

Celebrating — 10 YEARS — **OF CAMP ACHIEVE**



Celebrating 10 years of partnership to
provide high-quality summer programming

WE ARE CELEBRATING!

CAMP ACHIEVE'S 10TH YEAR

The West Contra Costa Public Education Fund (Ed Fund) is celebrating the **10th year** of Camp Achieve in partnership with the **City of Richmond** and the **West Contra Costa Unified School District** (WCCUSD). Camp Achieve has played a critical role in providing access to free, high-quality programming to ensure students continue learning and growing during the summertime. Over the past decade, the camps have experienced remarkable growth, with this year's camp sites operating beyond capacity. This milestone (**a 194% increase in attendance since 2014**), not only reflects the increasing popularity of the program but also the strong community support and demand for quality summer activities.



THE IMPACT

The impact of Camp Achieve extends beyond academic retention; it fosters social development, confidence, and a love of learning. By providing a safe and engaging environment, camp not only keeps students mentally active, but also helps them build lasting friendships and life skills.

Fun fact: Did you know Camp Achieve is one of the Ed Fund's longest initiatives?



"Students look forward to it all year... You can expect Camp Achieve to have loving adults, high-quality projects and curriculum, and exciting field trips (the food is also good!)."

- Sam Cleare, Camp Achieve Teacher, Booker T. Anderson Community Center

THE PARTNERSHIP



"High quality summer programs like Camp Achieve matter more than ever because of the tumultuous educational times. Students coming out of the pandemic, especially Black and Brown students, who were already disproportionately disadvantaged fell even further behind. Camp Achieve is one vital way in bridging that educational achievement gap. Not only does Camp Achieve attend to students' educational needs but also serves their emotional/social needs."

- Eduardo Ontiveros, Camp Achieve Teacher, Shields Reid Community Center

The collaborative effort to run camp started back in **2013** when the City of Richmond, WCCUSD and the Ed Fund recognized the significance of the **summer opportunity gap and learning loss** that students were experiencing, especially those who didn't have access to affordable programs. Through these conversations, Camp Achieve was born. **WCCUSD has contributed yearly to Camp, demonstrating their commitment to students furthest from opportunity.** Camp is one of the longest standing partnerships between the city, school district and local community-based organizations.

To strengthen the quality of Richmond's summer programs and expand the number of children served, Camp Achieve focused on developing four camps located in community centers near public housing in Richmond's highest-need neighborhoods.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ed Fund recognized there was a need to support students during this time of uncertainty, prioritizing a virtual camp. Because of its longevity and consistency of staff, Camp Achieve was also able to adapt quickly post-COVID with the understanding that many students had fallen behind even more during the pandemic.

THE PROGRAMMING

Camp Achieve is dedicated to providing children with certified staff who deliver an extensive **8-week program** grounded in national best practices and principles for youth development.

4 CAMP SITES

Booker T. Anderson Community Center

Nevin Community Center

Parchester Neighborhood Center

Shields Reid Communiy Center

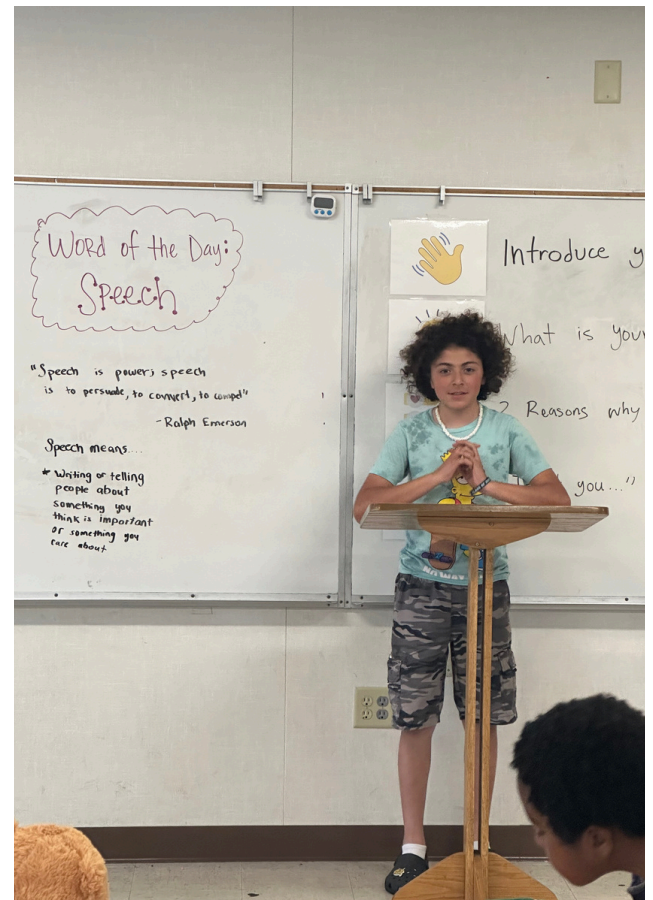
This summer, Camp Achieve partnered with **Bay Area Creative, East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, West Coast Chess Alliance, The Practice Space, UCSF MESA, Rob Skate Academy, Children's Therapy Institute, and the East Bay Pickleball Association** to provide valuable programming.



