



Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The mission of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. CDF Freedom Schools® provide summer and after-school enrichment through a research-based and multicultural curriculum that supports children and families through five essential components: high quality academic and character-building enrichment; parent and family involvement; civic engagement and social action; intergenerational servant leadership development; and nutrition, health and mental health. *CDF Freedom Schools* incorporate the totality of CDF's mission by fostering environments that support children and young adults to excel and believe in their abilities to make a difference in themselves and in their families, schools, communities, country, and world with hope, education and action.

Since 1995, more than 169,000 children (Pre-K–12) have had the *CDF Freedom Schools* experience, and more than 19,000 young adults and child advocates have been trained on the delivery of the *CDF Freedom Schools* model. Although we remain in the COVID-19 global pandemic, many sponsors returned to safe operation this year offering in-person, virtual, and hybrid programs, multiplying our 2020 reach by 2.5.

In 2021, *CDF Freedom Schools* partnered with 94 organizations to serve over 7,200 children at 152 program sites in 75 cities and 26 states (including Washington, D.C.). Across the nation, *CDF Freedom Schools* programs served more than 4,700 African-American and Latinx children, and 100 youth in secure detention facilities.

The *CDF Freedom Schools* has origins in the Mississippi Freedom Summer project of 1964, which brought college students from around the country to Mississippi to secure justice and voting rights for Black citizens. These early Freedom Schools aimed at keeping Black children and youth safe and giving them rich educational experiences that were not offered to them in Mississippi's public schools. In a variety of makeshift settings, college student volunteers provided instruction in reading, writing, humanities, mathematics, and science along with subjects not taught in Mississippi public schools, such as Black history and constitutional rights. All of their instruction was tailored to encourage children and youth to become independent thinkers, problem solvers, and agents of change in their own communities.

CDF opened the first two *CDF Freedom Schools* sites in 1995 to address the needs of children who lacked access to high-quality literacy programs during the summer. *CDF Freedom Schools* today are designed to improve reading, language skills, and interpersonal relationships; strengthen families, connect children to medical and other needed social services, and develop in all participants the skills needed to improve conditions for children and families in their communities.

At the center of the *CDF Freedom School* program is a research-based Integrated Reading Curriculum (IRC) that fosters literacy. CDF has been in the forefront of raising consciousness about the fact that fewer than 27% of children's books published in the United States are about nonwhite children. Each year, a group of outstanding authors and illustrators select from a diverse body of children's literature books that will celebrate and nurture multiple racial identities and cultures. A distinguished group of historians and scholars reviews and recommends books used in *CDF Freedom Schools* to ensure that children read only those containing accurate narratives of history.

IRC instruction is delivered by college-aged Servant Leader Interns who serve as multigenerational mentors for small classes of no more than ten children. By providing rich, culturally relevant and high quality books that deepen children's understanding of themselves and all they have in common with others in a multiracial, multicultural democratic society, *CDF Freedom Schools* students gain understanding and a sense of connection to the books they read, which fosters a love of reading.

Extracurricular activities and social action projects provide opportunities for children in *CDF Freedom Schools* to build confidence about the ways in which they, their peers, and role models can become empowered and capable. During the afternoon, children and youth participate in structured extracurricular enrichment activities, such as organized sports and recreation; artistic pursuits of all forms, hands-on activities that promote learning in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and field trips. *CDF Freedom Schools* afternoon activities also include service and social action projects that foster awareness of community problems and ways of solving

them. Students visit and write letters to elected officials, join town hall meetings, rallies, and marches, and take part in public education activities and voter registration drives.

The *CDF Freedom Schools* program is making an impact in the lives of children and families nationwide. National evaluations completed in 2021 show that over 84 percent of students participating in *CDF Freedom Schools* maintain or gain an average of five months in their reading levels. Research has established other positive effects that the *CDF Freedom Schools* program has on students' attitudes about school and parents' engagement in the education of their children.

