



# Telling it Like it Is

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Determined Learners, Future Leaders



# Organizational Snapshot

## Mission

High Jump equalizes access to education for middle school students who have exhibited exceptional academic ambition and potential, but are of limited economic means. We provide academic enrichment, counseling, and support to our students of diverse backgrounds, with the goal of sending our participants to superior college preparatory schools, ensuring their success while they are there, and enhancing their ability to gain admission to highly regarded four-year colleges and universities.

**Find Talent, Develop Talent, Connect Talent to Opportunity**

## Program Size and Scope

Serving 220 students in 2012; 280 in 2013

Campuses - Latin School of Chicago, University of Chicago Lab Schools, Francis W. Parker

900+ alumni since program founded in 1989

Over 50% of alumni choose public high schools; we project that percentage will rise with growth

## Budget

FY13 – \$1.35M total; \$1.2M cash

Partner schools provide in-kind support – facilities, security, instructional IT support, etc.

## Governance

Independent Board of Directors includes community and corporate leaders and partner school leaders



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# Program Snapshot

## Academic Challenge

- 350+ annual instructional hours – summer & Saturdays
- Rigorous curriculum
- Variety of talented teachers and alumni teaching assistants
- Positive peer environment
- Exam prep

## Social and Leadership Development

- Issues & Ideas and Learners & Leaders courses
- Student accountability
- Focus on executive function
- Lorado Taft retreat
- Young professionals mentor program

## High School Choice

- Broaden awareness of options
- Require public and private school applications
- Provide support during application and financial aid processes
- High School Fair

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# Why Bother?

- Opportunity to leverage strengths and demonstrate meaningful leadership
  - Contribution to welfare of Chicago now and future
    - Opportunity culture
    - Public/Private partnership
  - In the independent school wheelhouse
    - Expertise
    - Smart use of resources – talent, facilities, etc.
  - Multifaceted public/private mixing space

