs. Cardenas, Elevate Champions

2024

2025

2026

2027

Launched a five-week summer internship program allowing youth to apply life skills to real-world experience.

Expanded the depth of services at Bassick High School, **tripling** the number of students served.

Initiated **ASCENSION**, an introduction to Elevate for middle school students at Bridge Academy facilities led by high school seniors.

Replicate the behavior modification program, **Making Money Moves**, to maximize student engagement and achievement.

Expand our model to one middle school, a feeder school for Bassick High School. Interactions with Teacher-Mentors during and after middle school will increase the likelihood of middle school students **succeeding in high school** and beyond.

Expand our model to a **second middle school**, a feeder school for Bridge Academy.

Two additional Teacher-Mentors would be dedicated to implementing the Elevate Bridgeport middle school curriculum for 7th- and 8th-grade students to help them **develop transferable life skills and character qualities** to increase their likelihood of high school success and beyond.

Expand our program to an additional school, Harding High School.

This additional High School will present Elevate Bridgeport with the opportunity to **serve three of five** Bridgeport neighborhoods and **two of four** Bridgeport Public High Schools.

This critical expansion will help increase our annual impact to serve **more than 1,100 students per year**.



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Learn More About Ways to Get Involved and Invest in Elevate Bridgeport:



Text **BRIDGEPORT** to 26-989



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www.elevatebridgeport.org

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