



Learn, Play, Grow!
Enriched Natural Learning Grounds

YEAR 6 IMPACT REPORT

Helping children and
families thrive in school
and in life



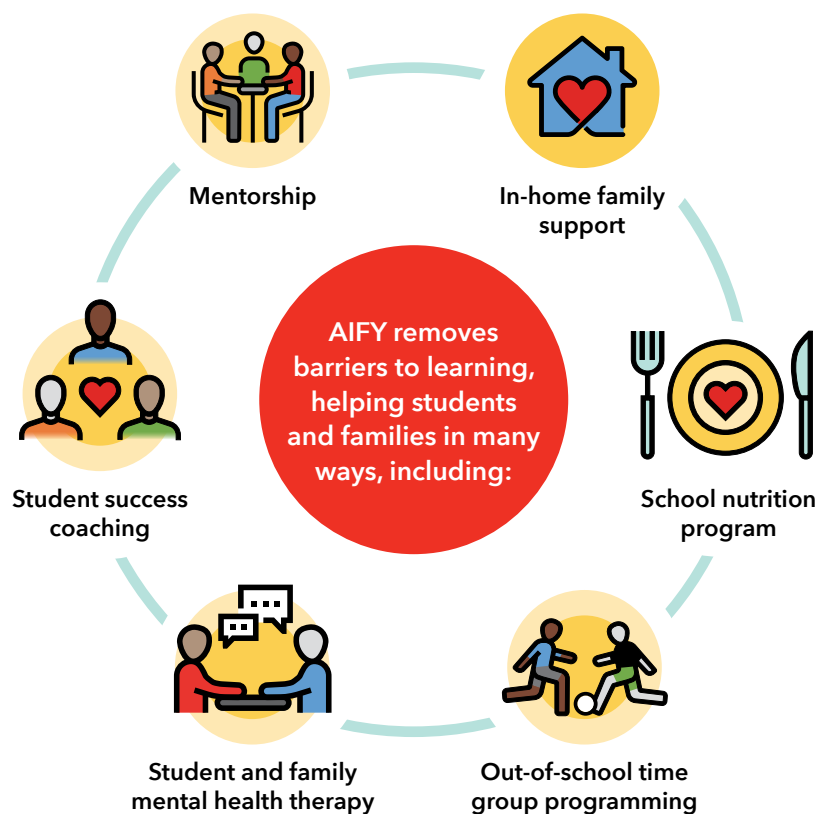
United Way
Alberta Capital Region



Graduating from high school can break the cycle of poverty – but students need your help

For vulnerable students, graduating is about more than just getting good grades. Healthy relationships with family and friends, secure food and housing, and mental health resources are vital in supporting students on their educational journey.

All in for Youth (AIFY) brings together local services to help address the complex needs children and families experience when living with low income. By being there for youth on their educational journey, your support of AIFY can increase high school completion rates and set the next generation up for success.



High school graduation is linked to better chances of employment, increased lifetime earnings, and improved overall wellbeing.



Because of donors like you, students like Sophia are thriving

Sophia is an AIFY student who has experienced trauma and loss. She was extremely quiet and withdrawn and did not seem to easily connect with others. When speaking with staff, Sophia would often avoid eye contact and barely mutter a response.

Sophia loves art, and so this year, the Out-of-School-Time (OST) Coordinator convinced her to try the OST Art Club program with the hope it would improve her social skills while taking part in activity she already enjoys. Sophia started the OST program and was also matched with a mentor in the community-based Big Sisters program.

Sophia did not have a working computer at the time, but the agency was able to provide Sophia with a new Chromebook to keep. This allowed her to stay connected to the OST Art Club and keep up with her schoolwork when her class was required to stay home due to COVID-19.

Eventually, with the support from her mentor, Sophia began to open up in her social interactions. She started taking on leadership opportunities at school and made a wider circle of friends. Her connection to a larger social circle, the club, and strong supportive relationships have been a big step in Sophia finding a sense of self and social confidence.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, AIFY can provide more coaching, counselling, and family support to help youth in our community thrive and build more stable futures.



Learn more about how AIFY can build more stable futures

According to a Study in Future Impact by RUNWITHIT Synthetics, a 5% increase in graduation rates could grow our region's employment rate, economy, and GDP by the year 2044. Scan this code or visit www.myunitedway.ca/AIFY2044 to see how.

Who you are helping

AIFY schools are among the most socially vulnerable and diverse in Edmonton, with many students identifying as English Language Learners (ELL), refugees, students with special needs, and First Nations, Métis, or Inuit students.

Students and families have a wide variety of needs, and with the wraparound supports available through All in for Youth, students can easily access the tools and resources to overcome intersecting barriers to education. These wraparound supports give schools a chance to uncover and address the many different needs of students and their families.

The addition of social supports and resources provided through All in for Youth make the school community an inclusive environment that sets all students up for success.