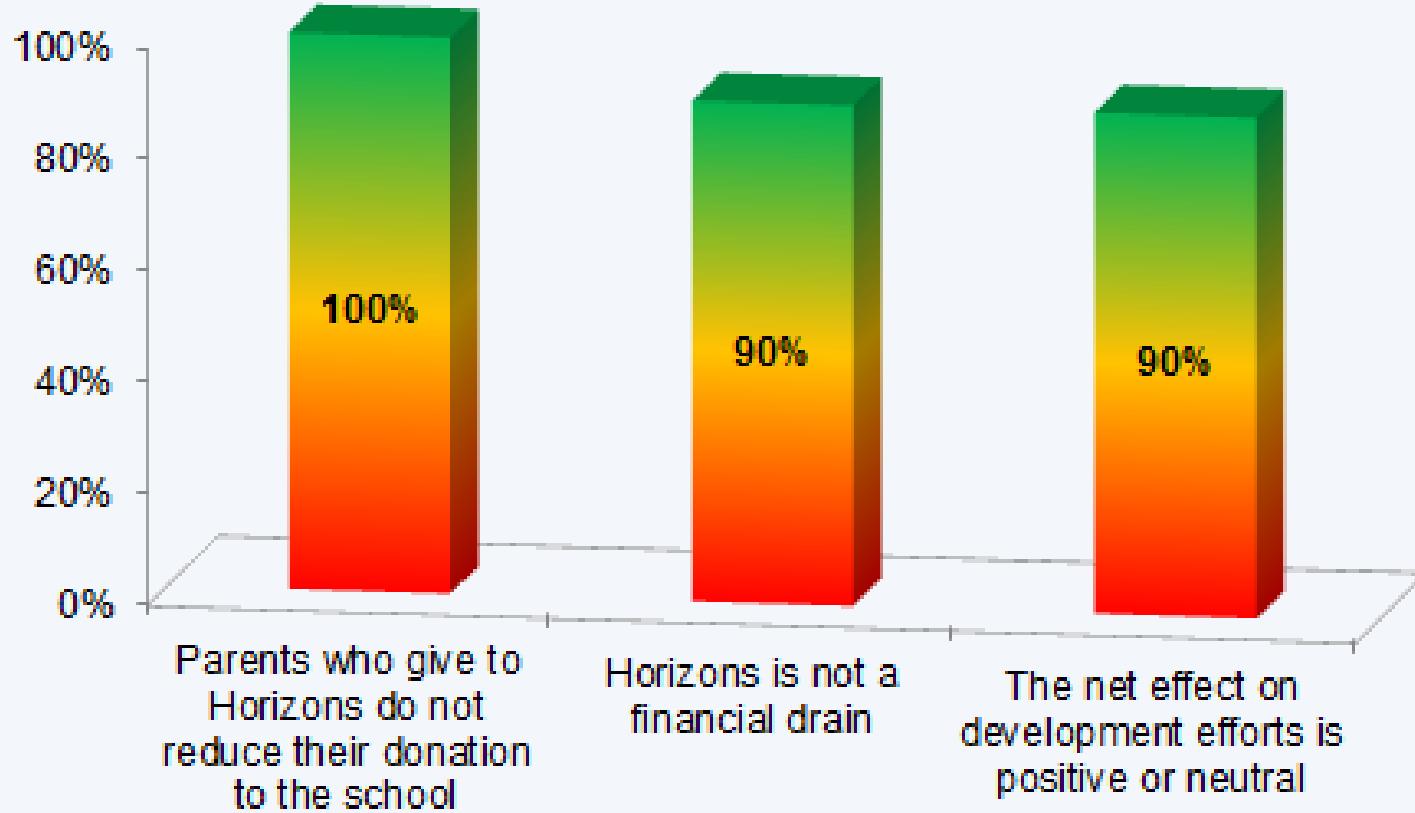


## Common Fear #1

- Cannibalization
  - Latin School's experience
  - Horizons National's survey data