Since 1995, more than 19,000 college students and recent graduates who have worked as CDF servant leader interns have received training in research-based pedagogical strategies that have proven their effectiveness in increasing the academic achievement and school engagement of children growing up in poverty. The recruitment and training of servant leader interns is another way in which CDF is addressing the nation's critical need for nonwhite teachers who reflect the diverse ethnic and cultural composition of the majority of children in America's public schools. Each year on average, over 1,200 *CDF Freedom Schools* staff members learn how to make the CDF Integrated Reading Curriculum accessible and enjoyable for children with vastly different learning styles. The young adults who complete the *CDF Freedom Schools* training and parents of children in the program learn how to ask questions and engage children in discussions that foster the development of their critical and creative thinking skills. Most of all, training provided by *CDF Freedom Schools* teaches adults who work with children both in and outside of classrooms to love, support and set high expectations that instill self-confidence that can transform a child's life.

CDF Freedom Schools also have produced over 400 Ella Baker trainers since 1995. Ella Baker trainers are the best of the best *CDF Freedom Schools* teacher-mentors and are selected to join a national training team to implement the *CDF Freedom Schools* model. Many Ella Baker trainers move on to become teachers, educational administrators and CDF staff members. All staff working in *CDF Freedom Schools* complete training virtually or in a hybrid manner at the Alex Haley Farm in Clinton, Tennessee. If you would like more information or would like to become a partner, please contact *CDF Freedom Schools* at freedomschools@childrensdefense.org or (202) 662-3524.

HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

Clafin University (SC), Rutgers University, Newark Campus (NJ), Tennessee Tech University College of Education (TN), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (IL), University of Virginia (VA), Virginia State University (VA), and Wake Forest University (NC).

PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT AND INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

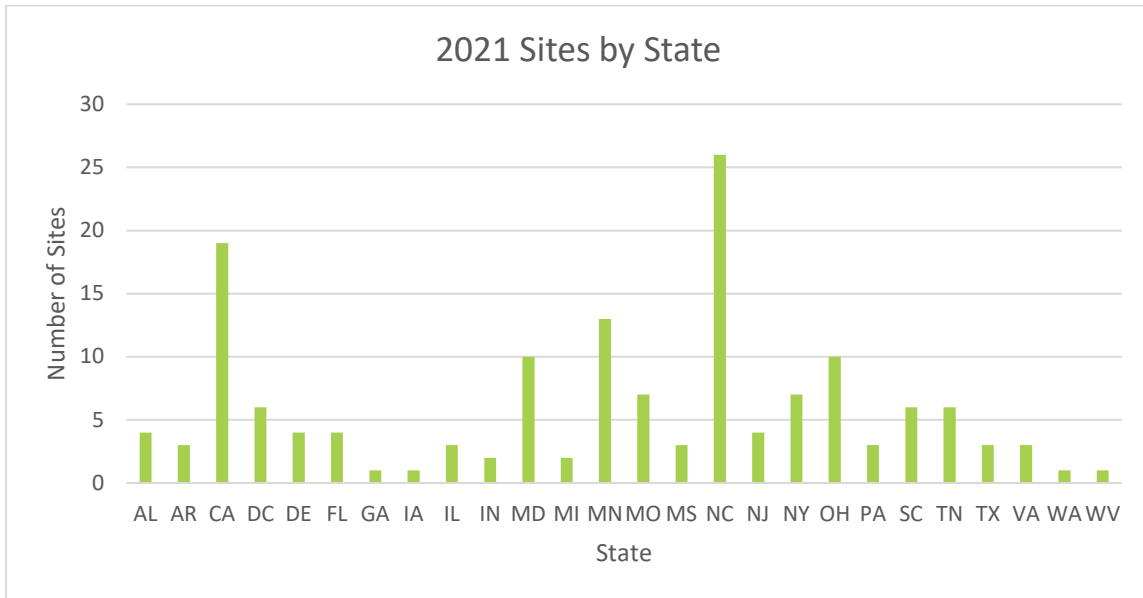
Academia Cesar Chavez Charter School (MN), Friendship Academy of the Arts (MN), Crossroads School for Arts and Sciences (CA), Zanewood Community School (MN), Anoka-Hennepin Schools (MN), Bullock County School District (AL), East St. Louis School District 189 (IL), FAMU College of Edu - Developmental Research School (FL), Forrest City School District (AR), Independent School District 622 (MN), Jackson Public Schools (MS), Kimberley Park Elementary School (NC), Marlboro County School District (SC), Minneapolis Public Schools (MN), Robbinsdale Area Schools (MN), Saint Paul Public Schools (MN), South Carolina State University (SC), and W.A. Perry Middle School (SC).