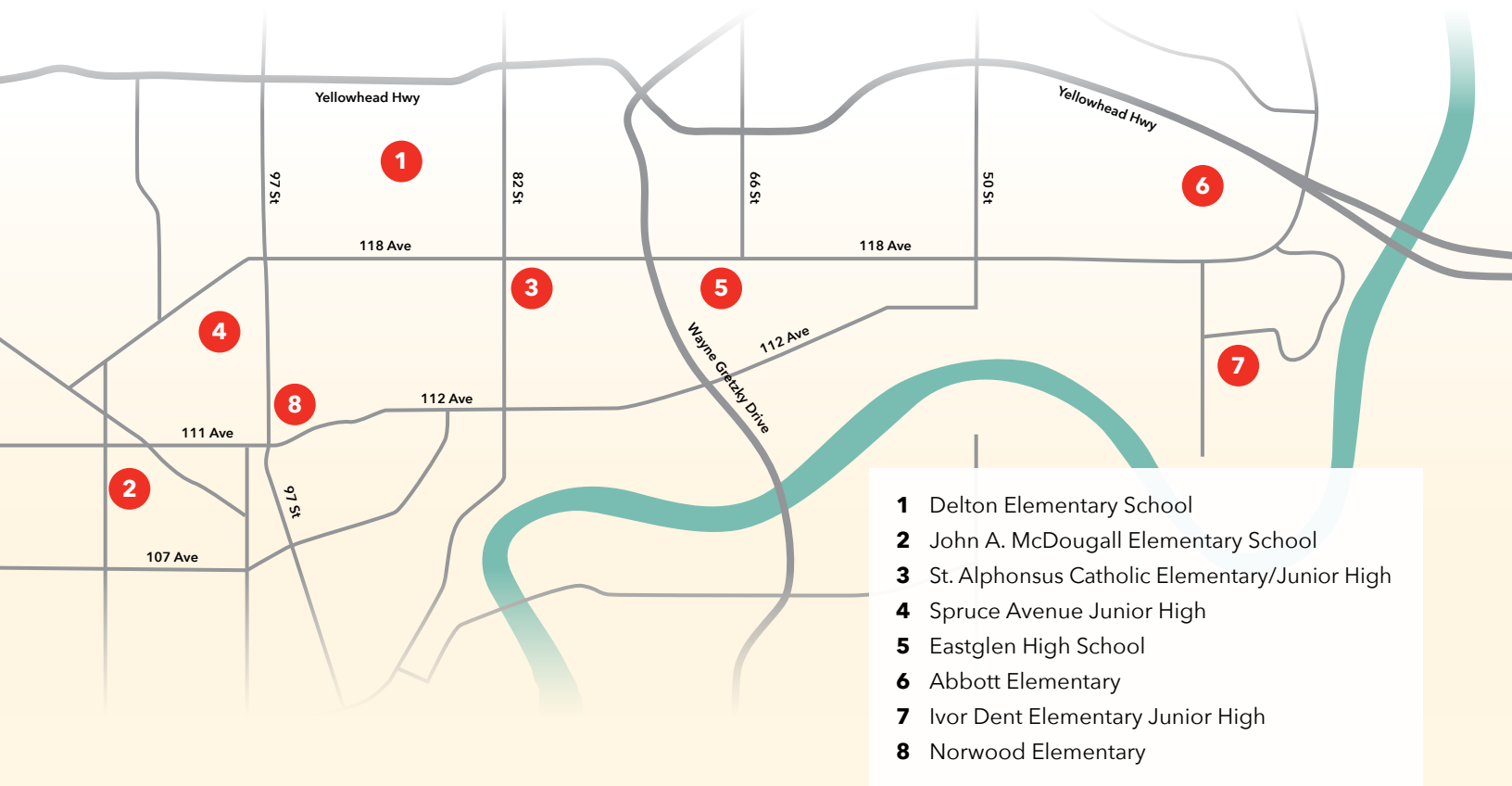
Newcomers or refugees may face the challenge of learning a new language and navigating a new system, without an established support network.

Children facing mental health challenges may be at greater risk of struggling with schoolwork without inclusive supports or resources.

Experiences of discrimination, racism, and/or intergenerational trauma affect children's health, wellbeing, and ability to learn.

Adverse living conditions and unmet social determinants of health (i.e., income, family employment, food security, belonging) can impact children's ability to learn and their future health.

In the 2021-2022 school year, All in for Youth expanded to three more schools in addition to the original five pilot schools.



YEAR-IN-REVIEW

The sixth year of All in for Youth saw school staff, families, and students continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and its ripple effects, particularly as restrictions were eased but needed to be reinstated due to rising illness. Most people spoke to how the school community's mental health and wellness was impacted by learning disruptions, social isolation and re-adjusting to in-person learning, and the socio-economic repercussions of pandemic restrictions.

