

YPIE partners with high school students from Yonkers Public Schools to ensure they are ready for, enroll in, and complete college.

Challenge

A bachelor's degree is often required for low-income individuals to attain economic self-sufficiency. Yet "middle performing" students from the eight Yonkers public high schools have only a 25% likelihood of earning a BA. Intense support is necessary to increase those students' life chances.

Target Populations

YPIE targets "middle-performing" high school students who aspire to college and project to be college eligible but do not yet have the skills and resources to graduate. A minimally selective process yields the following cohorts:

Scholars enter in January of 9th grade

- 80% with PSAT b/w 777 and 917
- 90% qualify for F/R price lunch

Fellows enter in January of 11th grade

- Must have a WGPA b/w 85 and 92
- 90% qualify for F/R price lunch

College Success

- College enrollees (primarily Scholars not already attending opportunity program)
- WGPA b/w 86 and 92
- 100% qualify for F/R price lunch

Program Interventions

Scholars receive all services listed below (2x/week for 9th – 12th grade at The YPIE College Zone)

Fellows receive the services under College Access (10+ mtgs in 11th & 12th grade)

College Readiness

- Additional academic instruction (180 hours) in reading, writing, math, and SAT/ACT prep
- Mentoring and coaching, performed by full-time staff; plus, twice-monthly meetings with volunteer mentors
- Intense exploration of career pathways (e.g. science research, journalism, film)
- Development of life skills via community-building, SEL and mental health services
- Assistance in securing meaningful summer experiences (e.g. retail job, internship, or academic course)

College Access

- College advising, with a focus on "best fit" schools, including campus visits
- College application support, including essay support and test prep
- Financial aid and FAFSA counseling for students and families

College Persistence

- Transition-to-college coaching
- Twice-monthly (or more) "intrusive advising" sessions during freshman and sophomore yrs
- Emergency Fund

Short-term Indicators

Scholars

- 75% (starting beginning of 10th grade) complete the four-year program
- 85% increase SAT scores by 220+ points from 9th grade PSAT to 12th grade SAT
- 65% increase WGPA by end of 12th grade vs end of 9th grade WGPA

Scholars and Fellows

- 85% of high school graduates enroll in a 4-year college
- 70% of college enrollees persist through sophomore year of college

Long-term Outcomes

YPIE aims for 60% of its high school graduating participants—both Scholars and Fellows—to graduate college with a bachelor's degree within 6 years of high school graduation.

Broader Vision

All students—regardless of background—become lifelong learners equipped to thrive in the future economy and empowered to contribute to their communities and humanity.