



CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

a ministry of XCF

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024

akilichristianhs.org



LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Akili Supporters,

We are thrilled to present you with the 2023-2024 Annual Report! We hope you take a few minutes to read about Akili's growth and achievements. Your financial investment and prayers have made progress possible.

Our mission is to educate, train, and develop students into community leaders. This past year, the school took an important step in achieving this goal by graduating its first class of seniors! In June, 15 graduates walked the stage at Battelle Fine Arts Center at Otterbein University to receive their diplomas, having their accomplishments celebrated by staff, friends, and family. Our staff is proud of these students for their hard work, knowing it will prepare them for the next phase of their lives.

We look forward to moving into our new home at Dwell Community Church's Oakland Park facility called, "The Warehouse." We anticipate moving during Christmas break. This location will provide students with valuable amenities for their education such as a gymnasium and an auditorium. Akili will enjoy closer proximity to several business partners such as the Equip Skills Center.

We look forward to seeing Akili's mission accomplished this year through your prayers and financial support!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ariana Adkins".

Ariana Adkins

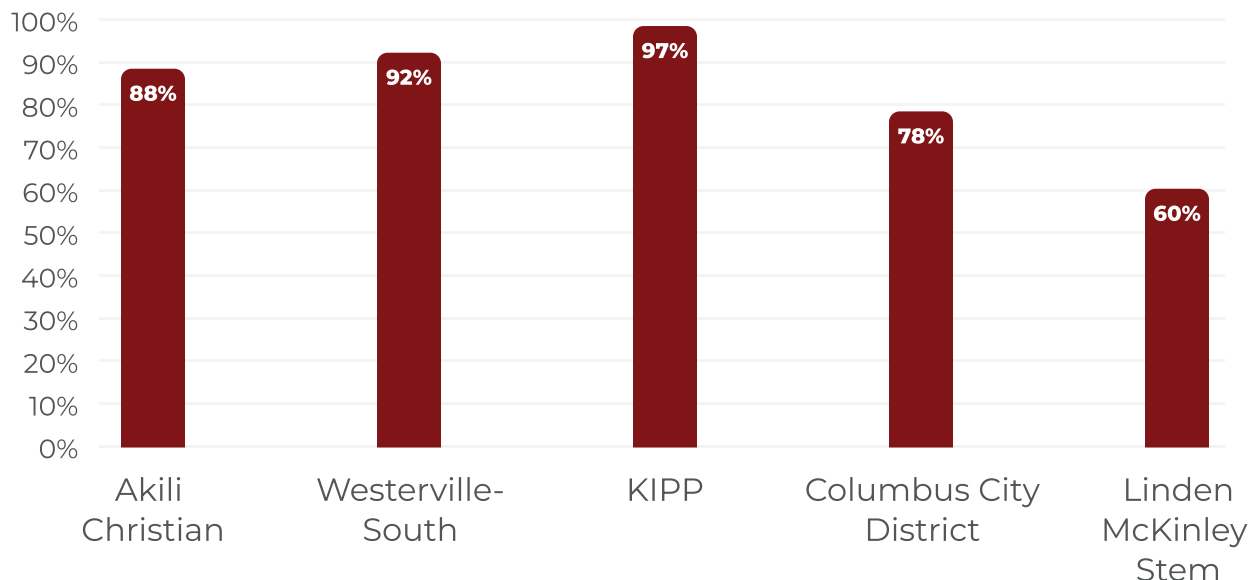
EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

It's one thing to provide excellent education opportunities, but it's another to inspire students to take advantage of those opportunities. We feel Akili students are equipped and motivated to learn, and the charts below indicate the same!

We are pleased to report that 15 of 17 seniors graduated in June 2024! This compares favorably with Columbus City Schools. The two seniors last year have become fifth year seniors and hope to graduate later this school year.

4 Year HS Graduation Rates

2023 -24 School Year



See the State Report Card Website. <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/> (Accessed 10/9/2024). Type the school name or district name to find the grad rates. The State does not publish private non-public charter school graduation rates.

“

The smaller the classes, the more attention they get, and the more they pick up on. It's an excellent school, Akili has brought Christy's grades up when she was behind.

”

- Savannah Hayes Shehey

Grandparent



“

I like the Akili values of persistence and love. I cried the first time I got an award for representing Akili values. And I'm proud of my grades this year - I've gotten straight A's so far this year.

”

- Ashyra Harris

Student

“

I've done a lot better academically over this past year. And this past summer I started thinking more seriously about going to college, which I'm very excited about. Having those goals for the future has helped me work harder in my classes.

