

**Creating relationships
that equip every student
to achieve their potential.**



 **iMentor**
chicago

Support our growth →

Student by student, mentor by mentor, school by school, and community by community, these relationships strengthen Chicago.

iMentor Chicago is a local nonprofit on a mission to help students in low-income communities navigate the path to post-secondary success.

We do this by matching a volunteer mentor with every student in our CPS partner schools, no matter their GPA or test scores. Mentors work with students for at least three years to help them transition out of high school and on to college, career, or the next step in realizing their goals. Mentor/mentee pairs are supported by iMentor's full-time college counselors, who are embedded in our partner schools and implement our proven college success curriculum in weekly classes that are part of the school day.

The result? iMentor students are 80% more likely to complete college than their peers from similar high schools. And our impact doesn't stop with students. Because our mentoring relationships are forged across lines of difference, they deepen the understanding of issues like education equity and the challenges students like those we serve can face.

Since iMentor entered Chicago in 2015, we've grown to partner with four schools and serve 1,479 students. But this is only the beginning. Over the next five years, we're aiming to triple our impact and serve 4,500 students.

This is an audacious goal, and we need your support to achieve it.



Student by Student

Students from low-income households in Chicago face systemic barriers that can hold them back from achieving their dreams and contributing to their communities. As freshmen, 69% of CPS students report wanting to go to college, but only 19% complete their degree within 10 years. And many struggle to find stability after high school with 22% of 20-24 year olds in Chicago out of school and out of work.

iMentor Chicago is addressing these challenges by working with every student at our partner schools on Chicago's South and West sides. This model makes it possible to move the needle for everyone, not just the students who are already high-performers, and it works. **88% of iMentor students graduate from college within 6 years, and we also provide support for students who decide college is not the right path for them.** We recognize that many students benefit from continued support in their next steps after they graduate from high school. That's why we've reimagined our growing post-secondary program to include financial support and customized advising for students as they continue to work with their mentors after graduation.



“I'll be the first one in my family to go to college. Having a mentor helps a lot, because you have someone by your side working with you whenever you need help.”

– Sandra, mentee



1,479

Chicago students are participating in iMentor in the 2019–2020 school year



76%

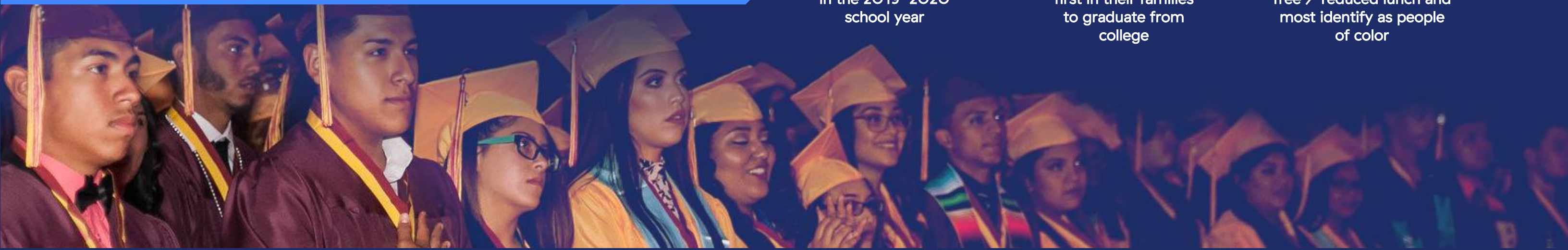
of iMentor Chicago students will be the first in their families to graduate from college



97%

of iMentor Chicago students qualify for free / reduced lunch and most identify as people of color

Read on to learn more about what we do, why it matters, and how you can fuel our growth.



Mentor by Mentor

Our mentors know that while talent is equally distributed, opportunity is not. We pair each of our mentors with a student at one of our partner schools. Then, we support these pairs with a full-time program manager at each school, an online mentoring platform, a proven college success curriculum and peer networks as they build long-term, mutually beneficial relationships.

Our college-educated mentors come from across the city and represent a wide range of ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds, which allows mentors and students to create connections across lines of difference.

Our mentors benefit as much as our students as they build cultural competence, leadership skills, and a better understanding of the challenges young people face in Chicago.

We're fortunate to have a waiting list of vetted mentors. As we scale over the next five years, we'll rely on corporate and community partnerships to ensure we always have a champion for every student.

“Working with Andrew has been a growing experience. I spend much of my time trying to figure out how to help him avoid the pitfalls of my teenage years and find the best ways to advocate for and expose him to enriching opportunities. As a man of color, I believe it's important for young men of color to see me doing something positive. I hope to inspire them to believe they can also be successful.”

