



Elev8 Baltimore: Abbottston Elementary

MSDE Report: SY 2020-2021

October 2021

Contributors

Claire Fontaine, Ph.D.

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Abbottston Elementary	3
Abbottston Elev8 OST Program	3
Methodology	4
Data System	4
Data Types	5
OST Enrollment and Attendance	5
Skill Mastery Using Exact Path	5
Events	5
Findings	7
Out-of School Time Enrollment and Attendance	7
Exact Path	10
Events	11
Conclusions	13

Introduction

Elev8 Baltimore is a year-round program that provides Out-of-School Time (OST) programming, school-based healthcare, and other family supports to community schools in Baltimore City. Elev8 Baltimore functions as a Lead Agency and OST provider as part of a full-service Community Schools strategy. The Community Schools strategy is an approach that positions public schools as hubs of integrated service delivery for students, families, and the broader community. OST programming in Baltimore City is intentionally aligned with the Community Schools strategy.

A Community School is both a place and set of strategic partnerships that promote student achievement, positive conditions for learning, and the well-being of families and communities. Through the work of Lead Agencies, each community school leverages unique community resources to meet needs and maintain a core focus on children, while recognizing that children grow up in families, and that families are building blocks of communities. This integrated approach is designed to lead to student success, strong families, and healthy communities.

Meanwhile, OST programs offer young people educational, recreational, and enrichment opportunities during the hours when school is not in session, extending the support services of community schools beyond the school day. They provide academic support and homework help, nutritious meals, high-quality care, and opportunities to explore new interests and experiences. OST programs are designed to promote academic benefits for youth as well as broader, non-academic benefits for youth and their families.

This report focuses on Elev8 Baltimore's programming at Abbottston Elementary during the 2020-2021 school year, with particular focus on its OST program. The report is prepared by Inciter, a research and evaluation consulting firm that has served as the external evaluator for Elev8 Baltimore since 2010.

Abbottston Elementary

Abbottston Elementary is a Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade school in the Coldstream/Homestead/Montebello neighborhood of north Baltimore. As of the most recent (2019-2020) data available from Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS), Abbottston Elementary served 409 students, up from 325 students the year before. Approximately 91 percent of students are Black, with less than five percent representation from any other racial or ethnic group. Sixteen percent of students have disabilities and less than five percent are English Language learners. The school's mobility rate is 49 percent. The average teacher tenure is 9 years and the teacher to student ratio is 1:16.

Abbottston Elev8 OST Program

All Elev8 OST programs follow a similar schedule. Programs are open Monday through Thursday from the time school ends until about three hours later. Programs begin with all students and staff gathering for Community Circle, a snack, and homework help, followed by Academic Hour, during which half the students focus on skill mastery using the Exact Path software system and the other half do a character development exercise. This ensures that all participants have the opportunity for academic development two days a week. This time is followed by Enrichment, which can be different for each school and includes cultural and athletic programming, culinary opportunities, and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) programming. At the end of the time, students have dinner before wrapping up and going home.

Once a month the OST programs hold "Fun Fridays" for a shorter period of time to celebrate those meeting attendance and behavioral goals. Special events are also planned and coordinated with school personnel.

As a result of Covid restrictions during the 2020-2021 school year, the Abbottston OST program operated during summer 2021 only.

Methodology

As in past years, Inciter worked closely with Elev8 program leadership and staff to develop this report.

Three guiding questions orient this work:

- I. What is the student enrollment and attendance at each school's OST program by grade?
- II. How are students using the Exact Path system to improve their skills in reading and math (if applicable)?
- III. What is Elev8, as a Lead Agency and OST program provider, offering in terms of daily programming and special events? How is it engaging students, their families, and the greater community?

Data System

During the 2019-2020 school year, Elev8 transitioned from a traditional data system to a completely web-based one. Staff input data on day-to-day OST attendance (Guiding Question 1) and programming and events (Guiding Question 3) and into custom data collection tools. Data on student learning activities (Guiding Question 2) is downloaded from a separate source. With technical support from Inciter, Elev8 staff are responsible for making sure the student and family data collected by Elev8's OST staff are accurate and complete.

