

ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT

Dedicated to implementing educational programs that serve as foundational pillars to mediate learning gaps, increase opportunity and foster student academic success within communities in Ontario for 19 years.



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EDUCATION

SUBJECT-MATTER

CURRICULUM

● ABOUT US

The Youth Association for Academics, Athletics and Character Education continues to serve the community for 19 years across six pillars: Education, Employment and Training, Case Management, Clinical Care and Family Support, Athletics, and Research and Knowledge Mobilization.

● COMMUNITY SCHOOL INITIATIVE

The Community School Initiative grounded in the Social Inclusion Framework (Jones, 2007) delivers 8 educational programs to students from racialized and under-resourced communities to close the achievement and opportunity gap. Programs include: NALE Tutoring, Robotics, March Break Program, “Hire Learning”, Summer Institute, Spirit of Math Scholarship, Inspire Academy and Athletics, Health and Physical Literacy.

● GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

YAAACE’s GBV approach emphasizes prevention, early intervention and wraparound support for individuals and families affected by violence for young people and families experiencing complex and intersecting challenges.

● THE BRIDGEBACK

YAAACE continued to provide clinical support to clients experiencing emotional, mental health and trauma-related challenges. Supports were provided on an ongoing basis and included assessment, counselling, care coordination, referrals and connections to specialized community-based services where appropriate.



About Us



Purpose, Vision and Mission

The Youth Association for Academics, Athletics and Character Education better known as YAAACE provides culturally reflective educational programs to close the achievement and opportunity gap for racialized and under-resourced communities. As an organization, we operate through the lens of the Social Inclusion Strategy Framework to develop student capacity and use strength-based approaches to advocate and create safer, thriving communities.

YAAACE continues to serve communities particularly within the Jane and Finch area for over 19 years and continues to provide services to 1000+ families and clients annually through accessible programs and services focused on Academics, Athletics, Expanded Opportunities, Employment along with Violence Prevention and Intervention.

Leading the Community School Initiative, YAAACE delivers six educational programs including the: Numeracy and Literacy Enrichment (NALE) Program and Robotics, March Break Camp, Summer Institute, Experiential Learning - Labour Market Participation, Spirit of Math Partnership, along with the Health, Wellness and Physical Literacy Program. These after school programs serve under-achieving and justice-impacted Black and equity-denied youth through education to promote learning, holistic building, skill training and the resounding pursuit of academic excellence at the forefront to ensure student success.

Vision

Dynamic communities with positive life outcomes for all.

Mission

Cultivate safer and thriving communities for Black and equity-denied groups through advocacy and access to strength-based programs and serves.



Community School Initiative

Closing the achievement and opportunity gap.



YAAACE leads the Community School Initiative grounded in the Social Inclusion Framework (Jones, 2007) through **eight educational programs** dedicated to academic intervention. These programs focus on using the perspective of Africentricity to centre the lived experience, cultures and worldviews of people of African descent rooted in African-derived traditions, values and realities. Guided by this approach, YAAACE is committed to creating equitable access to opportunities, programs and services that empower African Canadian youth, families and communities.

8 Education Programs

01 Numeracy and Literacy Enrichment Program

Free 28 week math and literacy tutoring program for Grades 1-12 from October-June to increase student capacity, homework completion to perform at the provincial level and beyond.

02 Robotics

YAAACE in partnership with First Canada Robotics, Toronto Police Service Guns and Gangs Unit – Project Engage416 delivered a robotics program for Grade 4-8 students from October-June.

03 March Break Camp

1 week camp offering an exciting mix of structured education and athletic activities designed to improve literacy and numeracy of students Grades 1-8 while igniting curiosity in STEAM.

04 “Hire” Learning Education-to-Employment

An Education to Employment approach to connect students from the classroom to employment opportunities.

05 Summer Institute

Free 7-week program that engages students in math and literacy curriculum, academic lessons along with hands-on learning experiences to close the achievement and opportunities gap.

06 Spirit of Math Partnership

In the 2025-26 academic year, YAAACE in partnership granted 37 Spirit of Math Scholarships amounting to over \$160,000. This scholarship reduced the financial barrier for Black and Equity-denied students to participate in an after school rigorous math curriculum.

07 Inspire Academy

In partnership with the TDSB and TCDSB, YAAACE was able to provide students who did not meet Ministry expectations an accredited Grade 9 - De-Streamed Mathematics Course (MTHW1-01) and Principles of Mathematics, Grade 10, Academic (MPM2D1).

