



Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® Program

2022 FACT SHEET

The CDF Freedom Schools® program provides summer and afterschool enrichment through a research-based and multicultural curriculum that supports children and families through five essential components:

- High-quality literacy and character-building enrichment
- Parent and family involvement
- Civic engagement and social action
- Intergenerational servant leadership development
- Nutrition and health

In partnership with community-based organizations, faith-based institutions, schools, colleges and universities, juvenile detention centers, and municipalities, the *CDF Freedom Schools* program boosts student motivation to read, generates positive attitudes toward learning, and connects the needs of children and families to the resources in their communities.

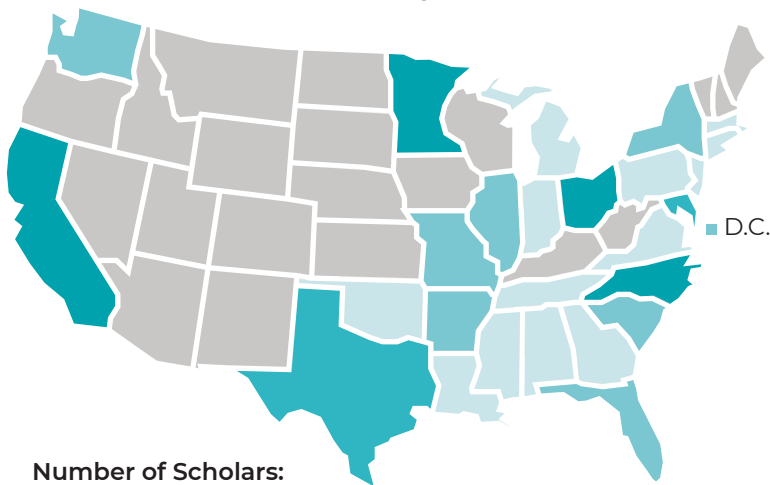
This past year served as a crucial year for *CDF Freedom Schools* program. During the pandemic, we continued to engage children and youth across the country in new and innovative ways. Along with virtual reading sessions, we built outdoor gardening and learning spaces to allow children to thrive in different learning environments.

Program Data

10,287	scholars served
1,085	program staff trained
174	program sites
109	sponsor organizations
88	cities
29	states across the U.S. (including Washington D.C.)



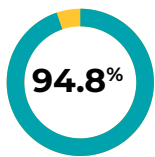
Scholars by State



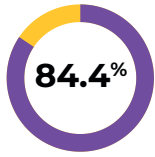
Number of Scholars:

■ None ■ 30-250 ■ 251-500 ■ 501-1000 ■ >1000

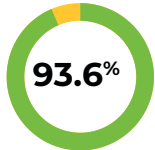
National Assessment



94.8% Parents that saw increased reading confidence in their children



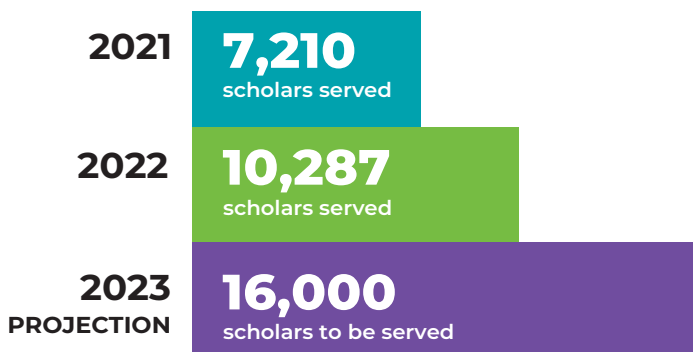
84.4% Students that avoided summer learning loss



93.6% Parents who were interested in engaging in social action with their children

Scholar Number Growth Over the Years

CDF Freedom Schools program is growing!



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National Day of Social Action



This summer, planet earth was the focus of *CDF Freedom Schools*'s National Day of Social Action. Washington, D.C. scholars and their families gathered with posters, drums, and megaphones to demand that their local government address climate change with children and youth in mind.

National Day of Social Action lends scholars the five components in the *CDF Freedom Schools* curriculum to amplify their voices and apply them to the real world. Scholars strategically linked global climate change to local issues that affect them directly:

Rooting From *Climate Change*

- Scholars unpacked how shifting weather patterns that threaten food production and rising sea levels increase the risk of deadly flooding, putting more lives at risk.



- Scholars participated in local trash cleanups at multiple sites, advocating for cleaner neighborhoods and a cleaner planet.



- Scholars in grades 6-8 researched the Flint water crisis and discussed environmental racism.