The pandemic also produced new needs for students and families that were not as critical pre-pandemic when devices and technology were seen as luxuries and not basic needs. AIFY partners continued to be innovative and flexible. While some programming and service delivery started out or stayed virtual, there was a concerted effort to shift services back to in-person when possible.

While the pandemic may have changed the needs of students and families, but it did not stop the ability of AIFY to give them the support they needed.

"Families know that they can call and say: I don't have food, I don't have bus tickets. My kid needs this, my family needs this. And the school and AIFY staff work together to find ways to help support that family in a way that's sustainable – not just a one-time thing."

- Agency Staff

IN YEAR SIX,

2,839 STUDENTS

and their families had access to AIFY services:



668 STUDENTS
received success coaching

879

students accessed in person or virtual out-of-school time supports

256
students and family members
accessed ongoing mental health supports

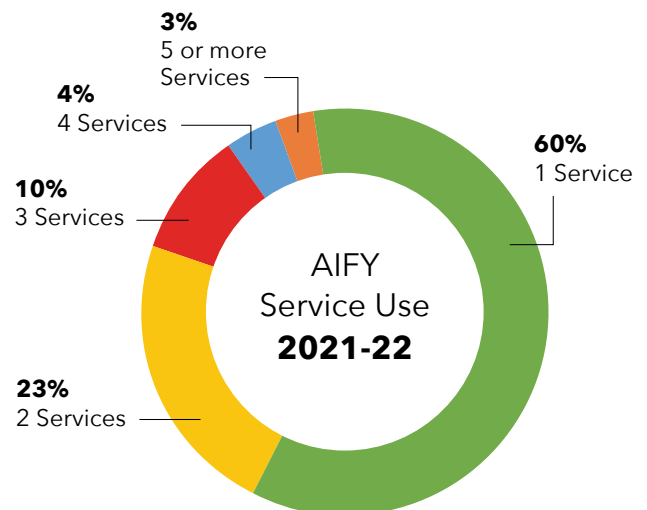


226,324
meals were served to students

202 STUDENTS

participated in virtual and in-person mentoring

334 students and family members accessed Roots and Wings family supports



1,435 students and their families accessed one or more targeted AIFY supports, representing almost 60% of students enrolled in the 8 AIFY schools.

Nutrition support is not included here as this support is universally available and accessed by any student who would like this support in each of the AIFY schools.

All in for Youth strengthens our community

Because of supporters like you, AIFY students and families are creating positive change in their lives – and it's making a difference in the broader community, too.



Greater resiliency, hope, positive relationships, self-esteem, and social networks.



Improved school performance, safety, and physical and mental health.



Stronger, healthier, and safer communities.

Students who accessed mental health supports, nutrition supports, and/or out-of-school programming were better able to focus and engage in the classroom, had better behaviors and emotional regulation, and safe and positive relationships. Students were also more likely to attend school if they had food, or an appointment with a counsellor or mentor that day.

"It's nice to know that someone is there for you, because like, maybe you can't get a therapist or maybe your family can't afford it. And you really need someone to talk to you, but you don't feel comfortable talking to your friends because it's too personal."

- Former AIFY Student

School staff shared that they could more effectively connect students and families with needed services based on what they were seeing in the classroom.

They were also better able focus on their work as educators because agency staff were there to address students' immediate unmet needs.

"The All in for Youth team is so, so valuable. Having them so accessible makes my job so much easier and takes a load off me. I feel like every week I'm dealing with some type of crisis in my classroom and to be able to just pop over to the therapist and get her advice on a situation is incredibly helpful."

- School Staff Member

Families experienced improved access to services by reducing barriers that they often face when navigating supports and services external to schools. Some caregivers described how AIFY supports helped them make ends meet during times of economic uncertainty.

They also reported feeling more engaged by their school community, and desired more consistent communication from schools when opportunities to enter schools were limited during the pandemic.

"Because of this support, I was able to get this job where I am right now. I got support for my clothes, my child's school stuff, books, stationery, and school snacks at the same time, every Friday...They're always there to provide."

- Caregiver



Partners united for youth

All in for Youth is a transformative collaboration that is unique and specialized to the Alberta Capital Region. Ten AIFY partner organizations mobilize teams of interdisciplinary experts who offer support to the schools and kids who need it most.

- Boys and Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton and Area
- City of Edmonton, Family and Community Support Services Program
- e4c
- Edmonton Catholic School Division
- Edmonton Public Schools
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- The Family Centre
- The Mental Health Foundation
- REACH Edmonton
- United Way of the Alberta Capital Region

The All in for Youth collaborative has rallied local organizations and individuals who are passionate about investing in this innovative and life-changing work. We are grateful for the support of the following partners:

- Butler Family Foundation
- City of Edmonton, Families and Community Support Services
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- EPCOR
- Newell Family
- RBC
- RUNWITHIT Synthetics
- Scotiabank
- Sofina Foundation

 **JOIN US TO DO LOCAL GOOD FOR LOCAL YOUTH.**

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