



Access

Every student. Every chance. Every day.

Access propels middle school students who have been historically underserved through high school and on to college and career success with enrichment, counseling, and scholarships.

Learn more @ accessacademies.org



99%

ACCEPTED

to college-preparatory
high schools



98%

GRADUATED

high school on-time
(compared to 84% nationwide)



96%

ACCEPTED

to college or other
post-secondary institution

JOIN OUR BOARD AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE



EVERY STUDENT. EVERY CHANCE. EVERY DAY.

OUR MISSION

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ABOUT ACCESS

Access was founded in 2005 by a small group of St. Louisans convinced that education was the most enduring path out of poverty. Embracing an innovative model that emphasized extended school days, a challenging enrichment curriculum, and hands-on counseling, they started the first Academy with 15 students in a single South City middle school. Last year, Access served over 500 students in three partner middle schools, 40 high schools (including 21 partner college-prep high schools), and 48 colleges and post-secondary institutions across the country.



Enrichment

Access offers over 80 after-school and summer enrichment programs to challenge students in important STEM subjects like robotics, coding, and computer science, as well as in key areas such as leadership and character development, entrepreneurship, and the arts.



Counseling

Starting in 6th grade and continuing through college, our Graduate Support Directors build strong, enduring relationships with each student, providing individualized mentoring, guidance, and advocacy at every step of their 11+ year educational journey.



Scholarships


Access invests over \$730,000 annually in scholarships so our students can attend one of 26 local, college-preparatory private high schools.

Learn more @ accessacademies.org

“I’m excited about what Access is doing to address the persistent disparity in education and academic achievement across the St. Louis region. The Access program helps students achieve academic success, and that leads to success in life. I am thrilled to be a part of this mission.”

—CHERYL PETTUS,
FIRST-YEAR BOARD MEMBER

VICE PRESIDENT
OF US ACCOUNTING
TRANSFORMATION,
BAYER CORPORATION



Access Academies Board Members are...

Mission-Driven – Believe in and help keep Access on mission.

Advocates – Be an active advocate and ambassador for the values, mission, and vision of Access in the community and among peers.

Active Participants – Commit to a 3-year term and regularly attend and actively participate in Board and committee meetings. The expectation is attending a minimum of 75% of meetings (4 annual Board meetings and monthly/bi-monthly committee meetings annually). Prepare for meetings by reviewing materials in advance. Regularly provide support and feedback to the Executive Director, staff, and fellow Board Members. Provide oversight for specific committee operations and support staff in carrying them out. Committees are as follows: Development, Finance, Governance, Marketing, Program, and other Ad Hoc committees as may be needed. Actively recruit a replacement Board member when your term is ending.

Supporters – Ensure Access has adequate resources by supporting in the following ways:

- Utilize your expertise and skillset providing your time and talent to support the specific needs of the organization.
- Share networks and help identify and cultivate relationships to support Access as Board members, Committee members, donors, volunteers, and advocates.
- Be responsible for at least one relationship-building activity per quarter (invite potential supporters to coffee, to meet with Executive Director, etc.).
- Give an annual financial contribution to the best of your personal ability, considering Access as one of your top charities for financial support.
- Attend Scholarship Dinner/other fundraisers and solicit attendees.

Stewards – Provide financial oversight to ensure resources are managed effectively. Review of budget and periodic financial reports including longer-range forecasts.

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Board Strategic Priorities

- **Board and Staff Development:** Recruit, develop, support, and retain excellent and committed board members, members of the professional staff, and academic directors in ways that are consistent with the transition to an established, mature and sustainable non-profit organization.
- **Partnership Development:** Establish, formalize, and enhance partnerships based on shared values and interests through open and respectful communication designed to ensure the mutual long-term health and vitality of our shared ends and goals.
- **Fundraising Development:** Act intentionally to solidify, deepen, and expand existing and future sources of financial support and external funding to increase and enhance programmatic viability and expansion in ways that are consistent with a robust and future oriented organization.
- **High-Quality Academics:** Develop an ongoing process to monitor, and assess the progress, quality and overall effectiveness and success of 1) the current schools, faculty, staff, and curriculum of the existing educational programming and 2) the supplementary enrichment programming, to ensure a high-quality education is being provided for the long term academic growth of the students being served.
- **Brand Development:** Deliberately, creatively, and intentionally specify, define, and delineate its unique and authentic brand in the non-profit marketplace in order to increase public awareness of the organization's presence and reputation through a sustained, appropriate, and mission-driven marketing strategy directed toward development efforts, partnership strengthening and new student prospects.
- **Data Collection:** Increase and formalize its process of data collection and analysis such that it becomes capable of making decisions concerning the uses of the organization's time, talent, and treasure in ways that are data-informed, effective, efficient, and responsible to its mission, partners, stake-holders and clients.

Areas of Focus

- Education - middle school to post-secondary
- Donor development
- Board development
- Communications/Marketing

***Please contact Shelly Williams, Executive Director,
at swilliams@accessacademies.org to learn more about joining
Access Academies' Board of Directors***