08 Athletics, Health, and Wellness

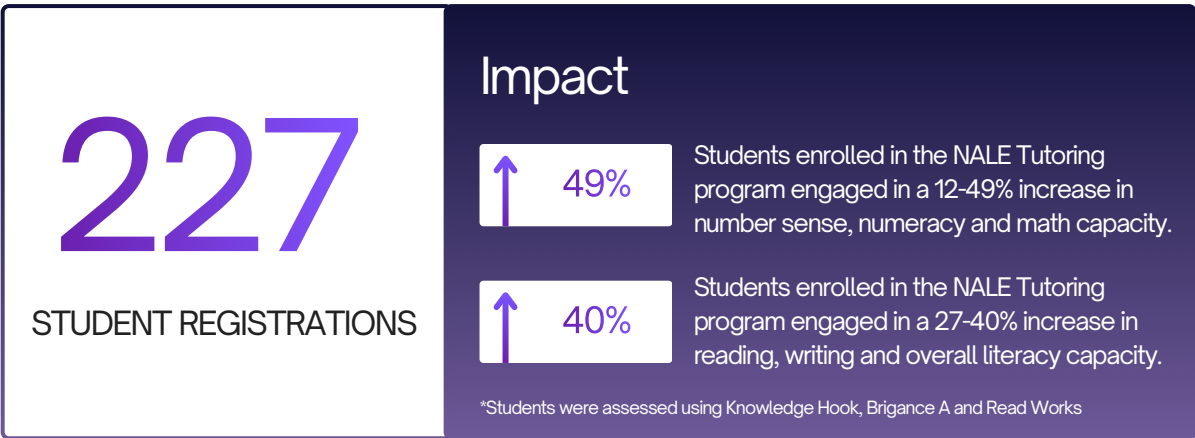
In partnership with the National Basketball Association (NBA) and Ontario Basketball Association (OBA), YAAACE provides in-school academic and athletic programming in Toronto District School Board [TDSB] and Toronto Catholic District School Board [TCDSB] schools.



01. Numeracy and Literacy Enrichment (NALE) Program

Annual after school outreach community program supporting academic success.

NALE is a free 28 week after school and weekend tutoring program from October-June supporting student learning by building student capacity to perform at the provincial level and beyond. NALE offers homework help, and focuses on strengthening student skills in numeracy and literacy. Student achievement was assessed and recorded on Knowledge Hook and Read Works at three checkpoints including: diagnostic, midterm, and final. NALE partnered with Spirit of Math to delegate Skills and Drills within NALE classrooms to encourage students to be adept in a variety of order of operations including addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.



02. Robotics x FIRST Robotics Canada & TPS Engage416

Bringing together diverse sectors - education, law enforcement, and robotics.

YAAACE partners with FIRST Robotics Canada, Toronto Police Service Guns AND Gangs Unit – Project Engage416 to deliver a free comprehensive robotics program to students in grades 4-8 over the course of the academic year from October to June 2026. This collaborative approach continues to provide youth with a constructive outlet for their energy and creativity, while offering a meaningful connection to positive role models and support networks. The students acquired in-demand technical skills in robotics, coding and programming, enhancing their potential for future educational and career opportunities in technology.

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STUDENT REGISTRATIONS

Impact

STEM Careers

STEM skill building and career exposure to students from racialized and under-resourced communities.

Applied Robotics

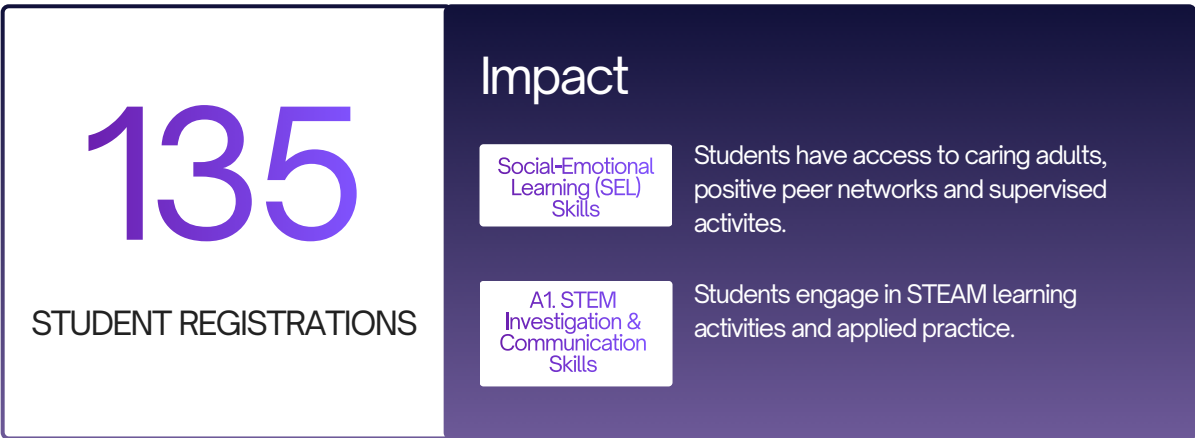
Students actively developed, practiced and strengthened their coding to increase student problem-solving capacity.