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER PARTNERSHIPS

Two *CDF Freedom Schools* sites served adolescents in juvenile detention centers. These facilities are located in Brooklyn (NY) and Bronx (NY).

ELLA BAKER CHILD POLICY TRAINING INSTITUTE NATIONAL TRAINING

The Ella Baker Child Policy Training Institute National Training for Site Coordinators and Servant Leader Interns will be hybrid and held from June 1 – June 4, 2022.

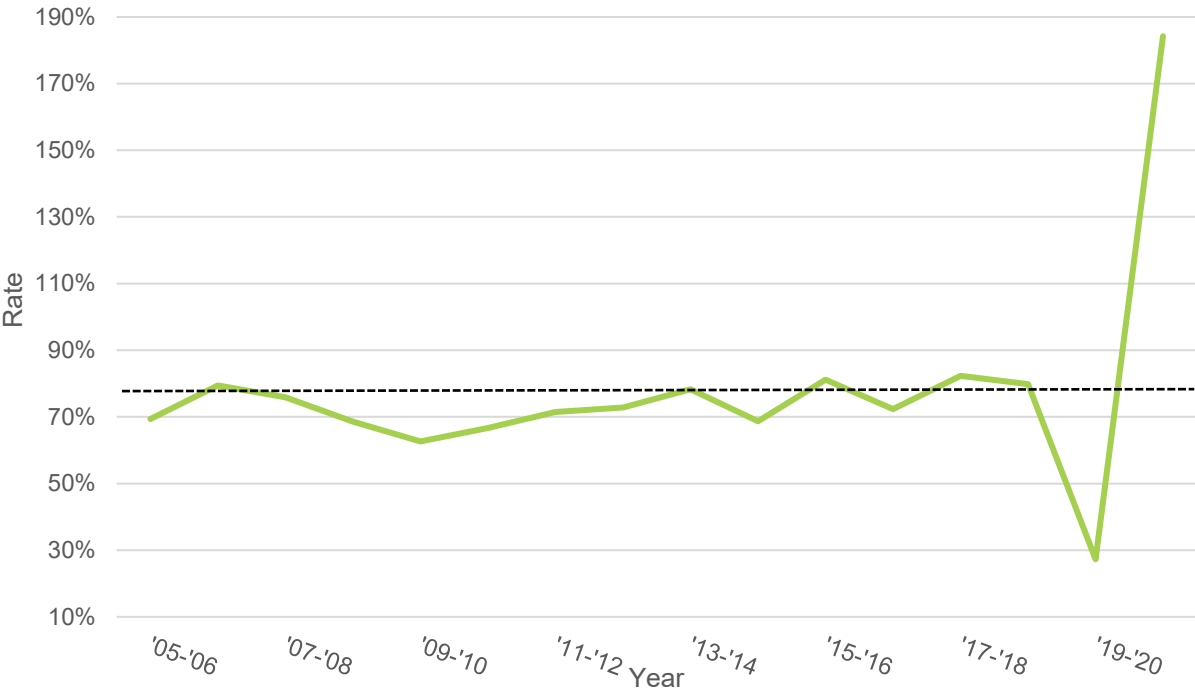


2021 PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SITE LOCATIONS

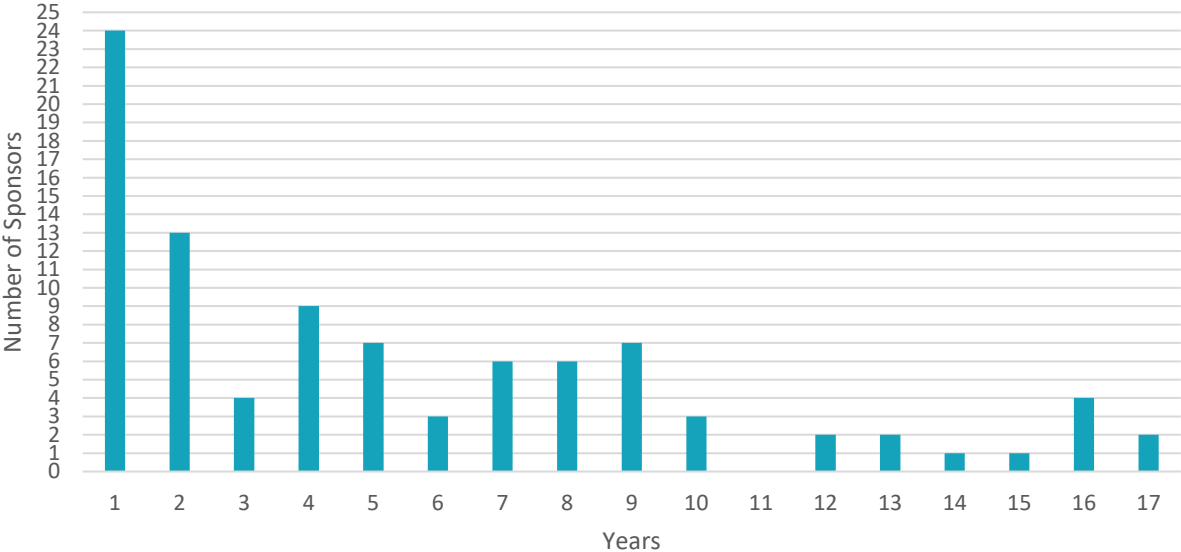
1.	Birmingham	AL	26.	Baltimore	MD	51.	Rochester	NY
2.	Huntsville	AL	27.	Halethorpe	MD	52.	Alexandria	OH
3.	Union Springs	AL	28.	Landover	MD	53.	Columbus	OH
4.	Forrest City	AR	29.	Detroit	MI	54.	East Cleveland	OH
5.	Little Rock	AR	30.	Flint	MI	55.	Lima	OH
6.	Inglewood	CA	31.	Brooklyn Park	MN	56.	Newark	OH
7.	Long Beach	CA	32.	Coon Rapids	MN	57.	Springfield	OH
