



2025



**SOUTH
BRONX
COMMUNITY**
CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

IMPACT REPORT



OUR PEOPLE

LEADERSHIP TEAM



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MESSAGE FROM OUR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

Reading through this year's Impact Report, I am filled with pride and appreciation for what we are building together at South Bronx Community. The opening words—"graduation isn't just a ceremony, it's a launchpad"—capture the essence of who we are. Each time our students cross the stage, we are not only celebrating the distance they have traveled but also witnessing the strength of their dreams and the futures they are ready to claim.

This year's report reminds us that SBC is more than a school. It is a community, a movement, and a promise. Our young people are proving every day that when education honors their identities, nurtures their strengths, and centers their aspirations, transformation happens—not just for them, but for their families and neighborhoods as well.

Our work is not about these kinds of platitudes, but an innovative high school design that ensures every student masters personal, professional and academic skills and applies them in real world projects, rigorous internships and college courses. Take Mariam Dukuly, a recent graduate who balanced high school with a paid apprenticeship at Amazon, where she contributed to complex logistics operations. At the same time, Mariam prepared for college through the rigorous Bard sequence, studying with a professor on site at SBC for the past two years. Now, she's heading into her freshman year majoring in business at SUNY Albany with confidence, purpose, and momentum.

We are also redefining what it means to be an educator. Stories like that of Bronx native Daniel Lipford, who earned a bachelor's degree in Restorative Justice from John Jay College and joined SBC as a Community Beacon in 2022, reflect how we are changing the teacher workforce. Today, Daniel is a Rising Teacher on the cusp of completing his master's degree in education while teaching AP African American History—bringing both his scholarship and his lived experience into the classroom to inspire the next generation.

These stories are not the exceptions, *they are our exceptional standard.* As you read this report, I hope you see what I see: a community determined to redefine what success means in education and a generation of young people prepared to shape the world on their terms.

Thank you for being advocates, supporters and guides for us in this work. Your partnership makes this journey possible, and together, we are not just imagining a better future—we are building it.

With gratitude and resolve,

John Clemente
Executive Director



SKILL UP. DESIGN YOUR FUTURE.

BE EPIC.



At South Bronx Community Charter High School, graduation isn't just a ceremony - it's a launchpad. It's where we celebrate not only how far our students have come, but how far they're about to go. This year's graduates are living proof that when you redesign education around young people's strengths, identities, and aspirations, the results are powerful.

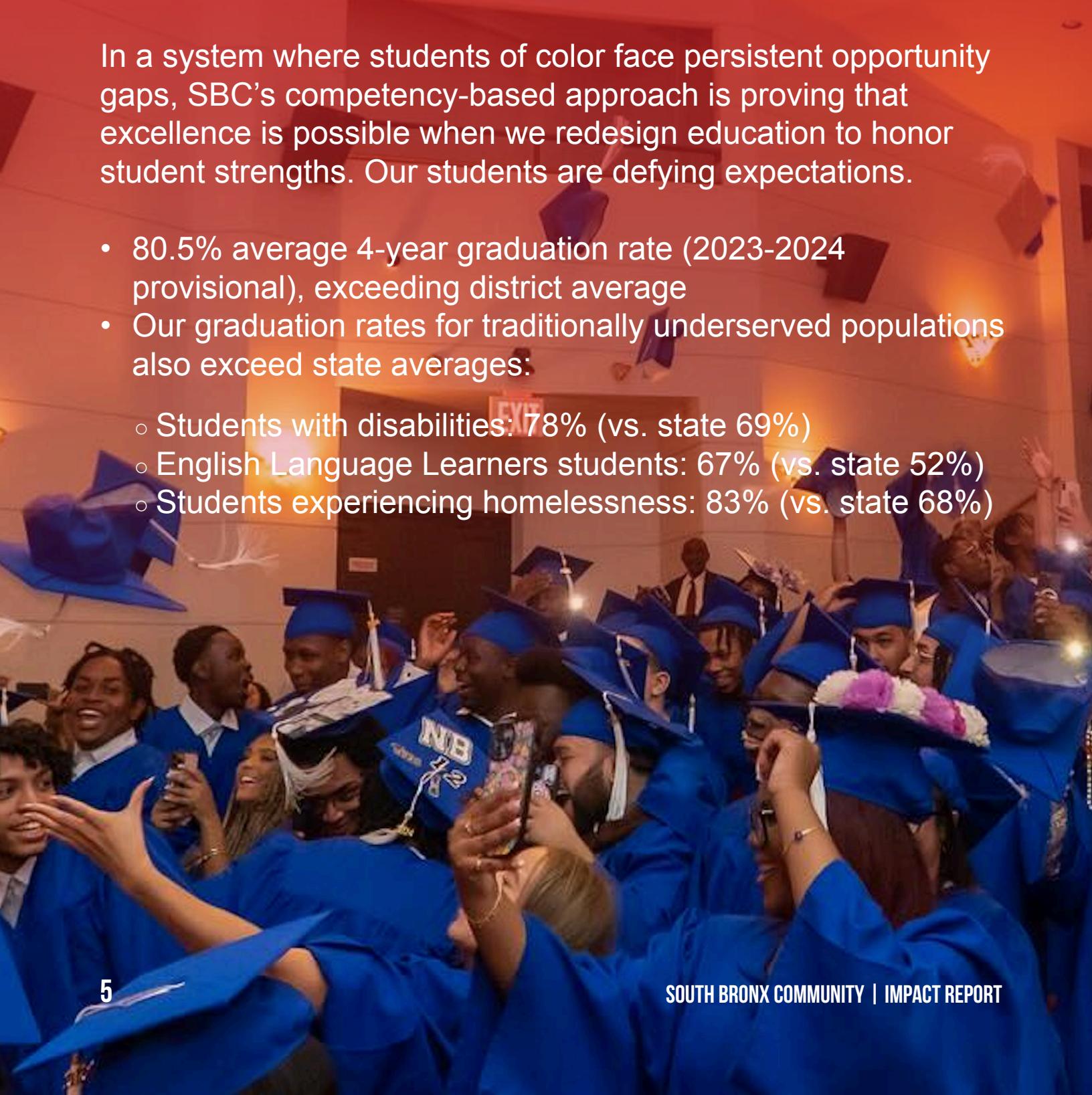
This isn't just school – *it's a movement.* Our students are building futures on their terms. Our educators are rewriting what's possible. Together, we're showing what education can be when it's rooted in purpose, joy, and justice.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BARRIER BREAKING GRADUATES