Inciter developed a central web application that aggregates data from disparate sources into one location and built a portal that allows Elev8 staff to access both raw data and data reports. The portal can be customized to clean and transform data, create descriptive statistics based on the raw data, and can produce tables, charts and graphs according to staff needs.

The Elev8 system keeps personally identifiable information (PII) secure by encrypting data at rest and in transit and by housing PII in production environments. Additionally, access to sensitive information is provided by Elev8 to Inciter and any Inciter access is logged in the system. Risk is managed through bi-weekly internal assessments and 48 hour notification in the event of a data breach.

This system supports Elev8 Baltimore’s efforts at continuous improvement by enabling the organization to have real-time information on various critical metrics that can then be used to track and potentially improve service delivery.

Data Types

OST Enrollment and Attendance

Elev8 staff collect student enrollment and attendance data and enter it into Excel spreadsheets.

Skill Mastery Using Exact Path

Skill mastery is assessed using Exact Path data. Exact Path is a personalized learning platform that includes assessment-driven math, reading, and language arts instruction. Students begin by taking an adaptive diagnostic assessment and are given an individualized learning plan based on their performance. The Exact Path system tracks logins, activity, usage, and results, which are exported to the portal on a monthly basis throughout the school year.

Exact Path data is not available for Abbottston Elementary.

Events

Elev8 staff enter data on the number and types of family support services and advocacy activities that families receive at all Elev8 Baltimore schools.

To collate events data, Elev8 staff enter event type, attendance, and other data into a Google form, which is uploaded into the portal. These events vary widely, from field trips for students with good attendance, Spooky Math nights, or a High School choice fair for 8th graders, to events geared toward parents and the community, such as self-care and health-oriented events, parenting seminars, and men’s support groups. Data are categorized by whether they occurred once or several times; which stakeholder and age groups they supported; and by event type.

Event types include:

- **Barrier removal:** Events that remove barriers to optimal learning, such as vision screening and free glasses, a weekly produce market, and free flu shots and health screenings;

- Educational support: Events that further education in some way, such as Black History Month programming, math and literacy nights, and a trip to a local state college for high school students;
- General meeting: Events that range from one-time student assemblies or sessions to help interested students to find a job or sign up for driver's education classes, to recurring working meetings for all stakeholders to coordinate school initiatives or monthly parent breakfasts with a focus on engagement;
- Leadership development: Events that focus on student and/or parent/community leadership, such as quarterly awards for students who excelled during that time, a seminar for parents and staff on conflict mediation, and a training session for students to be grant proposal reviewers for summer funding;
- Out-of-school time: Special events that take place after school, such as a gardening club, a fashion enrichment club, and assisting the Student Government in organizing and preparing for a Winter Formal.