8.	Los Angeles	CA	33.	Minneapolis	MN	58.	Toledo	OH
9.	Oakland	CA	34.	North St. Paul	MN	59.	Allentown	PA
10.	Oakland (Acorn)	CA	35.	St. Paul	MN	60.	Blenheim	SC
11.	Richmond	CA	36.	Maplewood	MO	61.	Columbia	SC
12.	Sacramento	CA	37.	St. Louis	MO	62.	Orangeburg	SC
13.	Santa Monica	CA	38.	Jackson	MS	63.	Cookeville	TN
14.	Washington	DC	39.	Brevard	NC	64.	Knoxville	TN
15.	Georgetown	DE	40.	Charlotte	NC	65.	Memphis	TN
16.	Wilmington	DE	41.	Charlotte area (Virtual)	NC	66.	Nashville	TN
17.	Miami Gardens	FL	42.	Greensboro	NC	67.	Rockford	TN
18.	Pensacola	FL	43.	Rocky Mount	NC	68.	Austin	TX
19.	Tallahassee	FL	44.	Wilmington	NC	69.	Galveston	TX
20.	Atlanta	GA	45.	Winston-Salem	NC	70.	Houston	TX
21.	Cedar Rapids	IA	46.	Ewing	NJ	71.	Charlottesville	VA
22.	Champaign	IL	47.	Newark	NJ	72.	Lynchburg	VA
23.	East Saint Louis	IL	48.	Paterson	NJ	73.	Petersburg	VA
24.	Springfield	IL	49.	Bronx	NY	74.	Seattle	WA
25.	Indianapolis	IN	50.	Brooklyn	NY	75.	Charleston	WV

