



Citizen Schools' mission is to change the life trajectories of low-income middle school students. Citizen Schools taps the reservoir of out-of-school time, the power of hands-on learning, the passion of aspiring educators, and the talents of adult volunteers to advance students' learning and leadership. They help students succeed in middle and high school, advance to college and become leaders in their careers and their communities.

#### Goals

69% of students participating maintain or improve their English GPA

66% of students participating to maintain or improve their math GPA

70% of students see gains in oral communication based on pre and post testing

#### Citizen Schools Commentary:

During the 2009-2010 program year at Lowe's Grove Middle School in Durham, Citizen Schools enrolled an average of 101 students annually, who had an average attendance rate of over 90%. In addition, 100% of the apprenticeships offered were rated high quality. In addition to building students' academic skills, 85.7% of students reported high self-efficacy in regards to Citizen Schools programs providing leadership and self-efficacy skills that are essential for them to navigate the turbulence of adolescence.

As you know, Citizen Schools is rigorous about using data to continuously drive program quality. The primary method by which we assess our effectiveness is analyzing students' improved academic performance – specifically, comparing first and third cardmarking grades.

**As of the end of January, Citizen Schools can not provide a numerical update on their goals.**

Citizen Schools' apprenticeship model is our signature strategy to engage middle school students in active learning and help them make healthy, positive choices. Apprenticeships integrate skill-building activities such as written and oral communication, data analysis, and leadership development, in addition to providing opportunities for students to explore new disciplines and develop new skills. During the 2010 Fall Semester Citizen Schools has recruited volunteers from diverse organizations in Durham to serve as volunteer Citizen Teachers and lead apprenticeships. Particularly successful apprenticeships from the 2010 school year include the following:

**Fidelity Investments:** Volunteers from Fidelity lead 3 Business and Finance themed apprenticeships (Who's the Boss, Checks & Balances, and Number Crunchers). This was a substantial increase in the number of apprenticeships led by Fidelity. For our Spring 2011 Semester: Fidelity Employees are planning to lead 3 additional apprenticeships, participate in mock panel interviews with our 8th grade students, co-lead 2 college explorations with Citizen Schools, and will hold their 2nd annual "Dress for Success" campaign where employees will collect business clothes for 8th grade students in our 8GA program at Lowe's Grove and Neal Middle Schools.

**EMC:** Volunteers from EMC returned for their third consecutive semester to lead an electrical engineering apprenticeship. In this apprenticeship, students used circuit design software to create circuit schematics and circuit board layouts which were sent to a local company to be manufactured. Then, they assembled the manufactured boards into an arcade game that was displayed at the December 2010 Campus WOW!

**Be Active/Durham County Health Department:** Volunteers from the local Health Department taught a Junior Iron Chef Apprenticeship. Students participated in an Iron Chef Competition where they were judged on food safety, taste, presentation, and nutrition.