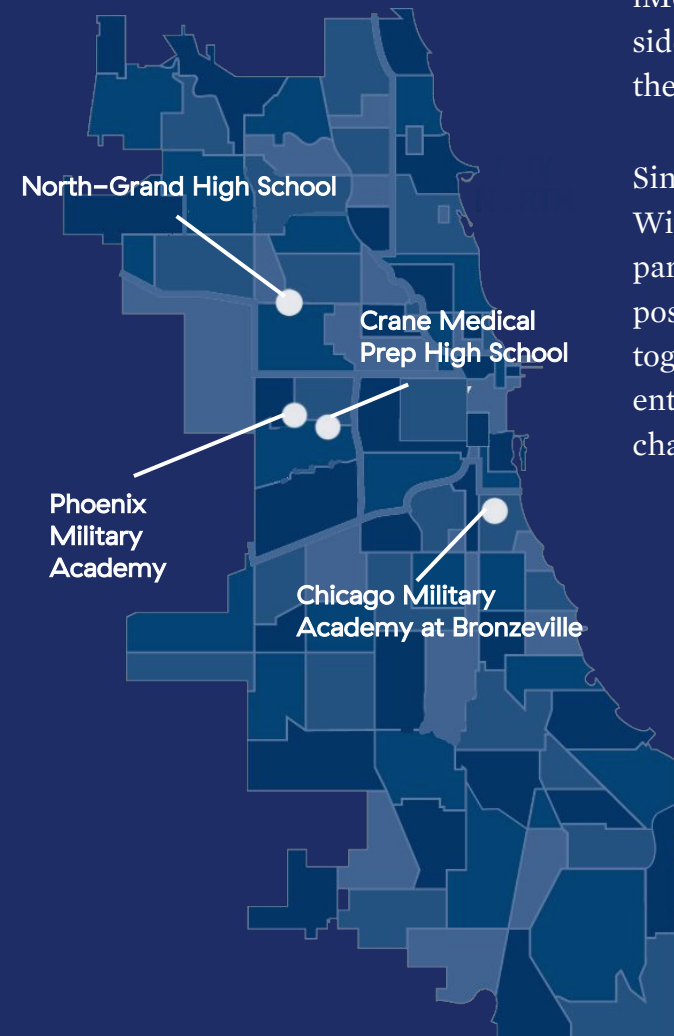
– John, mentor



40%
of iMentor Chicago
mentors identify as
people of color



91%
of iMentor Chicago mentors
say participating in iMentor
deepened their interest /
investment in education equity



Current partner schools

School by School, and Community by Community

Chicago has a long history of segregation, systemic racism, and multi-generational poverty. These forces make it particularly difficult for students on the South and West sides to access equitable opportunities for education and build brighter futures for themselves and their families after high school. That's why iMentor focuses our school partnerships on South and West side schools where a majority of students could be the first in their families to graduate from college.

Since 2015, we've built partnerships with four CPS schools. With your help, we can double our number of school partnerships by 2024 and continue to grow participation in our post-secondary program. When mentors and students work together, it creates a ripple effect of positive change for the entire community. As our work continues to grow, that positive change will be felt throughout all of Chicago.



2x

more Chicago schools can
participate in iMentor in just
five years with your support



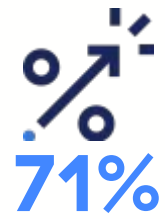
Where We've Been

iMentor Chicago launched in 2015, inspired by the opportunity to build relationships that equip every student to achieve their potential.

The need was clear. Despite the fact that 65% of jobs now require post-secondary education or training, only 19% of CPS students are projected to earn a bachelor's degree within 10 years of starting high school. College graduation rates dip even lower for students of color who attend high school in Chicago's South and West side neighborhoods. But where iMentor saw need, we also saw great potential for our unique model. iMentor was drawn to Chicago by a highly collaborative group of complementary education organizations and support from Chicago Public Schools.

iMentor Chicago has experienced rapid growth over the last five years. We have expanded from working with 207 students at one high school in 2015 to working with 1,479 students across four high schools in 2020. Additionally, this year, 92% of our high school seniors signed on to continue working with their mentors post-graduation.

This growth was made possible by significant investments from generous donors and funders like you.



71%
of iMentor Chicago students enrolled in college on time over the last five years.

We have increased college enrollment by 20% at our partner schools since inception.

Where We're Going

We've spent the last five years establishing iMentor in Chicago and learning from students, mentors, and schools. Now, we're ready to spend the next five years growing with fidelity to serve more students in Chicago.

By 2024, we're aiming to **triple the number of students we work with and double our number of school partnerships.** At the same time, we are deepening the support we provide to our post-secondary students so they are better positioned for long-term success.