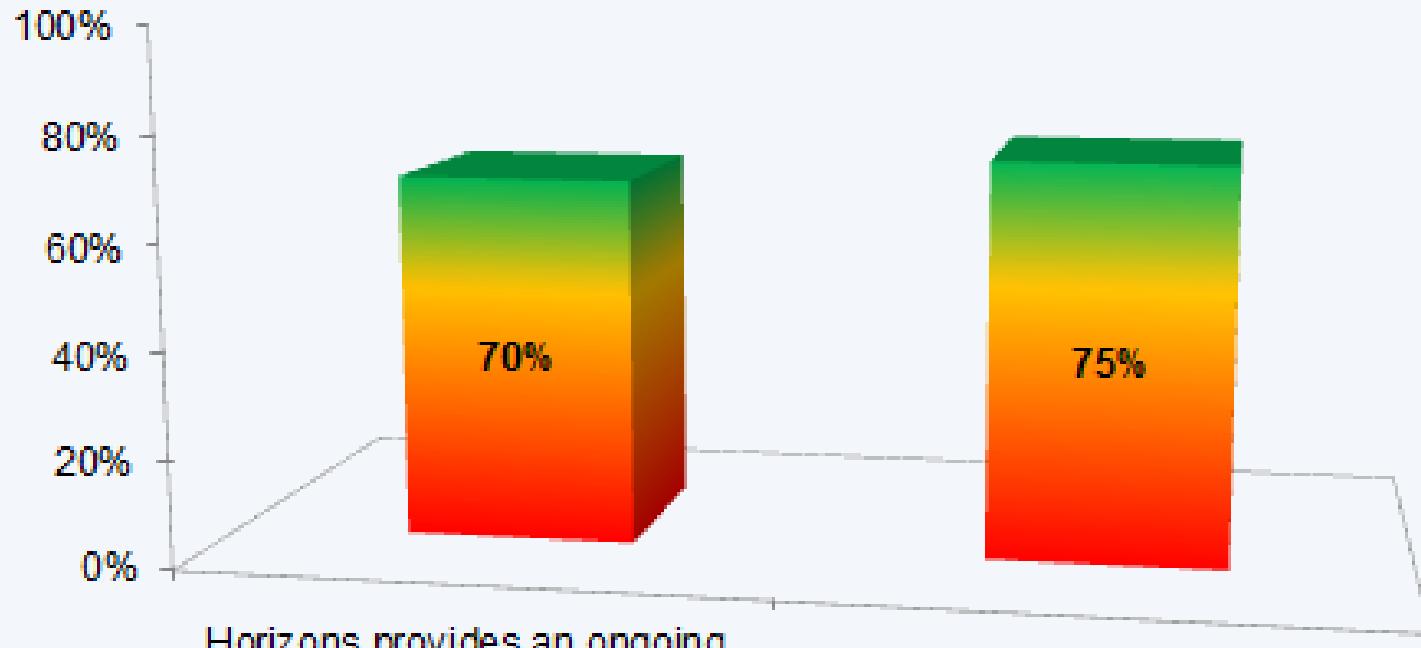


# Horizons' National Survey





# Horizons' National Survey



Horizons provides an ongoing connection that keeps parents involved with the school after their children graduate

Horizons gives alumni additional reasons to stay involved with the school



## Common Fear #2

- Why bother? Too much hassle
  - School collaborates with High Jump directly
  - Schools can determine level of collaboration they want to have with each other, if any
- Our school won't be in control
  - True... to a point
  - Influence on High Jump through High Jump board members, many of whom are board and staff leaders of partner schools



## Common Fear #3

- Why join in with schools we often differentiate ourselves from?
  - Recognition of mission overlap
  - Smart and savvy use of resources
  - Rising tide & independent boats - raises positive profile of independent schools



# Challenges

- High Jump must maintain balance of independence and partnership
  - Independent board that draws board level leadership from partner schools
  - Value proposition to schools – you can make more of a difference with a lighter lift, but you have to cede some control
  - Diversify and expand High Jump's funding
  - Buffer against changes in school leadership and/or priorities



## Closing & Contact Info

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## Horizons Closes Achievement and Opportunity Gaps

- Network of high-quality tuition-free summer learning programs
- Independent school and college partners
- Low-income public school students
- Reverses effects of summer slide
- Two to three month gain in reading and math skills
- Improved high school graduation and college matriculation

*"Our school has gained in vitality, energy and identity because of Horizons, and this is a genuine return on investment for the institution."*

*-Tim Cottrell, Head of School,  
Harley School*



## The Horizons Approach

- 9-year commitment beginning in Kindergarten
- Students with broad range of academic abilities
- Hands-on, project-based learning
- Creates love of learning and increased engagement
- Year-round academic support and enrichment
- Professional teachers, 5 to 1 student teacher ratio

*"Horizons expands our school's visibility in the giving community. It builds connections with foundations and corporations that typically do not support independent schools."*