”

- Spencer Burkhart, student

Student

Students Like Coming to Akili

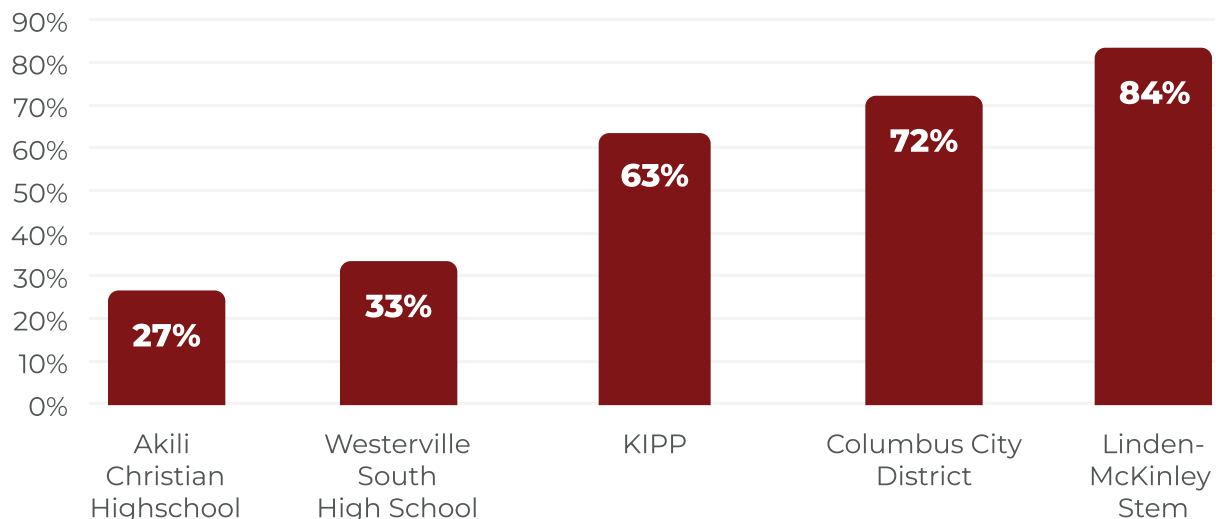
A much smaller percentage of students are chronically absent at Akili compared to those attending Columbus City high schools, and better than a local suburban high school. See below.

According to Panorama Education, “Chronic absenteeism has profound and far-reaching consequences for students, extending well beyond missed school days. It can hinder the development of critical skills, reduce academic success, and create lasting challenges throughout a student's life.”¹

Furthermore, students from lower socioeconomic status are associated with higher levels of absenteeism. One study shows that low income families are about three times more likely to miss a significant amount of school.² This is not the case at Akili.

Chronic Absenteeism Comparisons

2023 - 24 School Year



For high school only district-wide chronic absenteeism rates, go to <https://reports.education.ohio.gov/report/report-card-data-district-attendance-rate-with-student-disagg>. District scores were derived from selecting the school district at the top of the web page and averaging the absenteeism rates for each grade level. Lower absentee rates show that students like coming to school.

LIFE COACHING

Students who make progress in their functional lives accelerate their transition into responsible adulthood. Students want to take the next step towards adulthood and Akili wants that for them too! However, students need functional help getting started. To that end, Akili offers Life Coaches to help them launch into adulthood. Coaches can assist students in obtaining a driver's permit, applying for jobs, learning soft skills, and knowing how to buy a used car. Each year about 25 students receive Life Coaching.



“

Through Life Coaching, I have a renewed gratitude for the many things people have taught me and helped me with, which are instrumental to who I am today. This has given me strong motivation to support Garventz. It's been refreshing to give my resources to someone and see the impact before my eyes. Even if it's just a few hours a week and a quick meal, I am glad my investment is going to bear tangible fruit!

”

- Jack Curran
Life Coach



“

Life coaching Noel has truly expanded my heart. Our relationship has grown my prayer life. I am super grateful for the chance to have this connection with such a great kid. She is sweet and fun to be around and is even going to teach me Korean cooking.

”

- Mary Beth Gladwell

Life Coach

IT TAKES MORE THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE

It takes more than a high school diploma to succeed today. Students need pathways for accomplishment in this competitive world. Akili partners with organizations to provide shadowing and internship opportunities in the Trades and Tech fields. This part of Akili's strategy has not progressed as much as we would have liked. In response, we hired Kimani Kendrick to focus on developing this program. Kimani will focus on securing several internships and shadowing experiences with businesses and organizations.

