

# PROMISING PRACTICES

SEI works closely with many organizations to conduct scientific program evaluations. We are highlighting three Promising Practices.

## City of Akron Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Program



## SPARK Ohio's Get Ready for School Program (GRFS)



## Early Childhood Resource Center STARS Program



## City of Akron Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Program

The VIP Strategic Plan outlines goals and action steps to reduce crime and violence among youth and young adults ages 13 to 24 in the City of Akron. We worked side-by-side with 37 grassroots and community-based organizations to create logic models and program summaries for each organization. The projects were funded with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars.

The VIP Theory of Change is aligned with the Centers for Disease Control's best practices for youth violence prevention. Youth risk for trauma, crime and violence will be reduced through community-based violence intervention and prevention programming that:

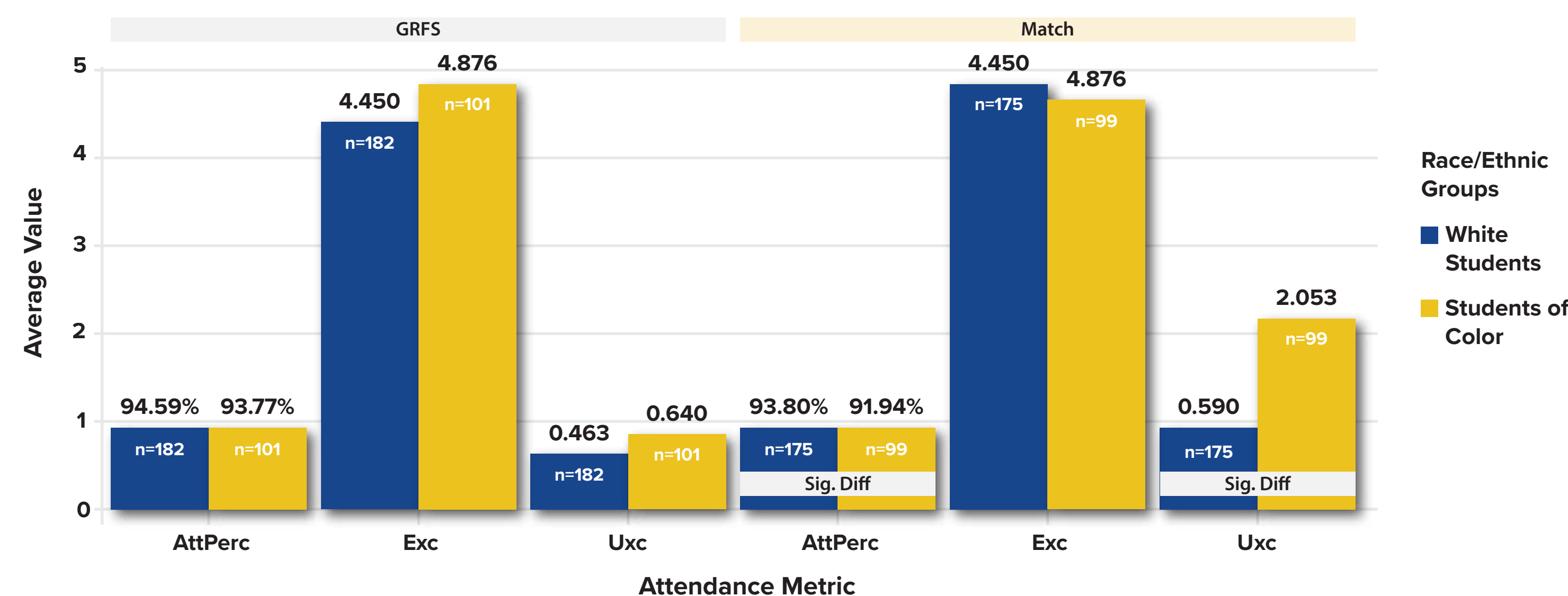
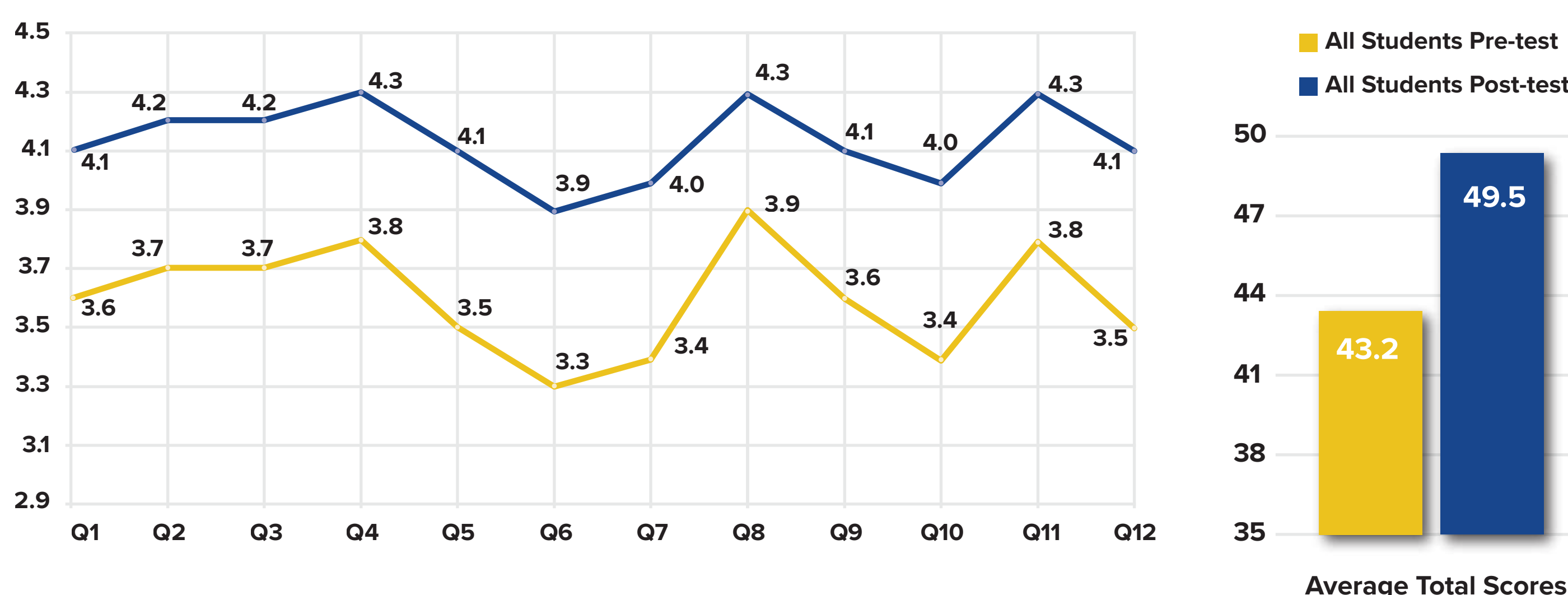
- increases developmental assets
- promotes prosocial behaviors and socially integrative norms
- improves connections within neighborhoods and to social systems