03. March Break Camp

1-week education program to engage students in structured learning outside of school.

During March Break from March 16 to 20, 2026, YAAACE provided a five-day camp serving more than 135 children and youth ages 6 to 14. Participants engaged in basketball skills development, flag football, track and field, arts and crafts, music programming, educational games and community field trips. The camp provided families with access to a safe and supervised environment during the school break while ensuring youth remained physically active and socially engaged. Beyond recreation, programming emphasized teamwork, leadership, healthy living, positive peer interaction and social development.



04. “Hire” Learning: Education-to-Employment

Closing the opportunity and achievement gap and equipping youth with the knowledge, skills and supports to thrive in today’s economy and lead in the the industries of tomorrow.

Our Labour Market Intervention Strategy (LMIS) takes an education-to-employment approach, bridging classroom learning with real-world work experiences to build career readiness and economic empowerment for Black, equity-denied and justice-innvolved youth, from middle school and high school through post-secondary, ages 12 to 29.



2.5K

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Impact

Career
Readiness

Through key activities such as: employability workshops, skills training and worksite visits and in-school career conversations and presentations students received career education to make informed career decisions.

Sectors of
the Future

50+ employers engaged, 10+ colleges and universities engaged within the emerging sectors of the future: nuclear energy, mining, technology and artificial intelligence.

LMIS consists of 5 components: 1. Career Foundations: ensuring our young people have the academic proficiency through industry and sector specific curriculum, instruction and training; 2. Career Launch: providing career exposure and exploration to post-secondary i.e. college and university tours, priority economic industries and sectors and to the skilled trades; 3. Career Advance: providing work integrated learning opportunities i.e. co-op, internships and job placements; 4. Career Innovate: exploring the pathway to entrepreneurship and 4: Career Connect: providing mentorship and networking opportunities through experiential learning events i.e. Hire Learning Summit, Career Connect Conference



05. Summer Institute Program

Supporting student success and athletic wellness to close the achievement and opportunity gap for racialized students.

The Summer Institute supported students from Grades 3 to 8 to engage students in STEAM applications while building foundational skills in numeracy and literacy. This in-person program provided students with the opportunity engage in a safe, fun learning environment for students within the Jane and Finch area with ongoing positive mentorship. The Summer Institute Program offered two streams: mainstream and high performance camp. Mainstream students followed the regular program schedule while high performance students engaged in additional enhanced athletic training.

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STUDENT REGISTRATIONS

40

EMPLOYED STUDENTS

Impact

Strand A Mathematics

Students engaged in Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Skills in Mathematics and the Mathematical Processes

Strand A Language

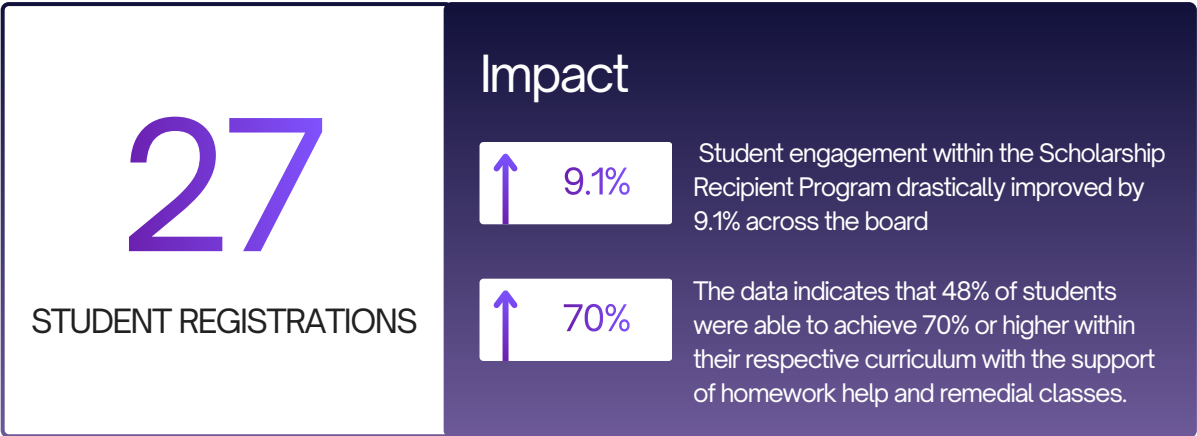
Students engaged in Literacy Connections and Applications.