Kimani Kendrick



Career Pathways

“Hello! I am excited to work at Akili and look forward to helping students gain real direction in their future education and careers. I wanted to work at Akili because of the mission of the school and the opportunity to provide resources that will enable future student success! I know the teachers really care about the students and I look forward to being a part of that team. My new part time role at Akili will dovetail nicely with my other part time job as a recruiter and a job specialist at Life Builders.”

Kimani graduated with a bachelor's degree in human resources and business administration in May 2022. She began her career as a Human Resource coordinator at Abercrombie and Fitch.



“ Akili helped me get ahead in my career path by shadowing a Speech Pathologist.

”

- **Bella Lopez-Hernandez**
Graduate

Akili also helps students focus on college prep by partnering with College Credit Plus, enabling them to complete free college courses while they attend Akili. Brittany Johnston will help students navigate this program and nurture students through any relational and emotional issues that arise.

Brittany Johnston



School Counselor

“I am thankful to work in an environment where God's love and truth are so clearly demonstrated day in and day out by a staff who deeply cares about each student and all aspects of their lives.

My role is to support students academically and in the social and emotional realm. I hope to equip students with tools they can use to achieve their academic and career goals, while enabling them to navigate life's challenges.”

Brittany began working at Akili in January 2024. She earned her master's degree in social work and previously worked as a school social worker at Columbus City Schools. Brittany also enjoyed serving in "Renegade" (urban ministry for youth) for nine years.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A good education and career pathways are important, but not sufficient! Students need to grow in their relational and spiritual lives setting a foundation for a healthy marriage and family life. Akili helps students get involved in the local church where they will experience authentic life change. Almost half (24 students) of the Akili students are involved in an offsite Dwell High School Bible Study. And, about the same meet with a youth group leader for one-on-one mentoring.

Holistic investment helps students build relational skills, increasing their chances of a happy family life and career.





It's been a lot of fun to be connected with people at Akili who I also see at Bible study and Epic summer camp. I feel like I have teammates and close friends at school who can work with me to make new students feel welcome at my Bible study. I feel like I have a role in inviting friends to Bible study and helping them get involved with good friend groups.

- Spencer Burkhart, student
Student



My friendships here and relationships with some of the staff are the best parts of coming to school at Akili. Compared to other schools, it's more of a community if I'm being honest.