Results of the process evaluation and outcomes data collection will be coming soon.

### THANK YOU, GRANTEES!

- |                                      |   |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Akron Urban League                   | Fathers and Sons of Northeast Ohio      | Love Akron                                       |
| Akron Dream Center                   | GOALGETTA Academy                       | Minority Behavioral Health Group                 |
| Akron AIDS Collaborative             | GodRich Food and Farms                  | Project GRAD                                     |
| Akron Youth Mentorship               | Greenleaf Family Center                 | Project Ujima                                    |
| Akron Zoo                            | Guys and Gals Community Partnership     | Red Oak Behavioral Health (i.C.A.R.E. Mentoring) |
| Alchemy, Inc.                        | Harmony House                           | South Street Ministries                          |
| Always Climbing Project              | He Brought Us Out Ministry              | Students With A Goal (SWAG)                      |
| Boss Project                         | Hope & Healing Survivor Resource Center | Victim Assistance Program                        |
| Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio | It's Not a Moment, it's a Movement      | The Vincent House                                |
| City of Refuge for Everyone (CORE)   | Jobs for Ohio's Graduates (JOG)         | Williams Challenge                               |
| Developing Student Athletes Academy  | Kent State University                   | Wingfoot Church                                  |
| Dreams Academy                       | Law and Leadership Institute            | Youth Success Summit                             |
| Fallen Fathers Foundation            |   |  |

## SPARK Ohio's Get Ready for School Program (GRFS)



The goal of GRFS is to familiarize children with the rules and routines of a kindergarten classroom by helping them develop literacy, communication and social skills important for school success. Incoming kindergarten students were enrolled in the GRFS program across 12 school districts in 21 school buildings.

Results of the GRFS survey show the program effectively increases the skills students need to successfully transition to kindergarten. Furthermore, our research shows that students who attended GRFS had significantly better attendance in kindergarten than a matched comparison, particularly for students of color and economically disadvantaged students.

Students in the STARS Programs who scored significantly higher than students in the comparison group	2021		2022		2023	
	STARS 101	STARS 202	STARS 101	STARS 202	STARS 101	STARS 202
Total Average Score		✓				✓
Approaches Toward Learning						
Social Emotional Development						
Language and Literacy Development		✓		✓	✓	✓
Cognition and General Knowledge					✓	✓
Physical and Motor Development			✓	✓		✓
Language and Literacy Average Score	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A
Language and Literacy	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A

TSS - Transition Skills Summary; KRA - Kindergarten Readiness Assessment; N/A - Data unavailable when reported  
STARS 101/202 - Separate cohorts of program participants

## Early Childhood Resource Center STARS Program

STARS is designed to engage a cohort of community-based early learning centers in high-quality early childhood instructional development. Starting in February 2020 and supported with a major investment from GAR Foundation, STARS provided expert tools and support to help early learning centers navigate and increase Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) ratings. STARS addresses gaps in the early childhood education system and seeks to demonstrate how effective teaching and engagement tactics can support meaningful educational advancements for young children.

Our program evaluation compared students in the STARS programs to other students in Summit County on Transition Skills Summary (TSS) and Kindergarten Readiness Assessment - Learning and Literacy (KRA-LL) outcomes for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023. There is strong evidence to suggest that participation in the STARS programs is associated with significantly higher TSS and KRA-LL scores.



Scan the QR code to view our data dashboards and reports.

