

Executive Summary



The VIP Afterschool Program is a comprehensive, community-driven initiative providing high-quality academic support, enrichment activities, and social-emotional learning opportunities to underserved students in grades 9-12. Since its launch in 2014, VIP has grown to serve over 130 students annually across two schools (The Ninth Grade Academy & Trenton Central High School), demonstrating consistent improvements in student achievement, engagement, and well-being.

MISSION

Our mission is to close the opportunity gap by offering a safe, nurturing environment where students can thrive during and after school hours. The program operates Monday through Friday from 2:00–5:00 PM, aligning with working families’ needs and extending learning beyond the classroom.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT

58% of participating students improved by at least one grade level in core classes

BEHAVIORAL GAINS

Students reported a 40% decrease in behavioral incidents among regular attendees

COMMUNITY

PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborations with local nonprofits, universities, and businesses enriched programming and provided mentoring, arts, and STEM activities

ATTENDANCE & RETENTION

Daily attendance rate exceeded 60%, with 75% student retention year-over-year.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Monthly parent functions in collaboration with Mercer County Community College and bilingual workshops helped increase parental involvement and satisfaction

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

The program is funded through the New Jersey Department of Education, and in-kind support. Evaluations by independent assessors confirm that VIP exceeds key performance benchmarks outlined by the National Afterschool Association and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers framework.

LOOKING AHEAD

VIP aims to expand by providing more career opportunities in 2026, increase its STEM offerings, and deepen its impact through trauma-informed practices and youth leadership development

CONCLUSION

VIP is more than an afterschool program—it is a vital extension of the school day that empowers students, supports families, and strengthens communities. Continued investment in this program ensures lasting benefits for our youth and their futures