



An Achievable Dream

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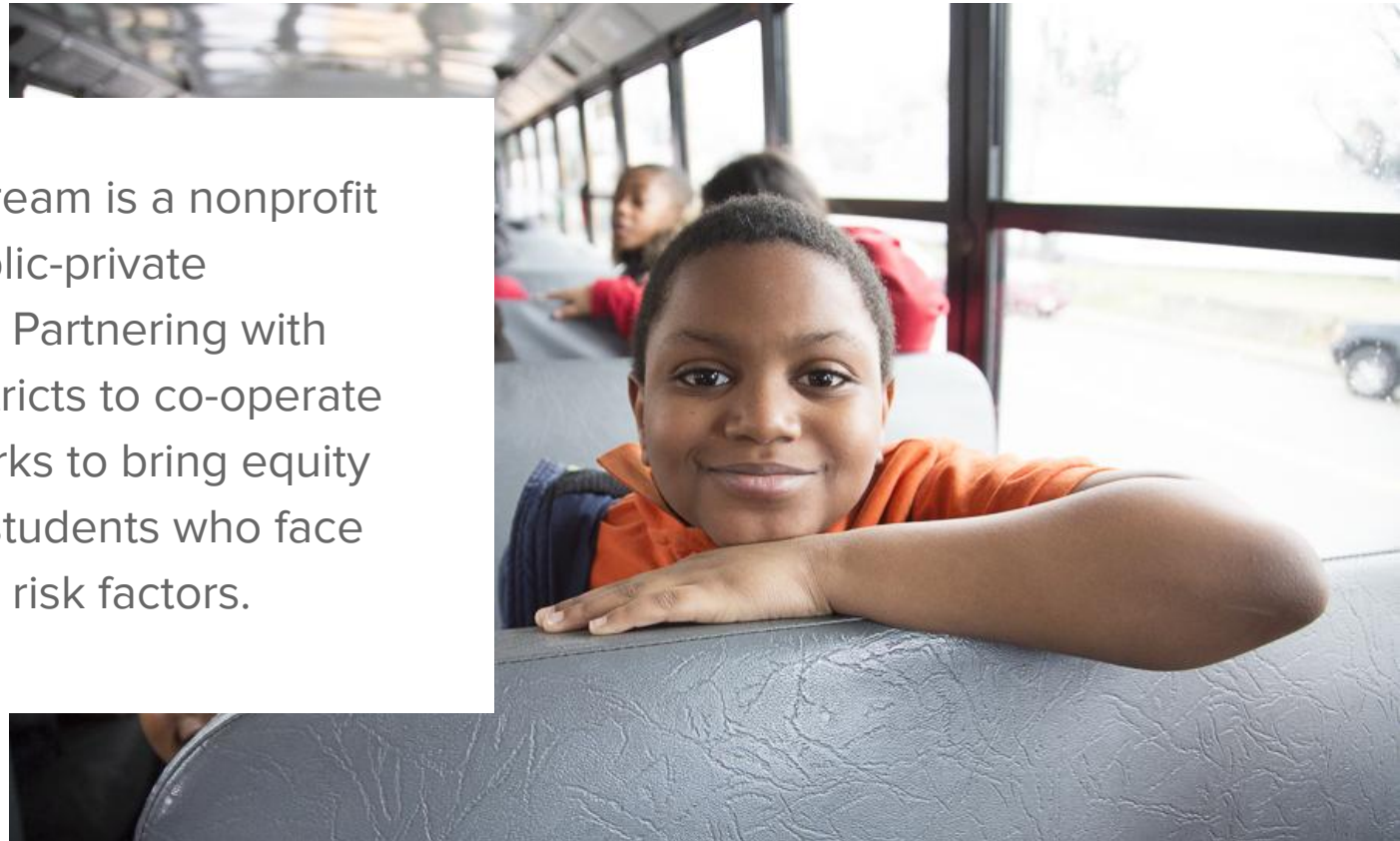
Developing independent, productive citizens through a social, academic, and mindset education.