*Miguel Brito, Head of St. Philip's Academy,  
Newark, NJ*



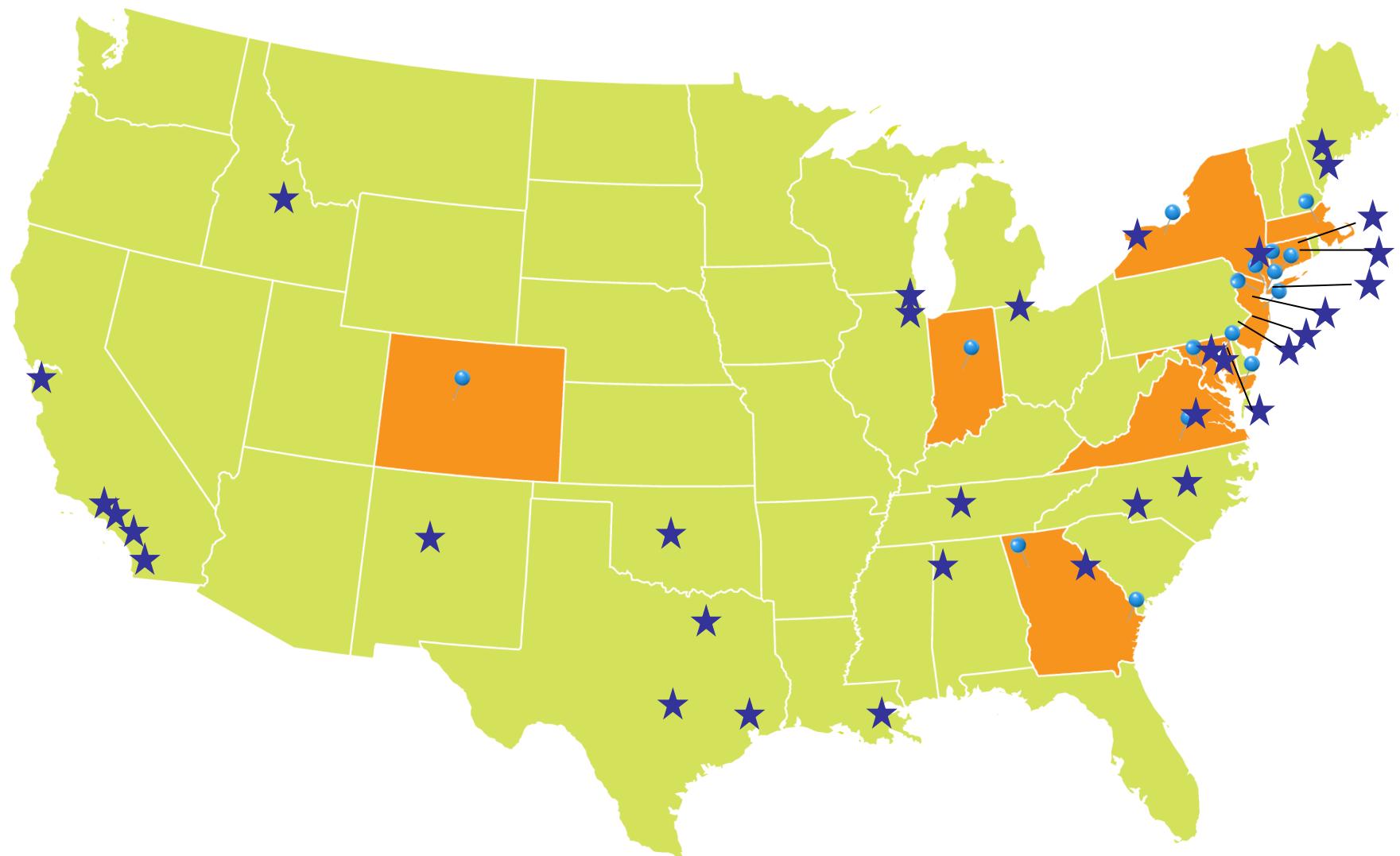
## Expansion

- Replicating since 1995—no program ever failed!
- Focus on strategic regional expansion
- Continue development of multi-site models
- Leverage central office support
- Community-focused expansion approach

## Benefits of Community-focused Expansion Strategy

- More students served
- Increased impact, fostering a more direct partnership with the district
- Greater efficiencies in the use of funding, volunteer, and in-kind resources locally (lower cost per student)
- More opportunities for private resources to support education reform
- Access to an even broader range of funding
- Opportunities for partnerships with other community organizations
- Increased leverage of centralized funding
- Expanded career path within partnership network

# Horizons Expansion Activity 2012



# Partnership Opportunities

Possible Trends, challenges and resources in today's climate

- Private institutions looking to contribute to education reform efforts
- Strength in numbers – collective impact
  - Collaboration rather than “going it alone”
  - Meaningful change at the district level
  - Meaningful relationships with district leadership
- Coordination offers potential to access to more funding
- Sometimes difficult to support students directly through district
- Investment in stronger alignment across the education system and community strategies