



2024-2025 Program Outcomes Report



Mission

America SCORES inspires Cleveland youth to lead healthy lives, be engaged students, and have the confidence and character to make a difference in the world.

Vision

Our vision is to engage and support Cleveland poet-athletes through high school graduation, in an effort to develop healthy, civically engaged students and leaders within our communities.

Program Model

SCORES reaches Cleveland youth through our unique curricula composed of soccer, poetry, and service-learning.

We unite children, teachers, families, and community partners to help foster a support system that nurtures learning and celebrates youth achievements.

SCORES meets The Ohio Afterschool Network's guidelines for providing quality afterschool programming, and all curricula are aligned to State and National Standards in language arts, physical education, and service-learning.

All programming is led by trained teachers, staff, and qualified community members.



Why soccer?

As a popular sport requiring minimal equipment, soccer is accessible to children regardless of economic status. Soccer engages youth with their peers in vigorous activity and provides a platform for teaching fitness and nutrition. Youth who play soccer also learn the values of teamwork, sportsmanship, and discipline.



Why poetry?

Creative thinking promotes problem solving and performing instills public speaking skills. Writing and performing poetry gives youth an outlet to express emotionally charged experiences that may inhibit their ability to perform academically. Creative writing also encourages a personal connection to literature, which deepens classroom engagement.



Why service-learning?

Volunteerism instills in children a sense of compassion, social responsibility, and personal worth. Through service-learning projects and collaborative experiences, children develop leadership and teamwork skills at an early age. Youth apply their knowledge to group-selected community projects, which inspires self-efficacy and pride.

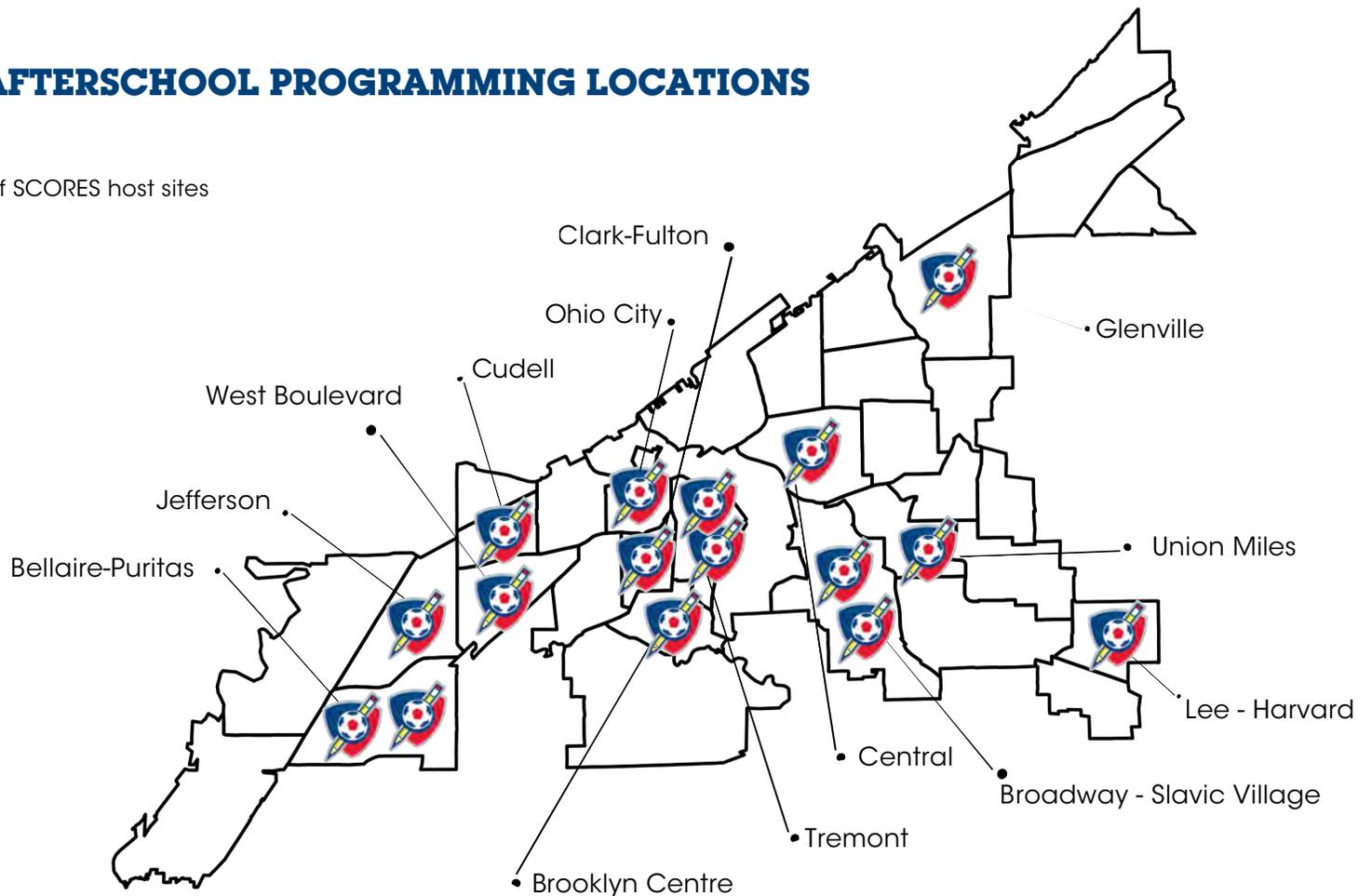


Who are Poet-Athletes?