RETENTION RATE & SPONSOR PARTNERSHIPS

Retention Rate: 2005 - 2021



Length of Service as a *CDF Freedom Schools*® Sponsor

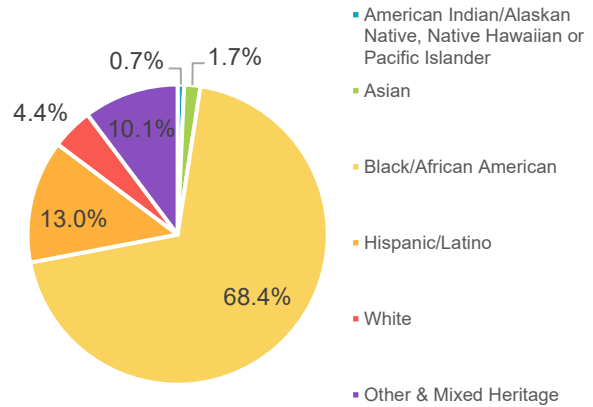


*2021 Operating Sponsors

2021 SCHOLAR DETAILS

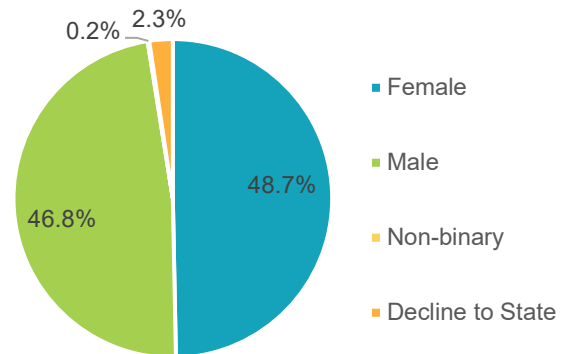
Race/Ethnicity

American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.7%
Asian	1.7%
Black/African American	68.4%
Hispanic/Latino	13.0%
White	4.4%
Other & Mixed Heritage	10.1%



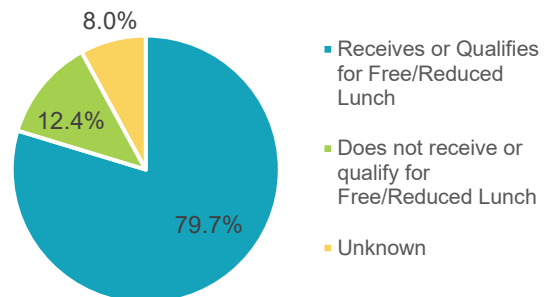
Gender

Female	48.7%
Male	46.8%
Non-binary	0.2%
Decline to State	2.3%



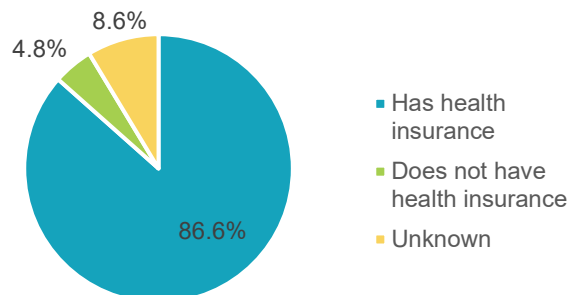
Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL)

