



Annual Report / 2020–2021

CREATING ACCESS TO LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND THE BELL





Dear Friends,

With the end of another year, we continue to stand in awe of everything our staff, partners and donors have accomplished this year with the ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and social injustices. Our board, staff and network of schools and providers remained steadfast in their commitments to supporting Richmond youth with opportunities to set them on a path to success.

During the 2020–2021 school year, **330** youth accessed high-quality learning enrichments from our network of **68** organizations. The power of this collective effort continues to produce positive outcomes for students, including more than 70% of students who improved or maintained attendance during the unprecedented year of virtual school.

One thing the youth development field has always prioritized is the social and emotional well-being of students and its importance to school outcomes and overall health. We worked closely with Richmond Public Schools and our providers to support students with resources such as counseling, food and technology. This past year, 100% of students who completed our survey responded they had an adult through NextUp who they listened to and respected. Additionally, 83% of

respondents noted their participation in classes helped them find out what they were good at and what they liked to do.

As we look toward the next year and continuing on our mission of ensuring access to quality learning opportunities beyond the classroom, we will continue to champion equitable access for Richmond’s youth in all that we do.

We’d like to give our deep thanks for your support along the way. We could not have done this without you.

SINCERELY,

THURSTON MOORE
Chairman, Board of Directors

BARBARA COUTO SIPE
President & CEO

Our Goals

- Positive school attendance
- Positive school behavior
- Positive course performance
- Strong social/emotional well-being

Our Objectives

- Increase student and school access to quality learning experiences
- Improve student participation in quality programs
- Increase quality of programs and access to professional development

“I used to be bored and didn’t have anything to do after school. Now I can log on to NextUp classes.” **—NEVAEH**

SCHOOL YEAR 2020–2021 at a glance

178

new students

participated in virtual programming but had never taken a NextUp class before

330

students

served by NextUp virtual programming

48

students

attended at least one class each session of the academic year

Continuing Virtually

2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR

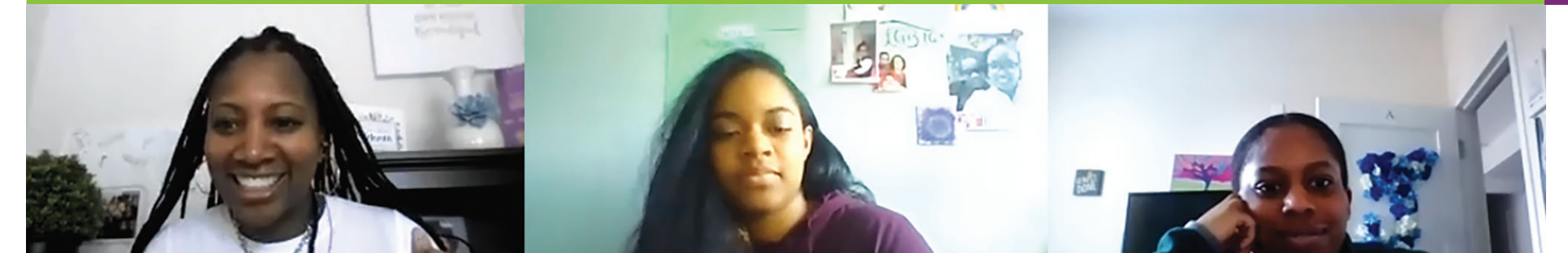
Last year’s pivot to online sessions became this year’s plan from the outset. We were determined not to allow the pandemic to further deepen opportunity gaps in learning. Our robust online portal was primed and ready to host interactive classes from quality organizations. Students grew from enriching live offerings in coding, anime, yoga, contemporary hip hop, cooking and much more. And, when they wanted to enjoy activities on their own, we offered

recordings in the areas of sports and health, STEM, arts and humanities, and leadership/work readiness.

This has been another difficult year that many may measure by the things they have lost. We cannot help but treasure what we have gained: an invaluable virtual tool that we can use to connect to students anytime, anywhere, whenever they need it most. We offered 422 hours of expanded learning time. We served 256 middle school, 63 elementary school and

11 high school students – all of whom now believe they have a supportive adult influence in their lives. And at the end, 91% of parents said they would love to have our virtual option open for the coming year.