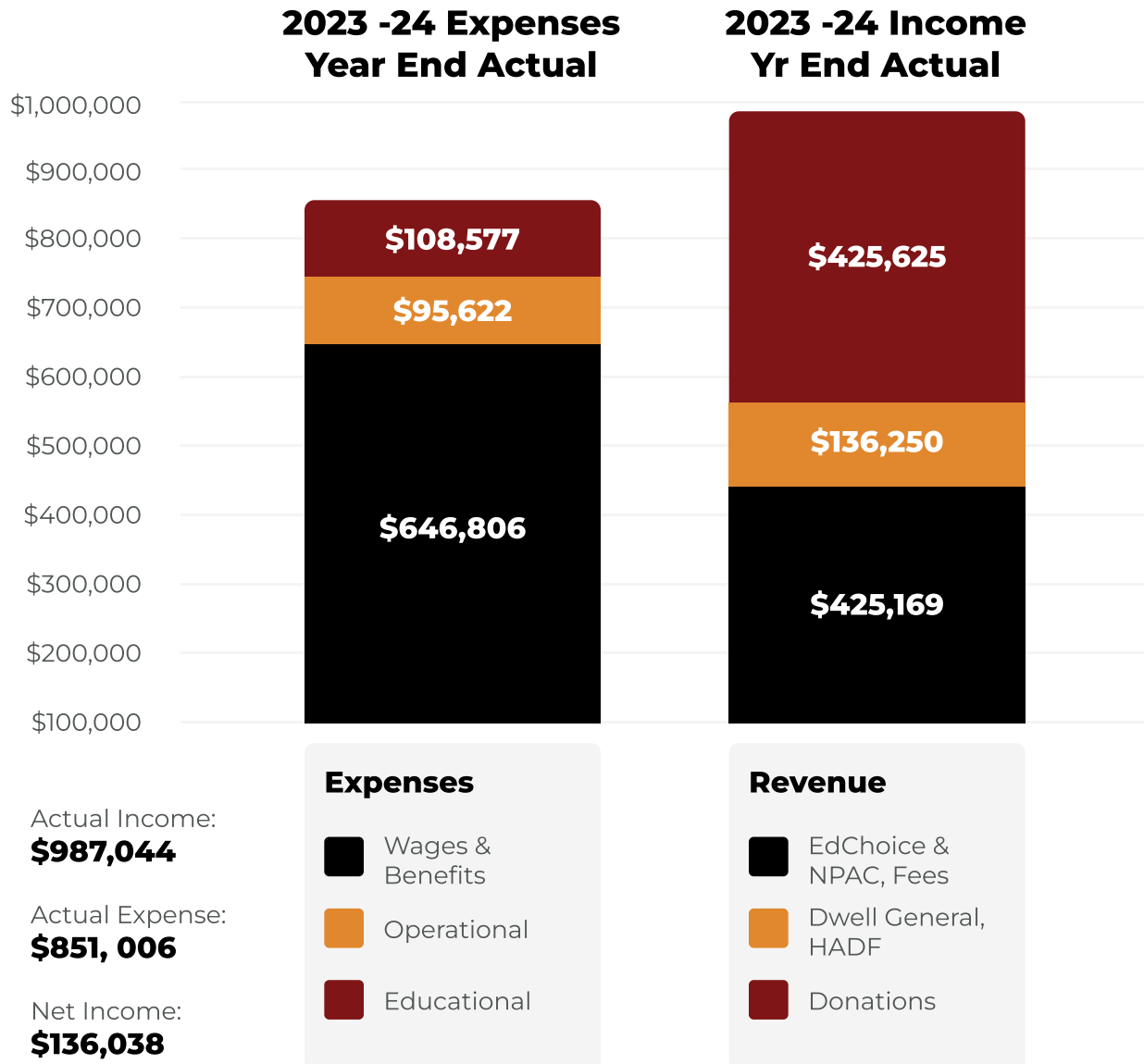
- Jazelle Saffell
Student

FINANCES

God blessed Akili with generous donations that surpassed the fundraising goal. We are grateful to God for the generosity He has produced in our donors.

Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. -2 Corinthians 9:10

Here is a picture of the Akili year-end finances:



WHAT YOUR GIVING CAN ACCOMPLISH

A gift to Akili will change a life, just like it has with Ashyra, Spencer, Garventz, Noel and Jazelle. Here are some ways your donation helps:

- \$250 Provides a life changing experience for one student at Epic summer camp.
- \$500 Gives all freshmen a vision towards a possible career. This amount provides each freshmen a Strong Interest Inventory (career assessment).
- \$1,200 Provides a full year of breakfast and lunch for 1 student. Students will learn on a full stomach.
- \$2,000 Provides field trips for the entire school year to enrich and enlarge each student's world.
- \$3,500 Supplies each classroom with enough materials for the entire school year.
- \$8,500 Full tuition scholarship (supplements the EdChoice scholarship).



Our School Board

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Akili Christian High School

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Morgan Zahler

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Bridgeway Academic & Therapy Ctr.

Alex Richards

Senior Software Engineer
Northwoods

Gabby Miller

Counselor, LISW-S
WellSpring Counseling

Special thanks to those who have come alongside Akili's mission

- Franklin University for their hospitality in hosting our school.
- Dwell Community Church community for its continued support in helping underwrite Akili and providing the many volunteers who pray regularly and contribute their time and money to make programs work.
- Equip Skills Center which graciously teaches and trains our students in automotive technology.
- Huntington National Bank for hosting shadowing experiences for our students.
- Our partnership with Columbus State Community College and the College Credit Plus program.
- To Missions Increase for its sacrificial and ongoing equipping in developing ministry champions.

If you are interested in investing into our students and mission, please go to our [website](#) and click on the “Donate” button in the top right corner. Or, scan the QR code below. It will take you directly to our giving page.

If you would like to subscribe to our monthly prayer newsletter, please go to our website and find the “Get Involved” tab. From there, scroll down to the “Pray.” graphic.

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GIVE



[aplos.com/aws/give/
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¹ Sam DeFlicht, “The Effects of Chronic Absenteeism in Schools,” Panorama Education, Accessed Sept 26, 2024, <https://www.panoramaed.com/blog/the-effects-of-chronic-absenteeism-in-schools#:~:text=Chronic%20absenteeism%20has%20profound%20and,challenges%20t%20hroughout%20a%20student's%20life>.

² Edward M. Sosu, Shadrach Dare, Claire Goodfellow, Markus Klein, “Socioeconomic status and school absenteeism: A systematic review and narrative synthesis,” BERA, Review of Education, Volume 9, Issue 3, Oct 2021. In addition, see Allie Vugrincic, “Central Ohio Schools Tackle Increased Chronic Absenteeism as Students Head Back to Class,” Here and Now, WOSU 89.7 NPR News (2023), accessed, August 8, 2023, <https://news.wosu.org/news/2023-08-28/central-ohio-schools-tackle-increased-chronic-absenteeism-as-students-head-back-to-class>