



## Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program®: 2008-2009

### Participants

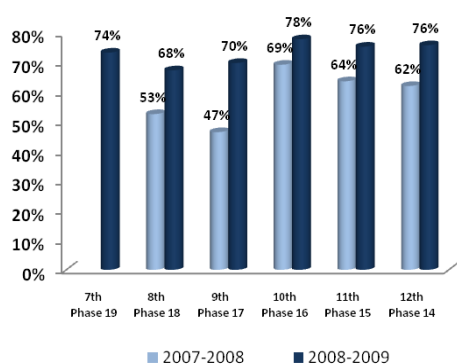
- The program served a total of 227 students in grades 7-12.
- Each phase has approximately 37 Scholars.
- 47% of participants are African American females, 30% African American males, 12% White, 6% Hispanic, 3% Asian, and 2% representing other ethnicities.
- 79% receive free/reduced lunch.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade phase is the most ethnically diverse and has the highest (90%) rate of students receiving free/reduced lunch.
- 38 JCPS middle and high schools (90%) are represented by the Scholars. Six percent of the Scholars attend private schools.

### Evaluation Results

- *WYSP pre-post content test:* The content test scores improved significantly from pre test to post test.
- *KY Core Content Test Performance:* Overall, the Scholars outperformed the district average in all content areas. 8<sup>th</sup> grade Scholars increased proficient/distinguished performance in reading from the previous year.
- *Program Retention:* The overall average retention rate was 85%.
 

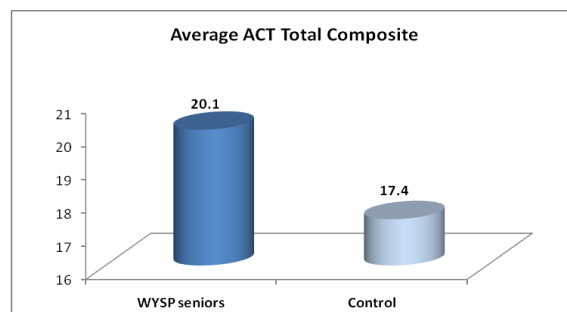
“They help us work hard, be successful, confident, and prepare us for college”  
-WYSP Scholar
- 94% agreed to the statement “On the whole, I am satisfied with myself.”
- *Program Attendance:* The average attendance rate increased from 58.3% last year to 73% this year. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade Scholars demonstrated the highest (23%) increase.

Change in program attendance



### Results: Senior Scholars

- *Senior Scholars:* Compared to a control group, senior Scholars had fewer school absences, higher KCCT writing scores, and higher average ACT scores.
- 100% said they would recommend the program to other students *and* reported they felt prepared or very prepared for college coursework.



### Commendations

- Evaluation results indicate that the program is serving ethnically diverse students from across the county, most of who are socioeconomically disadvantaged.
- The findings illustrate the Scholars are achieving at high academic levels, have increased content knowledge, and have a high sense of self-worth.
- 81% of the Scholar's parents said the communication with staff was clear and 84% said parental institute topics were appropriate.
- 100% of Senior Scholars are enrolled in college.
- Continuing efforts towards addressing challenges described in the previous evaluation are evident:
  - Significant increases in program attendance
  - Increased number of Black male participants
  - Increased survey response rates

### Recommendations

- *Recruitment:* Continue targeting male students for participation.
- *WYSP pre-post response rates:* Increase the number of Scholars who take *both* the pre and post content tests.
- *Retention:* Continue efforts towards retaining Scholars, particularly 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders.
- *Follow up:* Checking up with Scholars who were dismissed or left the program is strongly encouraged.
- *Next Steps:* Conduct a longitudinal study on the impact of the program over time.