As an organization, NextUp is continuing to make an impact on our students’ lives. Our offerings mean better behavior, better opportunities and better days for Richmond youth. And for that, we are grateful.



Performance Measures

ACCESS

Provided 442 hours of expanded learning time as well as wraparound health & human services for 256 RPS* middle schoolers, 63 elementary schoolers and 11 high schoolers through a coordinated after-school system of 68 local youth organizations.

**18 youths attended non-RPS schools*

PARTICIPATION

On average, students participated in 25.2 days of quality virtual programming during the school year. Also, 65 – or 20% of – students participated for 30 days or more. Research says students who participate in after-school programs for 30 days or more have better outcomes than non-participants.

QUALITY

92% of instructors reported that NextUp supports their own quality improvement.

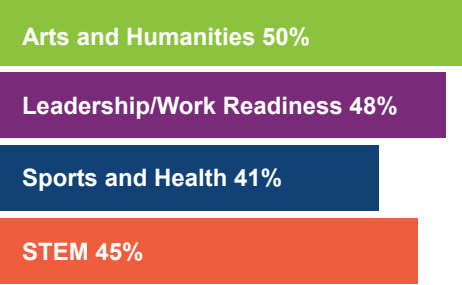


330

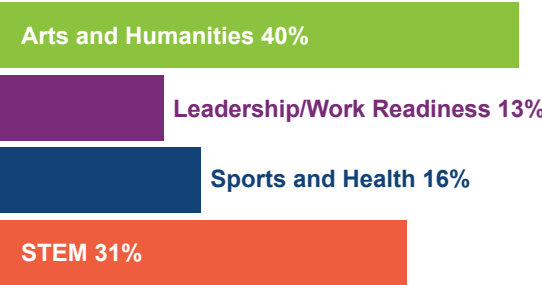
students gained access to quality learning enrichments in 2020–2021

Student Participation

PARTICIPATION BY PROGRAM TYPE



TYPES OF PROGRAMS DELIVERED BY PROVIDERS



Student Feedback

ENJOY & FEEL ENGAGED

89%

like coming to NextUp

97%

have fun when they're in NextUp

ACADEMIC SKILLS

62%

believe that attending program(s) online has helped them do better in school

SOCIAL/PERSONAL SKILLS

83%

believe that attending program(s) online has helped them find out what they're good at doing and what they like to do