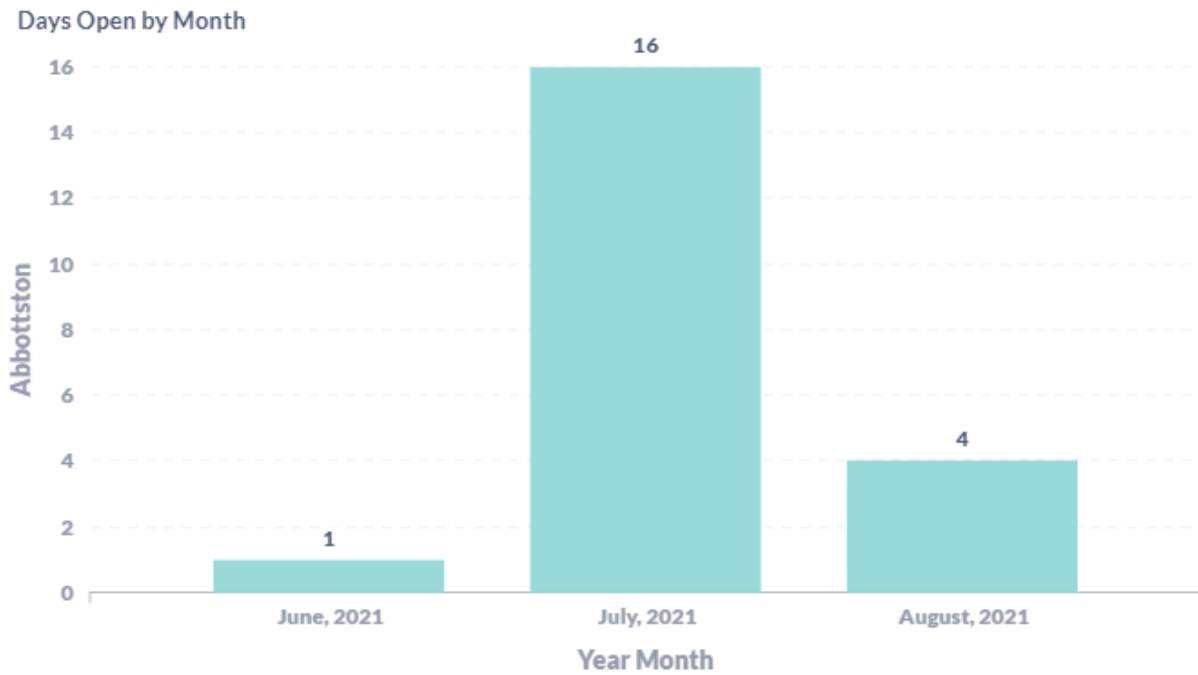
Findings

Out-of School Time Enrollment and Attendance

The OST program at Abbottston Elementary began June 28, 2021 and ended on August 5, 2021, operating a total of 21 days.

Figure 1 shows the number of days the program was open by month.

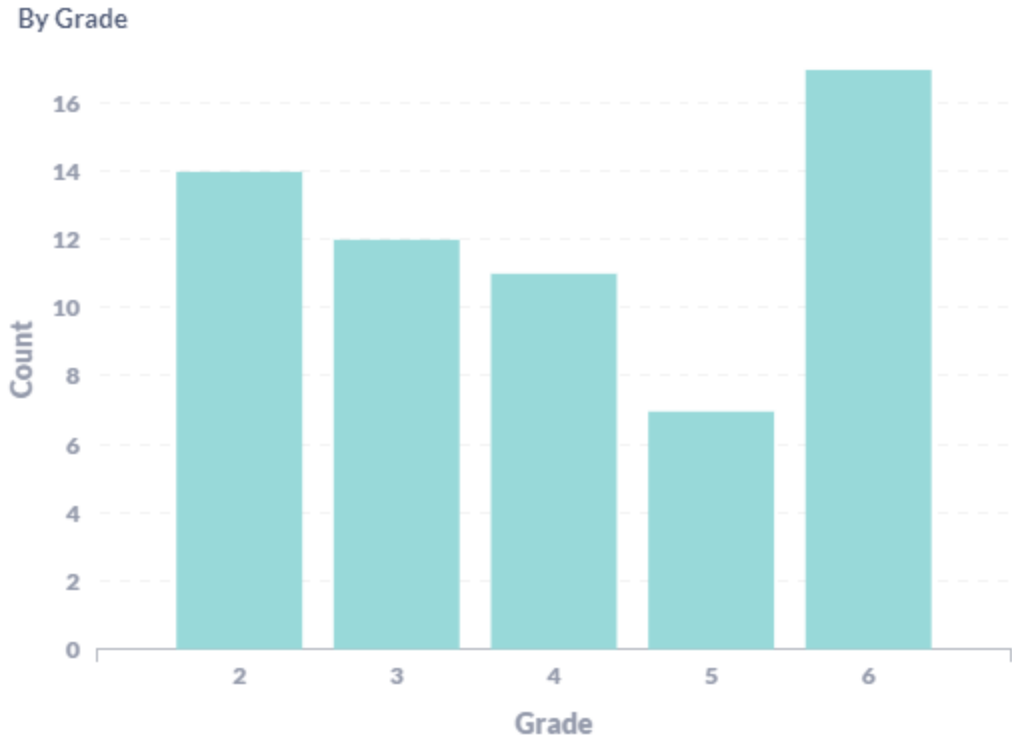
Figure 1: OST Days Open, by Month



The OST program at Abbottston served 61 students during the summer of 2021.