Poet-Athletes are the youth participating in the America SCORES Cleveland program. The term is used to signify the holistic approach SCORES uses to celebrate each participant's creativity and physical activity.

OUR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMMING LOCATIONS

 = # of SCORES host sites



• **Bellaire-Puritas**

- Artemus Ward School
- Robinson G. Jones School

• **Brooklyn Centre**

- Denison

• **Central**

- Dike School of the Arts

• **Clark-Fulton**

- Natividad Pagan Intl. Newcomers Academy

• **Cudell**

- Marion C. Seltzer School

• **Glenville**

- Franklin D. Roosevelt Academy

• **Hough**

- Wade Park School

• **Jefferson**

- Garfield

• **Lee-Harvard**

- Whitney M. Young

• **Ohio City**

- Orchard STEM

• **Slavic Village**

- Warner Girls' Leadership Academy
- Stella Walsh NRRC

• **Tremont**

- Buhner Dual Language Academy
- Scranton School

• **Union Miles**

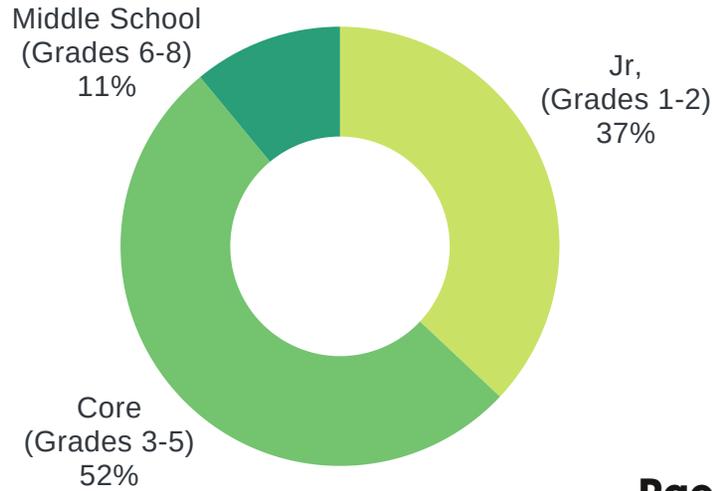
- Woodland Hills

• **West Boulevard**

- Wilbur Wright

OUR POET-ATHLETES

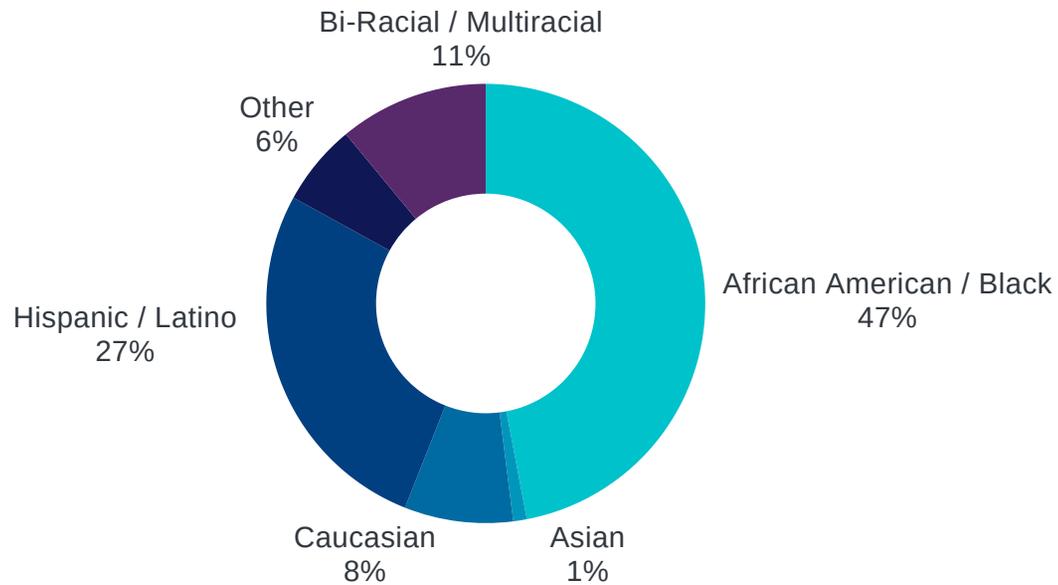
Program Age Group



Gender



Race/Ethnicity



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Youth Served



707

After School



1,161

Summer & Other



16

Schools



13

Neighborhoods



24

Summer & Other

Program Highlights



193

Soccer Games
Played



3,000

Poems
Written



18

Youth-Led
Service Projects



17

Community
Partners



4

Community
Events



5,245

Families at SCORES
Games & Events



83

Coaches



58%

Returning
Poet-Athletes

OUR 2024-25 OUTCOMES

Literacy

93%

1st-2nd graders improved or maintained literacy scores

79%

3rd-8th graders improved or maintained writing scores

91%

Coaches agree SCORES helped improve students' language arts skills

Physical Fitness

88%

3rd-8th graders increased or maintained their aerobic fitness

99%

Caregivers agree that the amount of time their child spends exercising increased

Social Emotional Learning

93%

Poet-athletes are more confident about themselves

85%

Poet-athletes feel they are making their community a better place

98%

Coaches agree SCORES helped increase students' leadership skills

Source: 2024-25 America SCORES Cleveland Assessments and Survey Results



FROM OUR SCHOOLS

100%
OF PRINCIPALS AGREE



SCORES increases their students' self-confidence



SCORES encourages their students' to be engaged in school



SCORES positively impacts their school community

“

The SCORES program has had a profound impact by giving students the chance to play a team sport they wouldn't otherwise have access to, keeping them physically active while fostering teamwork and discipline.

The poetry competition has been equally transformative, helping students develop creative writing skills and confidence through performance.

Together, these opportunities empower students both on and off the field, strengthening their sense of community and self-expression.

”

Principal at Warner Girl's Leadership Academy

“

I have seen attendance improve [for students] because they had something they belonged to and a group of friends.

”

Principal at Scranton School

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

America SCORES Cleveland conducts comprehensive evaluations to continually assess the successes and needs of the program. All assessments and surveys quantifiably measure levels of literacy, fitness, school engagement, and social and emotional competencies. Support and feedback is given on select evaluations by Kimberly Rush, Adjunct Professor of English at Cleveland State University; Claire Rollins, Senior Project Manager at Case Western Reserve University SOM; and Gerard Banez, PhD, Program Director of the Pediatric Pain Rehabilitation Program at the Cleveland Clinic.