SUPPORTIVE ADULT

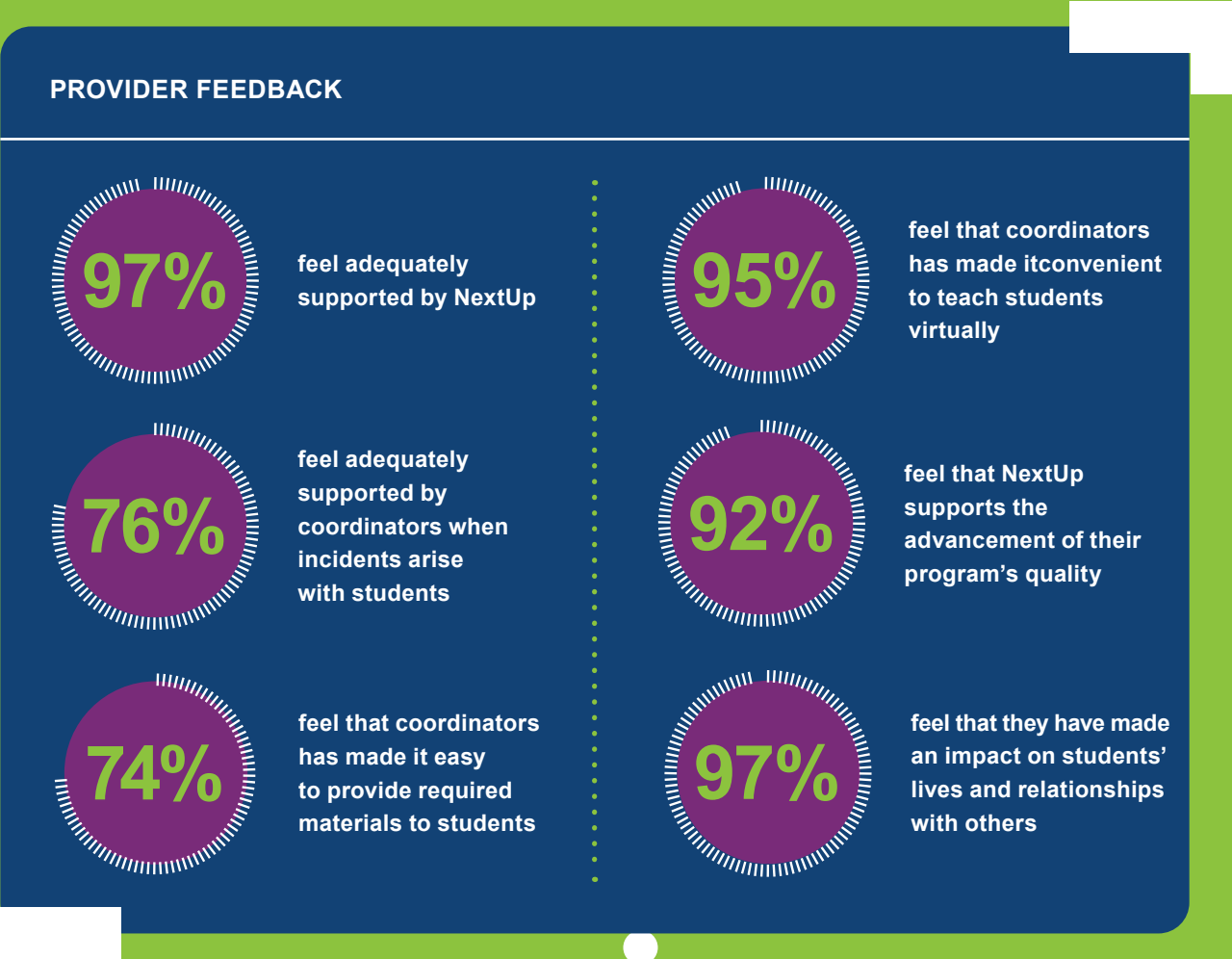
100%

have an adult in NextUp who they will listen to and respect

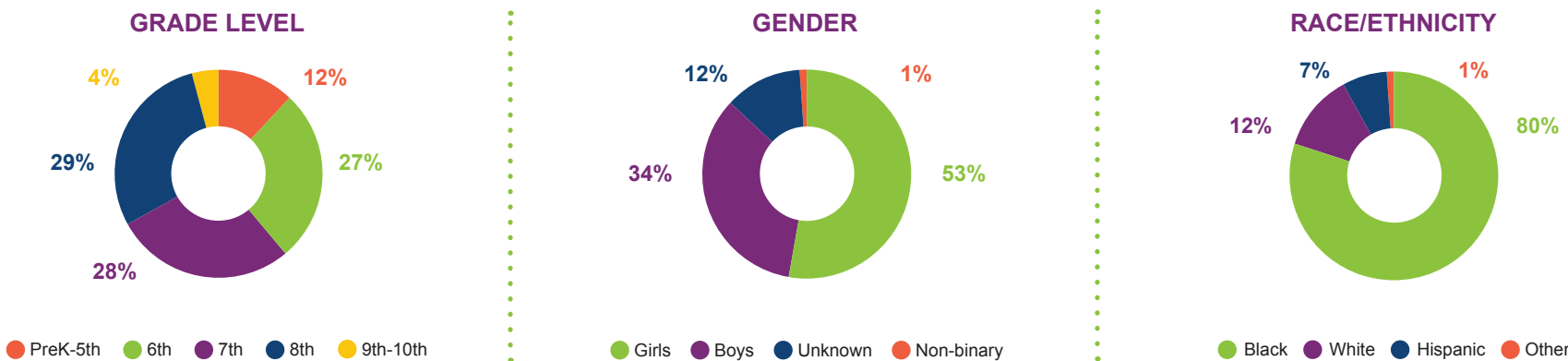


“ I love NextUp because it’s fun and you get tons of different activities. And, we have a raffle for attendance and student of the week.” –DAMARE