This growth is essential if we hope to realize our vision for a future where every young Chicagoan has the opportunity to succeed.

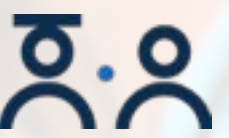
But it will only be possible with your support.



Your Investment

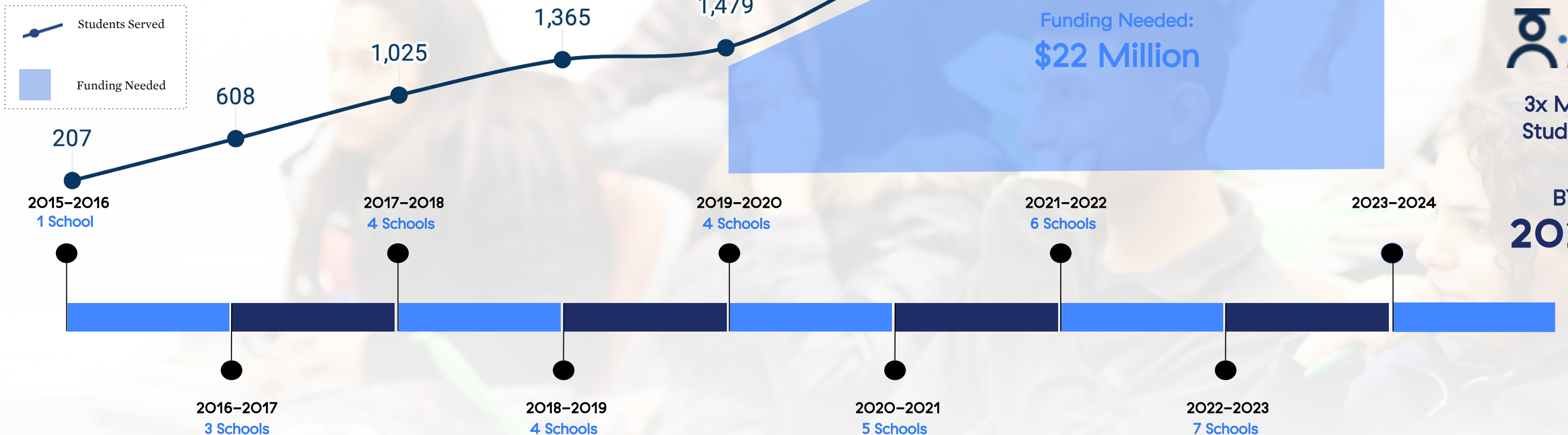


2x More Schools



3x More Students

BY 2024

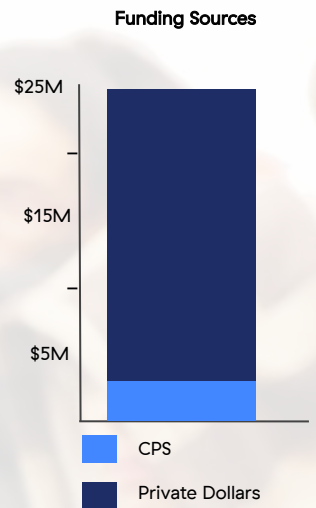


How You Can Help Us Get There

With your help, iMentor Chicago will expand to work with 4,500 students across eight schools by fall 2024.

Based on those growth goals, we estimate it will cost iMentor approximately **\$25M** to operate in Chicago over the next five years. This growth will be fueled by a partnership with CPS and supporters like you, who will help us raise \$22M to support our effort to increase our impact.

But that giant leap will start with a smaller step. We are currently aiming to raise **\$8M by June 30, 2021**. That amount will allow us to achieve the next major milestone in iMentor Chicago's growth: entering a 5th and 6th school over the next two school years.



Support our growth by making a donation today.

Visit imentor.org/growchicago or contact Jason Friedman, Executive Director at jfriedman@imentor.org or 312.909.0686 to discuss investment opportunities.

Pair Story: Kate and Lorneesha

iMentor paired up Kate and Lorneesha during Lorneesha's junior year at North-Grand High School. At the time, Lorneesha aspired to be the first person in her family to attend college. Kate helped her make that dream a reality. During their monthly in-person meetings--as Kate and Lorneesha worked on college applications, explored Lorneesha's school options, and discussed financial aid--their relationship continued to deepen. Kate supported Lorneesha through the passing of Lorneesha's father during her senior year, and that summer, Lorneesha attended Kate's wedding.

With help from Kate and iMentor, Lorneesha enrolled at Illinois State University in 2018. Kate and Lorneesha continue to meet monthly, and Lorneesha is on track to graduate in 2022.

