

## Introducing Super Scholars

The Super Scholars program pairs adult mentors from local businesses with middle school students who have been identified by teachers as being academically at risk (e.g., low grades, discipline issues, low motivation, low confidence). Some of the youth have mild learning disabilities, for which they receive additional instructional support and tutoring outside of the mentoring program. For the most part, these students are referred to the program because they have challenges that might be addressed with support from caring adult role models.



Mentors meet with mentees at the school twice a week, for a minimum of two hours of weekly mentoring engagement.

Some of the goals of the Super Scholars program are to help youth:

- Strengthen academic skills and motivation
- Improve grades and overall academic performance
- Increase interest in attending college

### Super Scholars' Evaluation Needs and Challenges



Recently, a new district superintendent asked if the program had any data to demonstrate impact. Super Scholars has some participant satisfaction data, but it ***cannot currently evaluate whether and to what degree the program model is achieving its intended outcomes for participants.***

Parents have also been asking why their child was referred to the program and requesting evidence that it's helped students improve in the past. Recently, several mentors quit midyear, saying that they didn't feel like

they were making a difference for their mentee and that they didn't even know if their mentee liked meeting with them.

Super Scholars has multiple competing and overlapping reasons for starting to think about program evaluation. So, where should it start? The first priority for Super Scholars will be to build a logic model (a graphical representation of how the program's resources and activities work toward producing intended outcomes for youth).