Literacy

Writing Assessments (Core & Middle) are administered at the beginning and end of the fall season. Poet-athletes are asked to write a poem or short story on any topic they choose. The 6+1 Trait Writing Rubric is used to score their writing samples. Rubric categories include: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, presentation, and convention.

Dolch Sight Words Assessments (Jr.) are administered at the beginning and end of each season. A selected list of words from the primer through third grade list of Dolch sight words are presented to youth on flash cards and students are assessed on how many words they are able to recognize at the beginning of the season versus at the conclusion of the season.

Physical Fitness

The **Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run "PACER Test" (Core & Middle)** is an aerobic capacity evaluation administered at the beginning and end of each spring season. The PACER Test involves running continuously between two points that are 20 meters apart and has become recognized as one of the most popular and valid tests of aerobic fitness available.

Surveys & Social-Emotional Learning

Coach Surveys are administered at the end of each season. Writing and Soccer coaches provide feedback on how the SCORES program affects students' language arts skills, levels of self-confidence, leadership, cooperation, teamwork, and general attitude toward school.

Poet-Athlete Surveys (3rd-8th graders) are administered at the end of each season. Poet-athletes complete a survey that measures program impact in social and emotional learning core competencies, based on the Developmental Assets Profile (DAP).

Principal Surveys are administered at the end of each school year. Principals complete a survey that measures the impact of the SCORES program in their students, highlighting changes in academic engagement and overall behavior.

Caregiver Surveys are administered at the end of each school year. Caregivers respond to questions on their child's experience with the SCORES program and how the SCORES program benefits their children.

POET-ATHLETE HIGHLIGHT

Tarris is a 5th grader at Orchard STEM School. He first joined SCORES in 2023 and he performed his team's poem "The Hero Within, I am the Destroyer of Evil" at our 2025 Inspired Art event!

Inspired Art features local artists who develop pieces inspired by the poems of our Poet-Athletes. Their pieces are sold at auction to the highest bidder where all funds go to benefit SCORES youth.

Tarris enjoys playing soccer games and said he looks forward to playing the games each week. He enjoys the community service projects and said he wants to do more of them in SCORES.



The Hero Within by George Kocar



The Hero Within by Tom Masaveg

The Hero Within **I am the Destroyer of Evil** *by Orchard STEM Core Team*

Crash Boom Bang
Cold as ice... Antarctica
Hot as fire
More powerful than the sun
I am the destroyer of evil
Sticky, ugly, spidery
Fast like the speed of sound
Speed faster than time
I am the destroyer of evil
Made of cats
Razor claws.... MEEEEEEEEOW
I am the destroyer of evil
Sweet like chocolate chips
Spicy like a jalapeno.... Pow Pow
I am the destroyer of evil
Fight for what is right
I am a friend to all
Kind as a sunflower
warming its face in the sun
I am the destroyer of evil



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