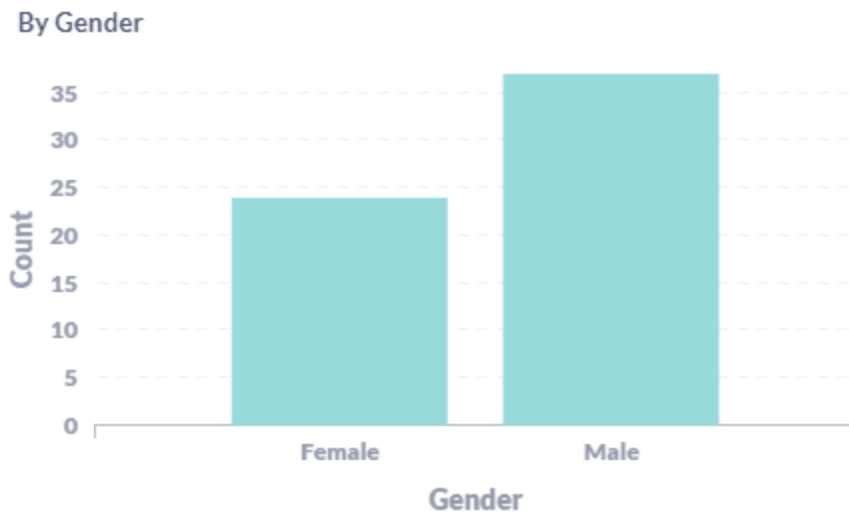
As shown in Figure 2, this included 14 rising second graders, 12 rising third graders, 11 rising fourth graders, 7 rising fifth graders, and 17 rising sixth graders.

Figure 2: OST Enrollment by Grade



As shown in Figure 3, girls comprised 41 percent of enrolled students (24 of 61), and boys 59 percent (37 of 61).

Figure 3: OST Enrollment by Gender

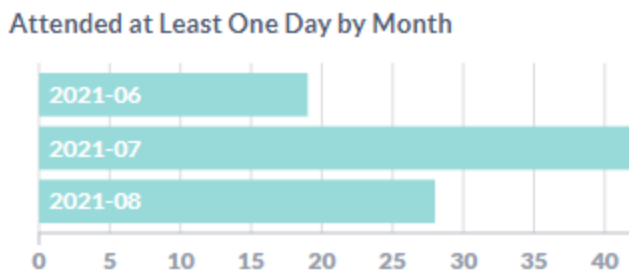


Average daily attendance in the Abbottston OST program was 44 percent.

Average daily attendance is calculated as the sum of the number of days attended divided by the sum of the number of days a program was open. Average daily attendance refers to the average daily attendance rate of retained students each day the program was open.