WHAT DO WE DO AT CAMP?

Camp Achieve's programming is based on holistic youth development principles, meeting the needs of the whole child:

- **Academics:** Camp Achieve's project-based curriculum is focused on literacy and STEM. Topics include: History, Healthy Living, Gears, Gizmos and Gadgets and Creative Arts.
- **Physical activity and healthy fitness:** Each week, students go swimming, play pickleball, walk to nearby parks and around their community centers.
- **Diverse enrichment:** Weekly offerings include dance, theater performances, skateboarding, public speaking, socio-emotional workshops, and field trips to places like the San Francisco Zoo, Exploratorium, and local water parks.



"There's a variety of classes that the kids can try out. It's a well-rounded program with lots of choices."

- Eric Yee, Parchester Neighborhood Center Site Coordinator



LITERACY AT CAMP ACHIEVE

During the summer, students can lose over two months of reading achievement. To combat this, **teacher Eduardo Ontiveros developed a framework that supplements student reading while leaving plenty of time for them to explore new, exciting material.**

His approach emphasizes building fluency skills through weekly poetry readings, with a focused 10-minute daily session dedicated to reading and practicing the poems. The material includes sight words pertinent to the students' grade levels; the importance of these words are highlighted during read-aloud sessions,. Students then engage in a brief word study activity. **The teacher selects eight to ten words from the text for students to read in isolation, followed by word work activities such as analyzing rhymes, word sorts, and word games.** This method not only helps maintain reading skills but also makes learning fun and engaging.



“Over half of the reading achievement gap is attributable to unequal access to summer learning opportunities.”¹

1. Kim, James S. "Summer Reading and the Ethnic Achievement Gap." Phi Delta Kappan, vol. 92, no. 1, 2010, pp. 64-67. Harvard Scholar, "Over half of the reading achievement gap is attributable to unequal access to summer learning opportunities." (Harvard, Solving the Problem of Summer Reading Loss, 2011).

THE OUTCOMES

Camp Achieve has demonstrated its impact through its outcomes, which have remained consistent, but are always evolving and deepening.



1. ACADEMIC AND LITERACY GROWTH

This year, the Ed Fund administered the San Diego Quick Assessment to gauge reading levels of Camp Achieve students before and after camp. On average, students reading ability increased 3.04 months (about 1/3 grade level gain), as opposed to 2 months of reading loss.



2. CONNECTION/ SAFETY

Through the Camp Achieve model, every kid is connected with a caring adult. According to the camp's exit survey, each year over 90% of kids report a strong connection with the adults and staff, which helps to make camp a safe and supportive environment during the summer months.



3. SOCIO-EMOTIONAL & PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Camp Achieve offers a diverse range of activities that focus on socio-emotional and physical development, including sports, clubs, music, and creative arts. 100% of students select their own enrichment activities and showcase their growth at the end of camp through performances and presentations.

"As a parent who lives and works in Richmond, you want to send your kid to a place that's safe and enriching. It's a testament to Camp Achieve to have that much consistency... it says a lot about the sense of trust that they have built to keep enrollment so high..."

- Bryan Alvarez, East Bay Center for the Performing Arts

A DECADE OF SERVICE

In 2019, the League of California cities presented the City of Richmond, WCCUSD, and the Ed Fund with the **Helen Putnam Award for Excellence** for Camp Achieve. The program was commended for its success in combating summer learning loss through intergovernmental and non-profit collaboration.

The positive outcomes seen in participants underscore the importance of continuing this vital program for our community's youth. The Ed Fund is thankful to everyone who has been involved over the last wonderful decade every summer to offer these invaluable resources to our students.

As Recreation Supervisor, Troy Porter, said, **"We're very proud of Camp Achieve. It's been rewarding to see what positive things can be achieved for our youth when local government, nonprofits, and the school district work together for a common cause."**



"We couldn't be happier with the continued strength of our partnership to ensure students learn and thrive over the summer and return to school with a solid foundation and more self-confidence."

- Dr. Kenneth Hurst, Superintendent,
WCCUSD

Thank you to all camp participants and families for your continued trust and enthusiasm and to our funders and partners for your ongoing support. Here's to another year of fostering growth, learning, and fun at Camp Achieve! We look forward to the next 10 years.