



CITY YEAR'S EVIDENCE OF IMPACT

How our holistic approach benefits students, teachers, schools, AmeriCorps members and communities

COVID-19 caused an abrupt closure of schools and a shift to distance learning that further exposed long-standing, systemic inequities. In response, City Year—leaning into our evidence-based, holistic *Whole School, Whole Child (WSWC)*¹ services and the strength of our school and district partnerships—has been able to adapt to local needs, innovate and continue serving students, teachers and communities in 29 cities across the country.



Navigating the virtual world has so many challenges. I can't say enough about City Year and their impact on our school, their willingness to support our school's initiatives, and their flexibility in this difficult environment. **-CITY YEAR PARTNER PRINCIPAL, SPRING 2021 SURVEY**

HOW WE HAVE RESPONDED DURING COVID-19

City Year AmeriCorps members serve in systemically under-resourced schools as *student success coaches*²—full-time, near-peer tutors, mentors and role models who are uniquely positioned and trained to connect with students and support their academic and social-emotional growth and success.

AMERICORPS MEMBERS FOCUS ON:

- Building consistent, caring and positive relationships with students every day
- Partnering with teachers to ensure students are engaged with their learning, which is critical to durable skill development
- Contributing additional *joy, stability and belonging* to the school experience

Students have experienced interruptions in their learning and in their lives because of the pandemic. Because City Year's research-informed services emphasize both academic and social-emotional growth, we have collaborated with others to provide holistic well-being supports that students and teachers need right now—and that are essential for learning and development to take place.



My City Year has been incredibly adaptive and involved given our changing circumstances. Several of my students have said how my City Year has helped them regain their motivation and feel better during online learning. **-CITY YEAR PARTNER TEACHER, FALL 2020 SURVEY**

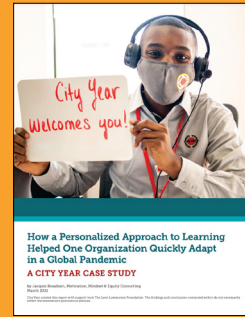
¹ City Year's Whole School, Whole Child approach. Retrieved from: http://info.cityyear.org/rs/871-RSR-024/images/WholeSchoolWholeChild_Overview.pdf ² City Year. Building a National K-12 Student Success Coach Corps: An Evidence-based AmeriCorps Strategy to Address Systemic Educational Inequities. Draft concept paper. (2021). Retrieved from: https://www.cityyear.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Student-Success-Coach-Concept-Paper_Oct-2020.pdf



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How we know it works

- **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:** Studies show that schools that partner with City Year are up to two to three times more likely to improve⁵ in English and math assessments.
- **HOLISTIC GROWTH:** The more time students spend with AmeriCorps members, the more likely they are to improve on social, emotional and academic skills⁶ and on attendance, with students who are furthest behind benefitting the most.
- **STUDENT VOICE AND ENGAGEMENT:** A 2021 student survey⁷ found that 84% of students feel that their City Year AmeriCorps member teaches them how to self-advocate and ask for help when they need it, which are critical skills for life and workforce success.
- **ON-TRACK INDICATORS:** There's evidence that our work has an impact on reducing the number of students who are off track⁸ to high school graduation.
- **EDUCATOR SUPPORT:** Our partners⁹ find our work valuable: 94% of partner principals agree that City Year has supported their schools' transitions between in person and distance or hybrid learning, and 95% of partner principals and partner teachers say City Year AmeriCorps members have supported the engagement and participation of students in school during the pandemic.
- **COST-EFFECTIVENESS:** A 2017 analysis by Deloitte¹⁰ showed that for the schools we partner with, City Year is 78% more cost effective than contracting with individual providers to deliver the same set of services.
- **WORKFORCE AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:** City Year's 35,000 alumni continue to lead and serve across a broad range of professions, including education. According to the latest alumni survey¹¹, nearly half of AmeriCorps members—44%—remain in the community where they served, contributing to the local economy, workforce and social fabric.



A 2021 case study by Motivation, Mindset & Equity Consulting³, captured City Year's ability to respond and adapt to distance and hybrid learning during the pandemic.

The case study underscores City Year's impact on students and schools, findings that are reinforced by third-party studies and partner surveys.

KEY FINDINGS

- Modeling a personalized approach to learning and development at all levels of the organization allowed for nimbleness and innovation during a global pandemic.
- Prioritizing trust and strong relationships is the foundation for successful personalization of learning for young people.
- Leaning into building strong developmental relationships proved critical for maintaining student engagement.

³ Beaubien, Jacquie. How a personalized approach to learning helped one organization quickly adapt in a global pandemic. (2021). Motivation, Mindset and Equity Consulting. Retrieved from: <https://www.cityyear.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/City-Year-Adapting-in-Global-Pandemic.pdf> ⁴ How City Year defines personalized learning: the process of tailoring learning to focus on each students' strengths, addressing their specific gaps, ensuring that they have strong relationships with the adults and peers they are learning with and from, and supporting them to develop the agency and confidence needed to take ownership of their learning. ⁵ Meredith, J., Anderson, L.M. Analysis of City Year's Whole School Whole Child Mode on Partner Schools' Performance. (2015). Policy Studies Associates. Retrieved from: <https://www.cityyear.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/PSAstudy2015.pdf> ⁶ Balfanz, R. Byrnes, V. Connecting Social- Emotional Development, Academic Achievement, and On-Track Outcomes: A multi-district study of grades 3 to 10 students supported by City Year AmeriCorps members. (2020). Everyone Graduates Center at the Johns Hopkins University. Retrieved from: https://www.cityyear.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/EGC_CityYearReport_BalfanzByrnes.pdf ⁷ A student survey was administered at one City Year site in February 2021; there were 487 responses, with 480 responses in English and 7 responses in Spanish. Survey items included customized questions from Search Institute's Developmental Relationships survey tool and University of Chicago's Cultivate survey tool. ⁸ MDRC. Addressing Early Warning Indicators: Interim impact findings from the Investing in Innovation (i3) Evaluation of Diplomas Now. (2016). Retrieved from: https://www.cityyear.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Addressing-Early-Warning-Indicators_2016.pdf ⁹ City Year's Spring 2021 Service Partner Surveys. Partner principals n=295; partner teachers n=825 ¹⁰ In 2017, Deloitte Consulting LLP was engaged to aggregate and synthesize various industry and internal analyses to help City Year estimate and articulate ROI; City Year costs as compared to benchmark analysis of costs to provide similar services provided by a combination of individual providers. ¹¹ City Year Alumni Survey, April 2020, 21,786 alumni contacted; 20% response rate, which is statistically significant.