We’re not doing this alone

By partnering with the City University of New York’s (CUNY) College Now program, through the Borough of Manhattan Community College, and Signet Education, we’re able to provide academic enrichment programs to all of our Littles. This includes comprehensive college-readiness workshops for high school Littles as well as computer tutoring stations for Littles of all ages to work on school projects, their studies, or preparation for the SAT and ACT tests.

With the help of our partners, we’re able to expand our mission and provide a holistic approach to education for our Littles — an approach that includes parents, families, support staff, Bigs, and even the schools.

Education Initiative. Our next step.

According to statistics, 95% of all NYC high school students have college aspirations. Yet the four-year college readiness rate for NYC high school students is only 31.4%.

What we hope to achieve

- Improve our Littles’ academic achievement and performance
- Increase families’ and volunteers’ involvement in Littles’ education
- Develop education-focused partnerships for Littles
- Help middle and high school Littles develop grade appropriate skills

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LITTLES

Educational progression problems start in a child’s early years. Failure to read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade has been linked to ongoing academic difficulties in school, failure to graduate high school on time, and an inability to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. By the 6th grade, most kids born into poverty spend 6,000 less hours learning than middle school class kids.

OUR PLAN: Institute a regular summer read-out-loud group.

OUR GOAL: Help elementary school Littles regain their summer learning loss and begin to develop lifelong love of reading.

97% of Littles are promoted to the next grade.
HIGH SCHOOL LITTLES

55% of high school graduates from low-income families enroll in college vs. 84% from high-income families. And 8% of 24-year olds from low-income backgrounds attain a Bachelor’s degree vs. 82% from high-income backgrounds.

OUR PLAN: Continue to develop our Littles’ college readiness through education partnerships with City University of New York’s (CUNY) the Borough of Manhattan Community College, College Now program, and through our workshop series. Continue our Community Impact Program with the Urban Assembly School for Global Commerce. This program connects incoming 9th graders with a mentor that will stay with them until graduation. Continue to partner with vendors and online sources specializing in SAT and ACT prep to give our Littles free access to their services. Host college scholarship and financing workshops. Assist them with the college application process and take them on college campus visits.

OUR GOAL: Increase college awareness, readiness, enrollment rates, participation in test prep programs, and improve our Littles’ SAT and ACT test scores.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LITTLES

If low-income minority youth are not performing at grade level by 8th grade, their chances for success in high school drop significantly.

OUR PLAN: Host a variety of high school readiness workshops for all our Littles. Continue to expand our middle school programming. We will also continue to partner with other community-based organizations to provide supplemental enrichment activities.

OUR GOAL: Increase awareness of the high school application process and help ensure that our Littles are prepared for the challenges of high school.

96% of eligible Littles graduate from high school.

We have big plans for this program

What you can do to help

If you believe that all kids should have enriched mentoring experiences that encompasses college readiness — no matter their background — consider becoming a corporate partner, donor, or even a volunteer.

For more information contact us at 212-686-2042 or visit www.bigsnyc.org/education

YEAR 1
Our Education Initiative served 293 of our Littles

YEAR 2
Increased that number to 403 Littles

YEAR 3
Served 500 Littles across all of our programs

94% of Littles who graduate high school are accepted into college or vocational school.

“...not only did he end up with an amazing “Big”, but he also has been consistently given opportunities to acquire additional skills and knowledge. From ACT test prep to college tours and most recently a networking and advice panel from people in several fields...I’m proud to say that my boy who is 6’3 is a “Little”. Thank you!!”

-Michelle Peters, Parent of Little Brook