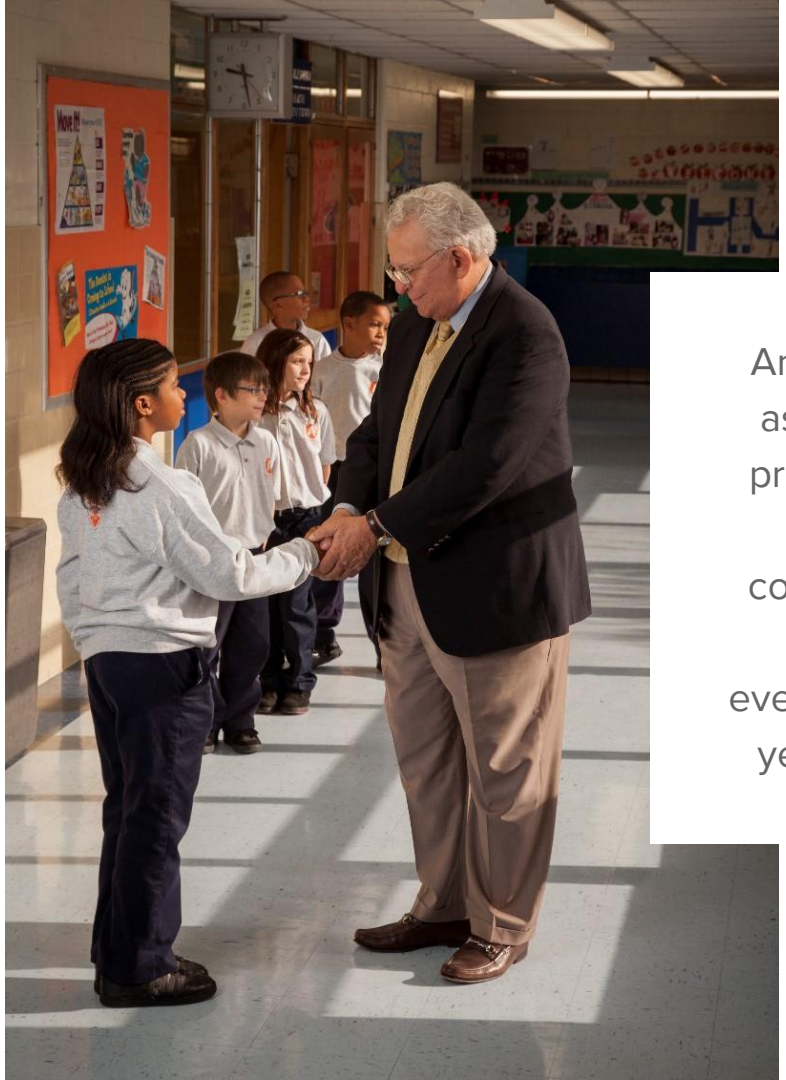




What is An Achievable Dream?

An Achievable Dream is a nonprofit and a unique public-private education model. Partnering with public school districts to co-operate schools, AAD works to bring equity to education for students who face a variety of social risk factors.





History

An Achievable Dream (AAD) was founded in 1992 as a summer and after-school tennis and tutoring program run by Walter Segaloff, a businessman in Newport News who cared a great deal for the community. The program was so successful that it soon became an elementary school program, eventually growing to middle and high school. This year, AAD is celebrating its 34 years in operation.

Our Schools

An Achievable Dream operates four schools across two school districts:

Newport News

- An Achievable Dream Academy
- An Achievable Dream Middle and High School

Virginia Beach

- Seatack Elementary, An Achievable Dream Academy
- An Achievable Dream Middle & High School at Lynnhaven





Program Structure

AAD has a unique structure. We partner with public school districts to jointly operate schools.

- All schools are BOTH Virginia Beach City Public Schools AND An Achievable Dream schools.
- Core structure, service and staff of school system plus AAD's curriculum, resources, staff and culture.
- Extended Day, Saturday School and Summer Intersession.
- SAME® (Social Academic and Mindset Education) Framework
- Any VB student can apply for AAD from K-9th grade. VBCPS provides transportation for 31 school zones.

