

# Y ACHIEVERS

From six weeks old to high school seniors, the McGaw YMCA serves youth at every stage of their development. Along this continuum is the Achievers program, which targets students attending Evanston Township High School, Evanston's only public high school. The Achievers program—now in its third year—follows cohorts of students at risk of not graduating and provides them with the guidance, motivation, and tools to complete high school and enroll in college.

The Achievers program provides students with academic support and mentorship, teaching them skills for self-advocacy and perseverance.

## Y Achievers 5 core components:

- 1 College and career readiness
- 2 Academic support
- 3 Parental Involvement
- 4 Community Engagement
- 5 Steering Committee



Achievers staff recruits diverse professionals—who look like Achievers or have similar backgrounds—to share with the students their academic and professional journeys. Through career workshops and field trips to their places of work, these adults expose student Achievers to potential careers and college majors. Weekly academic support and regular parent workshops complement bimonthly career workshops. Community service opportunities and a Spring Break College Tour help Achievers participants gain a broader perspective on the world around them and their futures.

At the end of the most recently completed school year, the Achievers model was proving successful. When surveyed at the beginning of the school year, 66% of students in the Achievers program felt that they could not graduate high school on time and go to the college of their choice with their current grades. However at year-end, 95% of students said that they had gained tools to obtain acceptance to a college.

**100%**  
tested in the lowest  
quartile upon  
entering ETHS

**59%**  
are male

**60%**

are African  
American

**52%**

live in single parent  
households

**26%**

receive social  
work services

**22%**

receive mental  
health services

**52%**

are from low-  
income families



Find out more:  
[www.mcgawymca.org/Achievers](http://www.mcgawymca.org/Achievers)