Coordination Expands Effective Programs and Supports Provider Quality



Student Demographics



“ I love NextUp because it’s fun. I really like Kidz N Biz because I like business and I like to have fun.”
—JOURNEY





Thank you to all sponsors, teachers, educators and students. This is a wonderful program for all children. Keep up the awesome work!!” **—PARENT**

Engaging Students with Academic Need

MEDIUM- TO HIGH-RISK STUDENTS

48%

had medium- or high-risk factors during the 2020–2021 school year

47%

had medium- or high-risk factors in attendance

6%

had medium- or high-risk factors in course performance

Impacting Student Achievement

PARTICIPATING STUDENTS' ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

72%

improved or maintained positive attendance

85%

had positive school attendance (attended school for 95% of the time or more)

62%

improved by 1 letter grade or maintained the same grade of C or above in English

63%

improved by 1 letter grade or maintained the same grade of C or above in math

86%

achieved a final grade of C or above in English

77%

achieved a final grade of C or above in math

Access to Quality Learning Enrichment Matters to Families

FAMILY FEEDBACK

88%

agree that NextUp helped with their child's needs

74%

are satisfied with the selection of virtual programs

85%

are satisfied with the quality of virtual classes through Zoom

97%

believe NextUp provided a safe virtual environment

91%

want the virtual option for their children in an upcoming school year



My child LOVED Ms. Dabney! She was engaging, enthusiastic and extremely knowledgeable about acting. My 9-year-old grew fond of her in a short period of time.” —PARENT



Ellen Victoria, Owner, Victoria's Kitchen

NEXTUP CLASS: CULINARY MASTERPIECE

Victoria's Kitchen was launched out of a need to provide healthy and delicious home-cooked meals for the daughters of the co-owners who had dietary concerns. It has transformed into a community cooking school that helps kids and their parents learn the importance of incorporating more natural, organic and fresh ingredients into their meals.

Ellen started out by partnering with local schools to offer cooking classes to students, then discovered NextUp and thought it would be the perfect fit. A provider since 2018, Ellen teaches a class called Culinary Masterpiece that is full every session. She likes to think outside of the box and try new things to keep youth engaged. Students read recipes, learn math through measurements and fraction conversion, and enjoy culinary science experiments.

Popular recipes include healthy fried chicken, oven-fried chicken nuggets, doughnuts and 3-layer lasagna.

"NextUp [makes] you feel so important and so comfortable. We're more than just a cooking school; we're community."



