

IMPACT REPORT

STAR (Scholars on Target to Achieve Results) is a culturally-responsive academic engagement initiative that works to build equitable education opportunities for Black Scholars in the Fox Cities.



819

SCHOLARS SERVED TO DATE

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR



25 SENIORS 100%

GRADUATED



"STAR gives you a space where you can be vulnerable to your struggles, and you can problem solve with your STAR Mentor."

Malik STAR Scholar

When Malik, an eighth grader at Wilson Middle School, was asked what STAR means to him, he said, "(STAR) is a group for people who are committed to doing great things in the community and help each other to be our best selves."

Malik has made great strides in improving his grades, attendance, and work ethic. The representation provided through participation in STAR matters to Malik and hundreds of other Black youth throughout the Fox Valley.

"My favorite part of working with STAR is seeing people of my color and learning how to work with a group."

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Sofia admits that in the beginning, she felt unsure about joinging STAR. However, those feelings quickly faded as she began meeting other STAR Scholars and participating in opportunities, field trips, and one-on-one meetings with her STAR support at North High School. She now feels excited about her time with STAR and credits the initiative with teaching her to be kind to everyone.

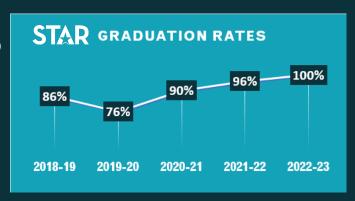
"Our 1:1's have been impactful because we get to talk about my grades, home life, and my overall experience as a student."

2021-2022 AASD Graduation Rates

2022-2023 STAR Graduate

STAR Scholars = 96%

AASD Students = 87%



Major STAR Investors include the Appleton Area School District, Ascension, Basic Needs Giving Partnership, Brightspark Travel, Inc., Capital Credit Union, Herb Kohl Philanthropies, Kids Forward, Macy's, Miller Electric Mfg. Co., an ITW Company, Sitawi Life Coaching, LLC, State Farm Neighborhood Assist, ThedaCare, Thrivent Financial, and United Way Fox Cities.

86%

of Scholars believe STAR staff guided them through hard situations.

88%

of Scholars believe working with STAR exposed them to new ideas and experiences.

92%

of Scholars believe that STAR staff showed that they cared about them.

Program Highlights

- STAR celebrated its' 5-year anniversary in February 2023!
- STAR planned its' first Black History Month event at Appleton East High School in collaboration with STAR Scholars and key community partners.
- As of Aug. 1st, Dennetra Williams, former STAR Assistant Director, will take on the newly created role of STAR Director.
- The BGCFV Youth of the Year honor was awarded to STAR Scholar, Rosanna Williams of Appleton North High School.
- The BGCFV Junior Youth of the Year honor was awarded to STAR Scholar, Evangelina Rattray of Einstein Middle School.

"(STAR staff) helped me believe that there's always one person that you can go to for help or need someone to talk to. Joining STAR has helped me find myself as a person."

-STAR Scholar

School Partner Insights

agree STAR has been a strong partner in strong partner in helping to meet the needs of Black students at their school.

"STAR is a safe workspace for students to achieve and focus on their work. They help support students in all areas of academics as well as outside the school day. I have nothing but positive things to say about the difference they are making in young scholars' lives."

-AASD Educator



"(STAR) made me feel welcomed and like I belong in STAR with all of my community."

-STAR Scholar

"STAR has taught me that I matter and I'm not just a student that attends East. STAR has also taught me about my future and that what I do now will impact my future in great ways."

Orajade, a sophomore at Appleton East High School, shares that thanks to STAR she actually enjoys coming to school. STAR makes her feel welcome and has given her the support she needs to thrive academically and personally.

"Before I joined STAR my grades were low, my grades are now A's and B's. I want to make my STAR Mentors feel proud. Knowing I can participate in more things when my grades are good, I strive harder for my goals."

> Orajade believes her STAR Mentors care about her well-being and want to see her achieve her goals as much as she does. Her participation in STAR has made her proud to be an African American girl.

> > Orajade STAR Scholar

Caregiver Insights

82% feel a sense of hope for their STAR Scholar's future.

"My child's STAR Coordinator is supportive, knowledgeable, relatable and enjoyed by my student."

-STAR Scholar Caregiver

