Reach for Excellence empowers determined learners and expands their possibilities in the classroom, in the community, and in life.

Reach for Excellence is a tuition-free academic and leadership enrichment program for Metro Atlanta middle school students with limited opportunities and resources. Any fifth-grade student of limited income (defined as $50,000 or less) in the Metro Atlanta area can apply to the program.

Reach for Excellence prepares talented middle school students to succeed in college preparatory programs. Through three six-week summer sessions and three years of Saturday courses, the program provides and reinforces the academic and social skills each student needs to succeed in high school, college, and beyond. Certified master teachers from public and private schools create a unique environment where students learn about academic subjects, their community, each other, and themselves.

Help change lives through education and opportunity by donating at reachforexcellence.org/donate

COHORT U, CLASS OF 2023
18 Graduates

Barrow Arts and Science Academy
Berkmar High School
Chamblee Charter High School
Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School
Holy Innocents’ Episcopal School
Marist School
Miss Porter’s School
Phillips Andover Academy
The Paideia School
The Westminster Schools
Tucker High School

High School Acceptances/Enrollment

Black/African-American 44%
Hispanic 40%
Asian 16%

Gwinnett County 11.1%
DeKalb County 83.3%
Fulton County 5.6%

8 Females
10 Males

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Reach for Excellence scholars experience hands-on learning during their computer science, math, and robotics courses. Each student takes one fifty-minute class period of math instruction each day during our sixteen Saturday sessions and our six-week summer session. In the summer, all students have one class period per day of computer science and have the option to take a robotics elective. Over the three years of Reach for Excellence participation, students receive at least 120 hours of math enrichment, 75 hours of computer science instruction, and the opportunity for an additional 75 hours of robotics programming.

Even more importantly, this time is spent with intentional experiential learning designed to prepare our scholars for the rigor of college prep high school programs. The computer science program works to ensure that scholars have the access, experience, and confidence needed for Advanced Placement Computer Science classes and beyond. Students learn Scratch and Python in their first summer, then focus on Java programming for their final two years. Students are taught to view computer science and programming as a creative endeavor through designing and programming graphics, animation, and interactive programs. Students who choose to take a robotics elective are introduced to computational thinking skills through the use of text, graphics, sound, and movement with a focus on design and applications for robots.

Our math curriculum is also designed to help our scholars excel in their high school programs. Through games and activities specifically designed for Reach for Excellence students, students practice the concepts and skills needed to ensure they are successful in higher level math studies. In addition to regular math classes, our students also receive SSAT preparation in the fall of their 8th grade year. This test is required for all students applying to independent schools and it also provides a foundation for later standardized testing.