06. Spirit of Math Partnership

Supporting student success through the implementation of a rigorous math curriculum in-house and externally

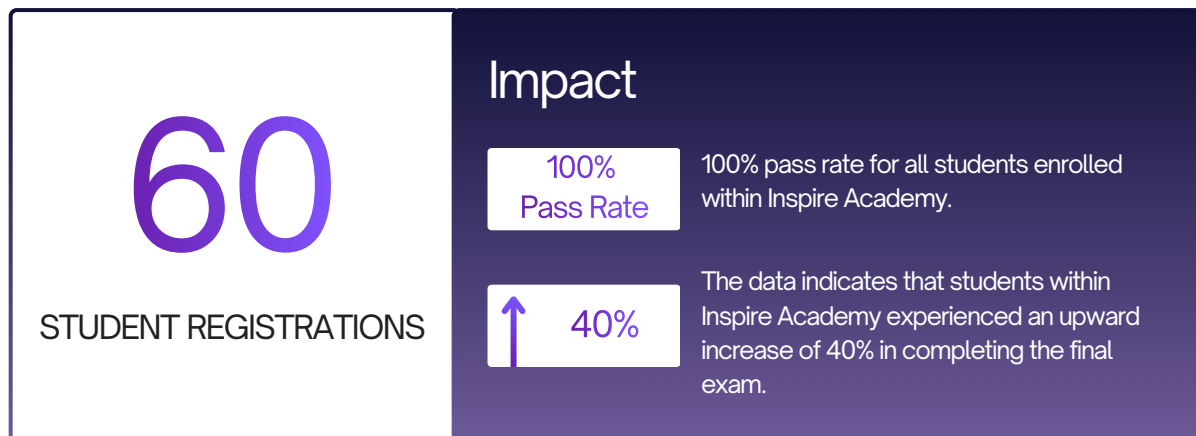
On December 1, 2025 the Numeracy and Literacy Enrichment (NALE) Tutoring Program partnered with Spirit of Math to implement Skills and Drills in each tutoring class. Teachers were trained to administer the Skills and Drills program in-person at 45 Norfinch Drive through a professional development session administered by Spirit of Math professional. Teachers were trained to navigate the geniusdrills platform to then further implement these interactive drills with students in their class. YAAACE also parnterned with Spirit of Math to grant 27 scholarships amounting to over \$120,000 reducomg the financial barrier for Black and Equity-denied students to participate in a rigorous math curriculum for 39 weeks



07. Inspire Academy

Preparing students for academic success in mandatory math highschool courses.

Inspire Academy administered two Ministry approved courses: Grade 9 - De-Streamed Mathematics Course (MTHW1-01) which entailed section 1 and section 2 (both sections followed the same curriculum with two different cohorts of students) and Principles of Mathematics, Grade 10, Academic (MPM2D1) which only had one section. 40 Students were supported by their OCT-certified teachers to prepare for quizzes, tests, cumulative assignments and the final exam.



08. Athletics, Health, and Wellness

Supporting student success and athletic wellness to close the achievement and opportunity gap for racialized students.

YAAACE provides sports and athletic programming at the grassroots, recreation and high-performance level to the Humber River Black Creek constituency where only 3% of children and youth have access to sports due to the high participation costs. Outreach activities include school programming, community events, street signage and referrals from community workers and educators. Through the registration process, YAAACE athletics/sports and expanded opportunities pillar has over 500 registrants annually spanning several athletics/sports programs throughout the year (Small Ball, D-league, girls program, community weekend drop-ins, mentorship sessions and skill development program).

500

STUDENT REGISTRATIONS

Impact

Violence Prevention

YAAACE continued to use athletics, recreation and wellness as an important component of our violence prevention, and positive youth development.

Educational Advancement

Athletics also continued to function as a pathway to educational advancement and post-secondary opportunity by connecting student-athletes to exposure opportunities that may otherwise be inaccessible.



The Bridgeback

Reintegration & Transition Programs and Supports for Justice-Involved Youth and Emerging Adults



The Bridgeback Strategy is a step-by-step re-integration program and support pathway for justice-involved youth who face compounding barriers to mental-health support and employment or training. This strategy contextualizes the impact of violence exposure harming child development well before any justice contact occurs and operating within the Social Inclusion framework to apply equitable opportunity to justice-involved youth and emerging adults. The six components of the strategy are outlined below:

6 Program Componentets

Trauma-Informed Therapy

01

Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) for justice-involved emerging adults and adults vulnerable to violence.

Education & Reintegration Support

02

Asynchronous learning, credit offering, mentorship, employability training, and life-skills programs, pre- and post-release.

Fresh Start Diversion Project

03

Diversion in partnership with Kids of Incarcerated Parents and the City of Toronto Youth Violence Prevention Strategy.

Justice Navigation

04

Legal education, guidance through judicial processes, and referrals to community resources.

Professional Development

05

Training for justice professionals and youth service providers using YAAACE's pro-social curriculum and facilitation guide.

In-Custody & Transition Support

06

Coordinated in-custody mentorship, DBT training, and YAAACE's pro-social curriculum to strengthen transition outcomes.