Helping Students Discover, Explore and Engage

THANK YOU TO OUR NETWORK OF PARTNERS THAT HAVE HELPED MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

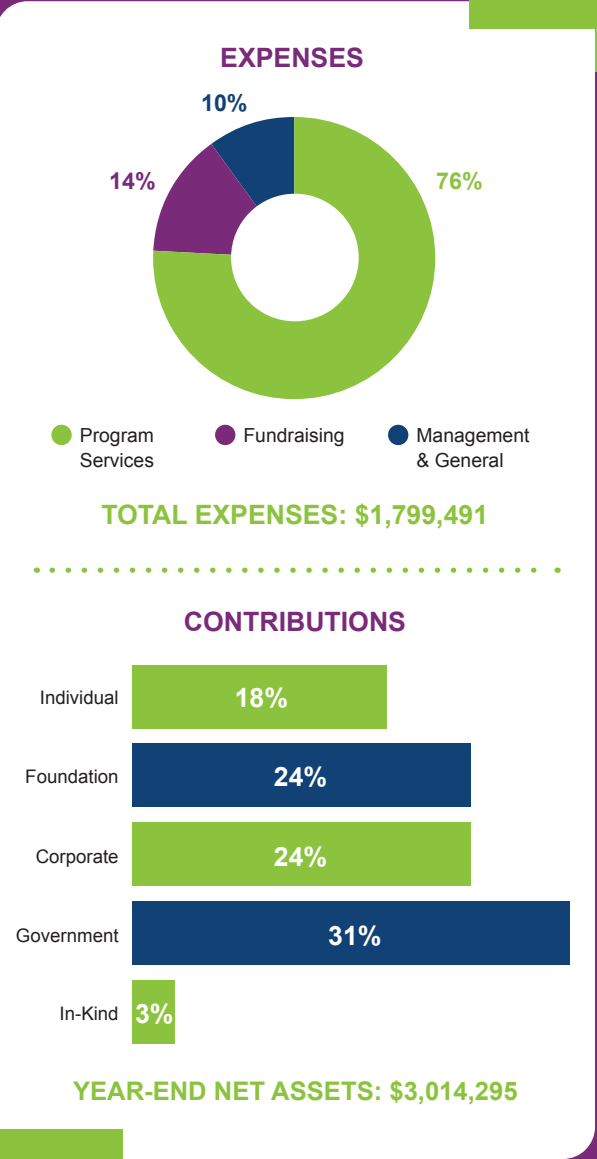
PROGRAM PROVIDERS

Act Out	Gamer Events RVA	Little Scholars	The Live Red Foundation
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay	Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia	M. H. West & Co., Inc.	The Men of Barton Heights Youth Organization
Anime Club (Andrea Bryant)	Girls For A Change	Podium RVA	The Metropolitan Business League
ART 180	Girls on the Run of Greater Richmond	Poetry Café	Trinity Village Center
Avail Outpatient Counseling	Greater Richmond Fit4Kids	Project Yoga Richmond	VCU Dept of Forensic Science
Axiom Educators, LLC	Hand Thrown	Relationship Foundation of VA	VCU Mary and Frances Youth Center
Barbara Haas (Makerspace)	Heart of VA Council Boy Scouts of America	Richmond Performing Arts Alliance	Vedant Holdings DBA Doodle Dynamo
Blue Sky Fund	Henderson Golf Club	Richmond Public Schools Education Foundation	Vedant Holdings LLC DBA Club SciKidz
Bobcats Sports League	IBY Yoga and Mindfulness (a division of Itty Bitty Yogis)	Richmond Volleyball Club	Victoria's Kitchen, LLC
Bona Vita Inc., Founders Mark	Inspire RVA, LLC	Richmond Young Writers	Virginia Cooperative Extension RVA 4-H
Chess RVA, LLC	JumpStarz LLC	RVA Performance Training	Virginia Outside
Downward Dog Dance and Yoga	Kids in Crisis	RVA Skate Club (A partner of EnRichmond Foundation)	Virginia Repertory Theatre
Edible Education	Kidz R Cookin', LLC	Sacred Heart Center	Virginia Squash Racquets Association, Inc. (VA Squash)
FinLit/ The Institute for the Advancement of Young People	Latin Ballet of Virginia	Scholarship Chess Business Center	Visual Arts Center of Richmond
FIRST Chesapeake	Legacy Band Brand LLC	Sports Backers	Work of Art
Flawless Imperfections, LLC / R.E.A.L Girlz	Life's Interpretation	Team MAGIK, Inc	Your Visionary Designer
Focus Our Future, Inc	Light The Music	The Leadership and Achievement Academy	Youth Impact



“There’s more to do after school than just going home. At NextUp, you get to make stuff for yourself and to show your family. I love Culinary Masterpiece and making chocolate hazelnut cookies.” –SYNHAI

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Program Services Coordinator

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BARBARA COUTO SIPE
President & CEO

JEANINE TURNER
Director of Programs



“ I have girls that are in the program. Since being in the program, they are more engaged in school and learning. They can’t wait until it’s time to log on and participate in their selected programs. Now they are talking about careers in robotics and community service.” –PARENT

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