



## A BETTER CHANCE

Opening the door to greater educational opportunities since 1963.

### **Organization Overview**

A Better Chance was founded in 1963 by headmasters of sixteen college preparatory schools. The timing was the height of the Civil Rights Movement and less than a decade after the historic Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court ruling that ended legal discrimination for public education. These private school leaders recognized this revolutionary period and agreed to be part of a solution that provided students of color with the opportunity to enroll in their prestigious and top quality institutions.

While progress in education equality has been made over the past 50+ years, the reality is *significant gaps in academic achievement based on race still exist*. The work that A Better Chance does, especially during these challenging times of racial discourse, is vital to closing this gap by providing high performing students of color with a greater chance to achieve their academic potential.

Our work is also critical to positioning talented young people of color into the leadership pipeline. We know when people of color gain seats at influential decision-making tables, progress can be made to impact communities and future generations. And it all starts with a high quality education!

The College Preparatory Schools Program (CPSP) is the main instrument through which A Better Chance executes its mission. It is a lengthy process where we *identify, prepare, place, and support* academically talented students of color in grades 6-12 at the nation's highest performing and rigorous college preparatory schools.

A Better Chance is headquartered in New York City with regional offices serving the following additional metropolitan areas: Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, DC, Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Houston, San Francisco/Oakland, and Los Angeles.

In 2018, the College Preparatory Schools Program had a record year of new Scholar placements – 566! On average, we annually place approximately 500 new Scholars and support approximately 2,100 currently enrolled Scholars in more than 340 Member Schools across 27 states.

### **Outcomes and Impact**

For 55 years, A Better Chance has been a driving force in the effort to increase educational access and attainment among youth of color. Our record of success is evident through the following metrics:

- On average, 96% of A Better Chance graduates enroll directly into college, compared with 24% of students of color nationwide. For the past two years, 99% of our graduates enrolled directly into college.

- Over the last 8 years, 85% of A Better Chance Alumni earned undergraduate degrees compared to just 57% of all students.
- Over the last 8 years, nearly 20% of A Better Chance Alumni who received baccalaureate degrees went on to complete graduate or professional degrees. Nearly 11% of those were medical degrees and 15% were law degrees.

The ongoing impact of A Better Chance and the College Preparatory School Program is demonstrated through an impressive group of nearly 16,000 Alumni, many of whom have become great innovators, thinkers, and leaders in their respective fields – and have impacted countless other promising leaders of color.