Receives or Qualifies for Free/Reduced Lunch	79.7%
Does not receive or qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch	12.4%
Unknown	8.0%



Health Insurance

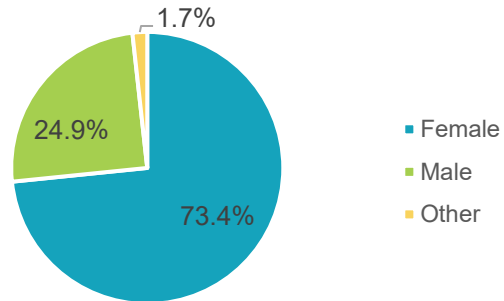
Has health insurance	86.6%
Does not have health insurance	4.8%
Unknown	8.6%



2021 SERVANT LEADER INTERN DETAILS

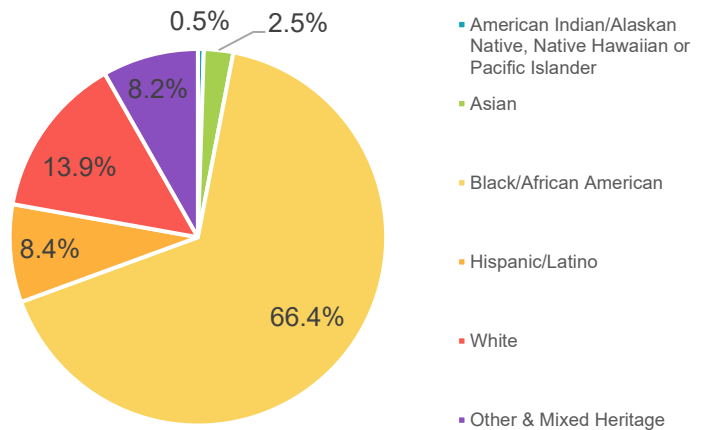
Gender

Female	73.4%
Male	24.9%
Other	1.7%



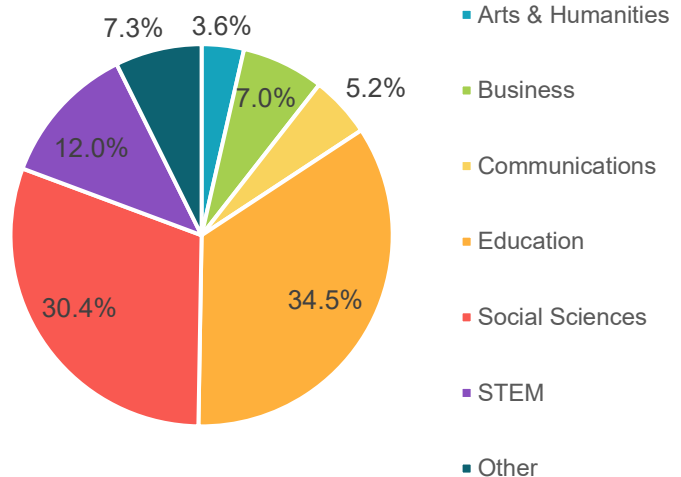
Race/Ethnicity

American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.5%
Asian	2.5%
Black/African American	66.4%
Hispanic/Latino	8.4%
White	13.9%
Other & Mixed Heritage	8.2%



Major

Arts & Humanities	3.6%
Business	7.0%
Communications	5.2%
Education	34.5%
Social Sciences	30.4%
STEM	12.0%
Other	7.3%



CDF Freedom Schools National Assessment Results from 2017 to 2021

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average/Total
% Scholars improved	56.1%	60.2%	55.3%	45.6%	52.9%	56.40%
% Scholars maintained	27.8%	24.6%	29.2%	31.1%	31.1%	27.90%
% Scholars declined	16.1%	15.2%	15.5%	23.3%	16.0%	15.70%
Number of sites that participated in the assessment	90	101	107	6	65	369
Number of scholars who participated in the assessment	1,988	2,238	2,524	103	1,201	8,054