



▶ KEY FINDINGS FROM THE 2014-15 EVALUATION ◀



School’s Out New York City (SONYC) Year One Evaluation Findings

In keeping with the Mayor’s campaign commitment, in school year 2014–2015 the City of New York greatly expanded after-school programs for middle school youth. Before the expansion (school year 2013–2014), the **Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)** and the **Department of Education (DOE)** together served an estimated 56,369 youth in 239 schools and community centers. In the first year of the middle school expansion (2014–2015) the City served 111,448 young people in programs operated by both DYCD and DOE through various initiatives. The initiative with the largest expansion was SONYC, DYCD’s after-school programs in public middle schools, community centers, and other locations.

School Year	2013–2014	2014–2015	2015–March 2016
Number of DYCD’s SONYC participants	16,818	58,745	63,719

DYCD contracted with **American Institute for Research (AIR)**, a behavioral and social science research, practice and policy organization, to conduct an evaluation of the SONYC initiative. The evaluation is documenting the initiative’s implementation and its outcomes.

The enclosed four documents portray the evaluation activities and findings from Year One of the SONYC expansion:

- The first page (“**Year 1–By the Numbers**”) portrays evaluation activities,
- the second page (“**Who’s In?**”) provides information about the initiative as a whole based on administrative data,
- the third page (“**Key Findings**”) details information gathered by the researchers from 37 diverse SONYC programs, and
- the **Wordle** in the fourth page displays open-ended comments by youth in the 37 programs, describing how they feel in their SONYC program.



KEY FINDINGS FROM THE 2014-15 EVALUATION



SONYC EVALUATION – YEAR 1: BY THE NUMBERS

We conducted **37** site visits across New York City.

We spent approximately **7,620** hours interviewing **37** program directors, **37** staff, **36** principals, and **35** teachers.

We heard things like:

“Kids are engaged. They are doing what they enjoy and it’s making them like school even more!”
“To expose students to those types of activities I think is great. I would say 99% of students have never seen or know how to do computer graphics with animation. Most... have never had a chance to act, to do an interview, to sit, to video tape an event... I think that is something great to get them to see another perspective on what life has to offer.”

We observed AT LEAST **2,300** hours of programming.

We collected **2,182** youth surveys from **34** sites and **922** family surveys from **30** sites.

We read things like:

“I learned how to become a leader and not a follower. And to be my own person. I learned a lot about leadership and how to communicate with my peers.”
“My child feels excited about the afterschool because each day she learned something new.”

At **5** pilot sites, we tested an outcome measure with **76** young people and heard from **38** youth participants and **5** program directors during an additional round of focus groups and interviews.

We collected nearly **300** documents to review!



GRADES K-12

COMPASS
NYC
THE COMPREHENSIVE AFTERSCHOOL SYSTEM OF NEW YORK CITY

COMPASS (Comprehensive Afterschool System of NYC) provides afterschool activities for students in grades K-12. COMPASS has more than 875 programs in schools, community centers, and other settings.

GRADES 6-8

SONYC
SCHOOL'S OUT NEW YORK CITY

SONYC (School's Out NYC) refers to COMPASS middle school programs. SONYC programs offer pathways to success for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students, 5 days a week.

School's Out New York City

Who's In?

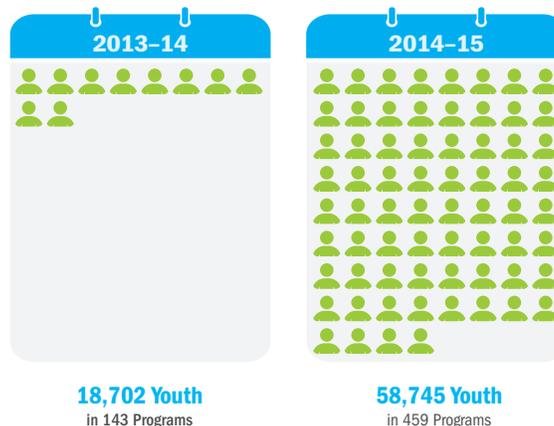
School's Out New York City (SONYC)—a pathway to success for youth in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades—offers afterschool programming for New York City (NYC) middle schoolers in a variety of activity areas. With NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio's support in 2014, enrollment more than tripled, greatly increasing the reach of SONYC programs. These findings represent initiative-wide administrative data from the Department of Youth and Community Development management information system.

Expansion

The expansion of the SONYC initiative dramatically increased opportunities for middle school youth in New York City.

In 2013-14, **18,702** youth were enrolled in **143** SONYC programs.

In 2014-15, **58,745** youth were enrolled in **459** programs.



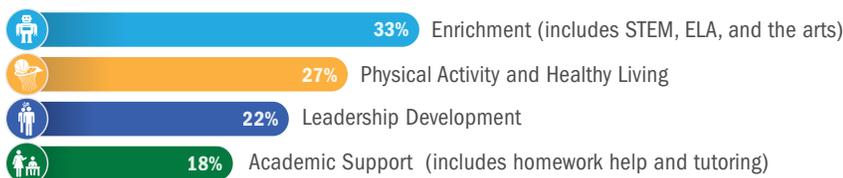
13 
MILLION 
HOURS IN 2014-15

Participation

In the 2014-15 school year, youth attended a total of **13 million hours** in SONYC programming. Each participant spent, on average, 236 hours in programming during the year.

What Were They Doing?

How participants **spent their time**:



SONYC programs enrolled over 58,000 participants. City-wide, over 111,000 middle school students attended after-school programs, with the balance served by other programs at DYCD and the Department of Education.



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These findings represent data from some 7,000 hours of interviews, more than 2,000 youth surveys, and nearly 1,000 family surveys from a cohort of 37 SONYC programs that participated in site visits during the first year of the two-year evaluation.



SONYC Expansion

Principals, teachers, and program staff report the SONYC expansion has been highly successful and that the programs are strong, offer benefits to youth, and have been a positive addition to schools across the city.

SONYC Youth: Who's In?

The program is serving more than

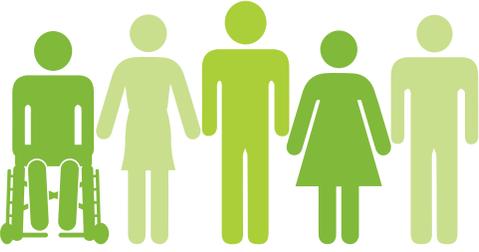
58 THOUSAND



young people across the city.

Strong Organizational and Inclusionary Practices

Programs demonstrate strong management practices, such as offering a wide range of professional development for staff, using a variety of strategies to recruit and enroll youth, and incorporating inclusionary practices that encourage all youth, including those with disabilities, English language learners, and others, to participate in the program.



Program Quality and Youth Outcomes

Program quality is high and school and program staff see program activities as a key strength.



Programs are creating a warm and welcoming environment.



Families Report High Levels of Satisfaction With Their SONYC Program

- 98%** Report that their child likes coming to the program
- 97%** Would recommend the program to other families
- 98%** Report that their child has fun during program activities
- 92%** Feel welcome at the program



Programs provide opportunities for youth voice and choice, but youth would like even more options and opportunities for leadership.



Program and school staff report improvements in youth outcomes,



particularly in their social and emotional development and leadership skills.

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