

ELEVATE

AUGUSTA

2025 – 2026 IMPACT REPORT

No one gets there alone.

This report captures Elevate Augusta's reach across the full 2025–2026 Richmond County school year: the students we served, the hours we taught, and the mentorship and enrichment that carried learning well beyond the classroom.

Our Year at a Glance

120 Students Served <i>70% growth from previous year</i>	50,000+ Cumulative Student Contact Hours <i>instilling character qualities & life skills</i>	3 High School Classes <i>accredited & meet Georgia Common Core Standards</i>
1,530 Classroom Hours <i>each class received 510 hours of teaching</i>	390+ Mentorship & Program Hours <i>1:1 & small-group programs</i>	200+ Community Service Hours <i>dedicated to serving our city</i>
100% Elevate Seniors Graduated <i>entering the work force, pursuing a college education or the trades</i>	15+ Community Collaborations <i>We can't do it alone!</i>	5 College Visits <i>Exposing our students to possibilities and preparing them for life after high school</i>

Who We Reached

This year Elevate grew its outreach from 70 to 120 students – a 71 percent increase. That growth reflects deeper roots in the school we already serve and new access for students who had never connected with a mentorship program. Across three high school classes, students engaged a curriculum built around character qualities and practical life skills, reinforced all year by mentorship, hands-on learning, service, and adventure.

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In the Classroom

Elevate met students Monday through Friday from 12:20 to 3:10 PM throughout the Richmond County 2025–2026 school year, roughly 2.8 hours of structured instruction per day, in our accredited elective class that meets Georgia Common Core Standards.

Across a standard Georgia school year of about 180 instructional days, each class received approximately 510 hours of teaching. Across all three high school classes, Elevate delivered an estimated 1,530 hours of direct classroom instruction.

Counted as student contact hours – total learning time received across every student served – that is more than 50,000 cumulative hours of character qualities and life-skills programming reaching Augusta's young people. Guest speakers and hands-on workshops were also woven directly into the school day, from a Channel 12 videographer to a "Shark Tank" entrepreneurship workshop and a sign-language class.

Beyond the Classroom: Mentorship & Enrichment

Elevate's impact reaches far past the daily class period. Across the year, students took part in more than 200 program sessions beyond the school day – an estimated 390 hours. At the heart of that programming is relationship: through four core mentorship tracks, students met with mentors week after week, adding up to an estimated 145 mentorship hours.

Alongside the mentorship tracks, Wellness Wednesday brought students together 28 times for nutrition, family dinners, and self-care, and **REFUEL @ Heritage Academy** added 15 site-based mentoring sessions. Students also enjoyed **37 experiential adventures and field trips** (Camp Lakeside, the Georgia Aquarium, Riverbanks Zoo, Green Jackets baseball, museums, and hiking) and **11 guest-speaker, college, and career-readiness sessions**.

Service & Giving Back

Mentorship at Elevate flows outward into community service. Over the summer alone, students contributed 160 community service hours – and during the school year they took part in 21 more service days: community cleanups in the Harrisburg neighborhood, distributing food with Golden Harvest and at The Masters Table, building a community garden with Black Farm Street at Belle-Terrace Park, volunteering with Arts in the Hearts, cheering and running at the Faith Forward 5K, and maintaining trails at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park. These experiences turn character lessons into lived practice.

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Community Partners & Volunteers

Elevate's reach is multiplied by a network of community partners and volunteer experts who give their time and talent to students. This year students learned from nearly **20 guest experts and mentors**: among them a Channel 12 videographer, a dental student, a fashion designer and entrepreneur, welding and knitting instructors, an etiquette coach, and the panel of the "Called to Create" Shark Tank workshop. Programming was hosted and supported by 20-plus partner organizations, including the Salvation Army Kroc Center, Warren Baptist Augusta and Crossbridge Campus, Heritage Academy, Lamar Milledge, Golden Harvest Food Bank, Black Farm Street, Called to Create, Arts in the Hearts, the Augusta Museum of History, the Lucy Craft Laney Museum, the Georgia Aquarium, Miller Theater, and Phinizy Swamp Nature Park, and the Boys and Girls Club. Thank you for your continued collaboration with us!

Stewardship of Every Dollar

Elevate delivers this breadth of programming with remarkable efficiency. A majority of activities across the semester were offered at little or no direct cost, made possible by donated venues, volunteer instructors, and partner organizations. Where costs did arise – supplies, admissions, transportation, and food – they were modest as donor dollars translate almost entirely into student experiences and staffing.

What's to Come in 2026

As we begin our third year at the Academy of Richmond County, we are thrilled to announce the expansion of our program into Lamar Milledge Elementary School. After six weeks of leadership training and certification, our high school Elevators will begin leading, teaching, and guiding weekly character and life-skills lessons for fourth- and fifth-grade students. This exciting expansion allows our curriculum – and, more importantly, the relationships at the heart of our program – to begin shaping lives earlier.

Beginning in October, Elevate Augusta will expand its reach to **touch the lives of more than 200 students each week throughout the Harrisburg community**, creating a powerful pipeline of mentorship, leadership, and opportunity from elementary school through high school.

We are excited for what's in store and incredibly grateful for every single individual, community collaborator, foundation, and business that has come alongside us to Elevate the next generation of change makers in our community.

With deep gratitude,

Amanda Millar

Director of Development