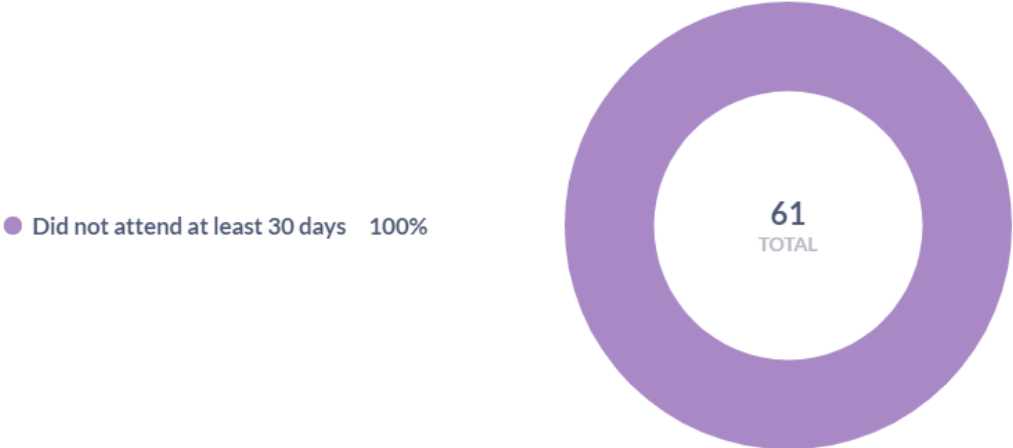
Attendance was highest in July. As shown in Figure 4, 42 different students attended the OST program at least one day in July, in comparison to 19 in June and 28 in August.

Figure 4: Number of Students Attending at Least One Day by Month



As the program was only open 21 days, 100 percent of students did not meet the benchmark of attending at least 30 days of OST programming.

Figure 5: OST Enrollment by 30 Day Benchmark, 2020-2021



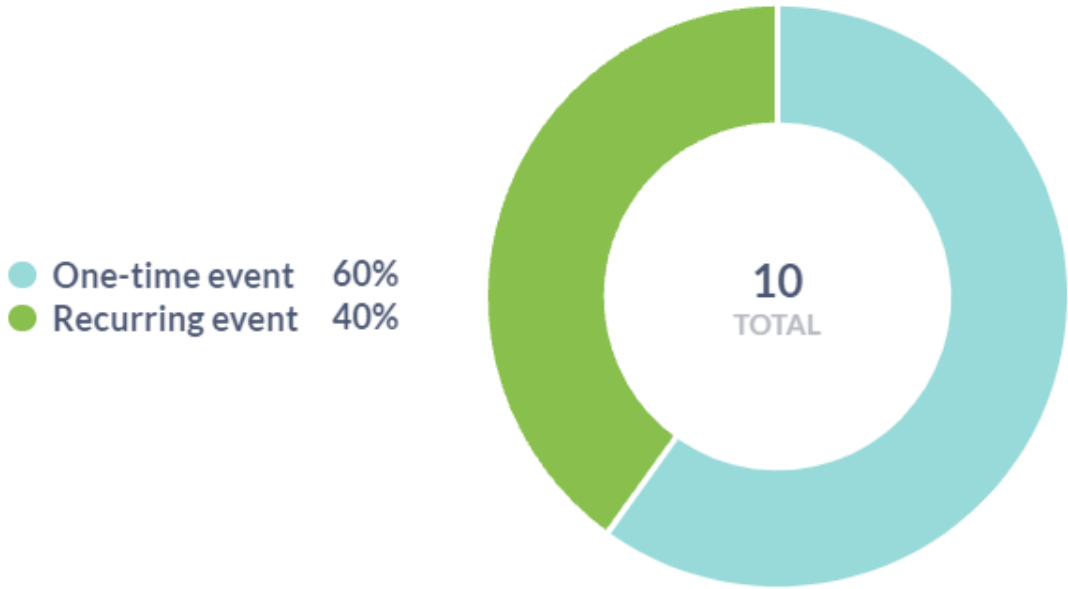
Exact Path

No Exact Path data are available for Abbottston Elementary for the 2020-2021 school year.