Our Results

- 100% on-time graduation rate.
- 100% of AAD schools are fully accredited.
- 99% of AAD's over 1,100 graduates currently attend or have graduated from college or a trade school, serve in the military, and/or are in the workforce.
- 94% average daily attendance.
- 63% of AAD alumni are currently enrolled in or have graduated from college.
  (nationally only 25% of students from high-poverty high school schools graduate from college in 6 years.)



After Graduation

- 85% - 90% of students attend a two or four-year college.
- 10% - 15% attend a trade school, join the military or enter the workforce.

Key Program Elements

AAD's trademarked SAME® (Social, Academic and Mindset Education) framework is utilized in all AAD schools, focusing on developing the whole child. The following unique elements enhance the traditional public school model and contribute to the success of our students:

- Daily handshakes and morning greeting
- Morning program
- Social rotations
- Extensive field trips
- Clubs
- Uniforms
- Extended academic day and year
- Family environment and strong emphasis on relationships
- Community, military, law enforcement, and corporate partnerships
- Wrap-around services
- Scholarship and ongoing support

Social Rotations

Students participate in weekly social rotations during extended academic hours. These courses enhance their soft skills and aid in the social-emotional development students need.

- Ethics & Conflict Resolution
- Etiquette
- Mindfulness & Meditation
- Speaking Green
- STEM



Our Dreamers

- An Achievable Dream serves over 1,700 students across our schools.
- We strive to serve students and families who can most benefit from the program's additional opportunities and resources.
- Demographics:
    - Upon entry, 95% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.
    - 95% of students identify as being from a minority population.
    - 62% of AAD students live in single-parent households or guardian-led households.





Partnerships

Partnerships and Relationships are core values of An Achievable Dream and critical in the work we do every day to support our Dreamers. Some of our key partnerships include:

- Health systems
- Local military and first responders
- Corporations and local businesses
- Community and civic groups
- Class sponsors
- Colleges and universities
- Other nonprofit organizations





Trauma-Informed Care



- Trauma has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social or emotional well-being.
- Pillars of trauma-informed care: Safety, Connection, and Emotional Regulation
- 100% of AAD schools have a full-time Wellness Coordinator.
    - These specially-trained professionals make our school communities more trauma-informed by teaching students to self-regulate to stay focused on learning, preparing teachers with the tools and resources they need to respond to students struggling with trauma, and educating the entire school community about the effects of trauma.
- The Wellness team met with 200+ students last year, and 100+ students were met with on a weekly basis.
- There has been a 17% decrease in behavior referrals since 2024.

Whatever it Takes: Wrap-Around Services & Emergency Funding

- Food baskets for the Thanksgiving and holiday breaks
- Holiday gifts
- Eye exams and glasses
- Transportation
- Home visits
- Parent education
- Rent or utility payments
- Tuition
- Medical bills
- Technology



Career and Workforce Preparation

- **What It Takes:** Career readiness program where corporate partners lead structured classroom sessions that teach essential professional skills while sharing real-world workplace experiences and expectations.
- **Career Exploration & Exposure:** Students gain firsthand insight into careers through job shadowing, facility tours, and career events that connect learning to real workplace environments.
- **College & Career Preparation:** Summer programs, enrichment experiences, and college tours provide early exposure to career paths and post-secondary opportunities.





Post-Graduation Support



- **College & University Partnerships:** Partner institutions provide financial support, academic advising, success coaching, and wrap-around services to help Dreamers persist and thrive in post-secondary settings.
- **Scholarship & Financial Support:** An Achievable Dream provides scholarships to all graduates and works closely with students to ensure completion of FAFSA requirements and additional scholarship applications so finances are never a barrier to taking the next step after graduation.
- **Post-Secondary Transition & Alumni Support:** Individualized advising and ongoing alumni communication support students as they transition into college, trade programs, military service, or the workforce.



Questions?