In a system where students of color face persistent opportunity gaps, SBC's competency-based approach is proving that excellence is possible when we redesign education to honor student strengths. Our students are defying expectations.

- 80.5% average 4-year graduation rate (2023-2024 provisional), exceeding district average
- Our graduation rates for traditionally underserved populations also exceed state averages:
 - Students with disabilities: 78% (vs. state 69%)
 - English Language Learners students: 67% (vs. state 52%)
 - Students experiencing homelessness: 83% (vs. state 68%)





ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION

Traditional educational models weren't designed for our students. SBC's competency-based approach ensures learning is personalized, culturally affirming, and connected to real-world skills. Students progress based on demonstrated mastery, not seat time.

Competency-based education drives deeper learning.

Traditional education wasn't built for our kids. We're not trying to fix a broken system; we're building something new. At SBC, our competency-based model redefines success: students move forward when they master real-world skills, not just when the bell rings.

This year:

- 75% of students mastered 80% or more of their competencies
- Students reported a 6% increase in feeling supported by staff
- Students reported an 8% increase in feeling valued

When students feel seen, challenged, and celebrated — *they soar.*

RECOGNITION AND LEADERSHIP



The world is watching. SBC's model is gaining attention as a blueprint for educational transformation:

- Mentor School in NYS PLAN Pilot - leading performance-based assessment statewide
- Finalist in the U.S. Department of Education's Career Z Challenge
- Top 10 Finalist in the ASU+GSV Education Innovation Showcase
- National partner with Transcend to scale our Community Beacons model



Community Beacons:

TRANSFORMING THE EDUCATION WORKFORCE

The education system faces a three-part challenge: a lack of teacher diversity, insufficient focus on durable skills development for students, and critical teacher pipeline shortages. Our Community Beacons model addresses these issues by recruiting, developing, and retaining educators who reflect our students' identities and experiences, while building pathways into education careers.

We recruit, grow, and retain educators who mirror our students' identities and bring lived wisdom into the classroom.

Here's what that looks like:

- 80% teacher retention year-over-year
- 88% of staff identify as people of color, reflecting our student community
- 90% of parents feel respected and supported as educational partners





COLLEGE AND CAREER PATHWAYS



True educational equity means ensuring students graduate with meaningful connections to college and career. SBC's approach integrates rigorous academics with real-world experiences, opening doors to fulfilling futures.

This year, 10 alumni earned full 2-year scholarships through our partnership with the NYU Career Pathways Bridge Program, two students became Posse Scholars, and another made history as our first QuestBridge Scholar. Every 11th-grader completed a paid internship, ranging from Fortune 500 companies such as JP Morgan Chase, Amazon, and Accenture, to local K–3 literacy programs, elder care facilities, and other community-based organizations.

Building bridges to economic opportunity.

- 100% college acceptance rate with graduates accepted to NYU, Howard University, and Smith College
- 100% internship completion, creating direct pathways to careers

NEW INITIATIVES



To further support our educational model and community, we've launched several key initiatives:

- Teacher and Staff Mental Health Support: A dedicated counselor providing mental health services to staff experiencing secondary trauma and compassion fatigue
- Building K-8 Partnerships: Creating opportunities for younger students to connect with SBC's model and community
- Postsecondary Success: Providing individualized support as students transition into college, careers, trade programs, and life beyond SBC

LOOKING FORWARD: SHARING WHAT WORKS



As a recognized innovator in education, SBC is expanding its impact through:

- Mentoring other schools in performance-based assessment
- Codifying the Community Beacons model for context focused implementation
- Establishing our 21st Century Pathways program as the blueprint for work-based learning in high schools



REIMAGINING EDUCATION FOR LIBERATION



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MISIÓNVERG™

As we celebrate this year's graduates, we recognize that their success represents more than individual achievement - it demonstrates what's possible when we reimagine education systems. By centering student identity, developing community-rooted educators, and connecting learning to real-world opportunities, SBC is proving that transformation is possible. Our graduates aren't just succeeding within existing systems; they're helping us build new ones where all students can thrive. With our model's growing recognition we're positioned to expand SBC's innovative approach beyond our walls - creating a model for education that truly serves as a pathway to liberation for students across New York City and beyond.



THANK YOU

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Bloomberg Philanthropies
Steven and Alexandra Cohen Foundation
Ichigo Foundation
Van Ameringen Foundation
Summer Boost
New York State Education Department
Carmel Hill Fund
U.S. Department of Education

& our incredible community of individual supporters and partners!