Events

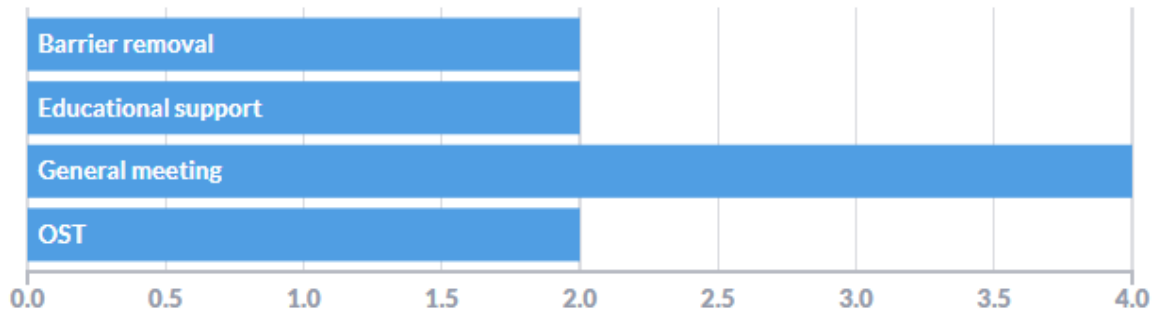
Elev8 at Abbottston Elementary organized and hosted ten (n=10) events between September 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021. The majority of these (n=6), were one-time events. The remaining four (n=4) were recurring events. (For this calculation, a set of recurring events is counted as at least one recurring event.) One-time events occurred at roughly regular intervals throughout the year, with two in September, two in November, and two in February.

Figure 6: Event Recurrence



As shown in Figure 7 below, four were general meeting events, and two each were barrier removal events, educational support events, and OST-related events.

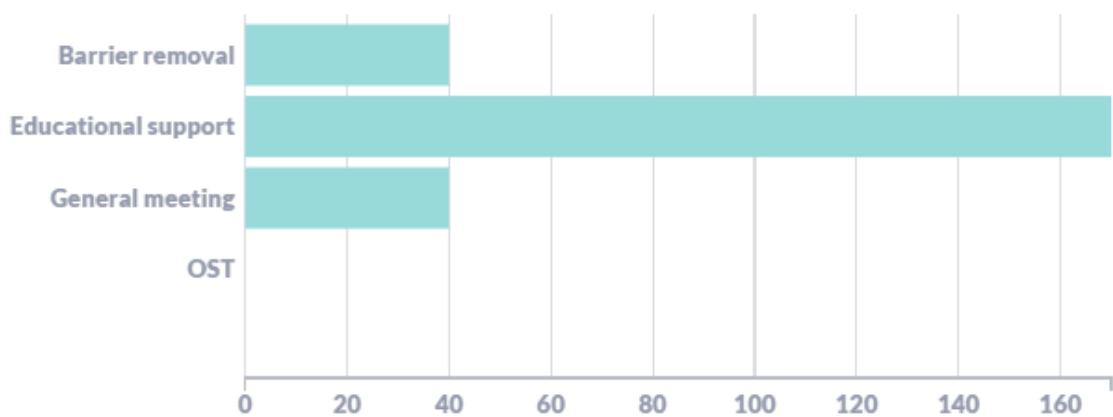
Figure 7: Events by Event Type



General meeting events included Back to School Nights and Priority Engagement Budget meetings. Barrier removal events included a community play space visioning session; educational support events included attendance-related celebrations; and OST-related events including a recurring, fashion-inspired after-school enrichment club designed to help boost the confidence and poise of students in grades Pre-K through five.

An estimated 170 stakeholders were impacted by educational support events, 40 by barrier removal events, and 40 by general meeting events. No data are available on the number of stakeholders supported by OST-related events.

Figure 8: Estimated Number of Stakeholders Supported



Conclusions

Broadly speaking, the 2020-2021 school year was an unusual, unprecedented one, characterized by substantial disruptions to service delivery, and to a lesser extent, data collection.

Abbottston Elementary's OST program was open from June 28, 2021 to August 5, 2021, operating a total of 21 days. The program served 61 students. Attendance was highest during the month of July.

As a Lead Agency and OST program provider, Elev8 organized and hosted ten events, some of which were recurring events, during the 2020-2021 school year. Events included a Back to School Night, a community play space visioning session, priority engagement budget meetings, and attendance-centered celebrations. Events categorized as educational support events reached the greatest number of stakeholders.

v20211014