

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## High Jump Launches Community Scholars in Partnership with Chicago Public Schools – A community-focused approach to bring academic enrichment and opportunity to Chicago neighborhoods

[Chicago, IL, September 11, 2024] For 35 years, [High Jump](#) has provided life-changing academic enrichment programs for students of limited economic means. Their program has more than doubled a student's likelihood of completing college and has dramatically improved academics and social-emotional learning. **To remove barriers for Chicago students who cannot access High Jump and ensure that every child receives the opportunities they deserve, the High Jump Board of Directors voted to [officially adopt Community Scholars as a permanent program](#) after a successful three-year pilot.**

This community-focused investment in a highly accessible and widely replicable program model has the potential to significantly address and mitigate the educational disparities in Chicago. During a time of inadequate public school funding and shrinking resources for out-of-school time programming, the adoption of High Jump's Community Scholars will make a significant impact by bringing this transformative program to more students across Chicago.

Established in 1989, High Jump provides tuition-free access to advanced coursework and high school transition support in a collaborative environment to help students develop socially and emotionally to thrive in high school and beyond. Their aim to reach more students through sustainable growth is grounded in improving access to and enrollment in high school – and doing this cost-effectively and scalably became the seed for Community Scholars.

Launched as a pilot in 2021 in partnership with Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy and in collaboration with Chicago Public Schools, [Community Scholars](#) emphasizes best practices in afterschool and STEM programs to broaden the reach of High Jump's tuition-free academic enrichment.

**High Jump Executive Director Nate Pietrini shared,** “What I appreciate most about High Jump is our history of committing to the idea that educational enrichment is for everybody. Ensuring that Community Scholars is part of our future means doubling down on that commitment of opening the doors for all students. High Jump envisions a future where every child in Chicago has access to high-quality, out-of-school-time academic programs.”

Bringing the campus-based program to the community removes access barriers, serves more students within more communities, and continues to close the education opportunity gap in

Chicago to ensure long-term academic success for ambitious middle schoolers. Community Scholars is changing Chicago's educational landscape, and we eagerly anticipate the far-reaching impact of this program as we expand to more schools across the city.

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### ***About High Jump***

*High Jump seeks to bring equity to education for Chicago middle school students who have exhibited ambition and potential and are of limited economic means. The program provides a positive and resource-rich environment where students receive academic enrichment, social-emotional skills training, and high school counseling with the goals of sending our participants to excellent college preparatory schools, ensuring their success while they are there, and enhancing their ability to gain admission to highly regarded four-year colleges and universities. [highjumpchicago.org](http://highjumpchicago.org)*