

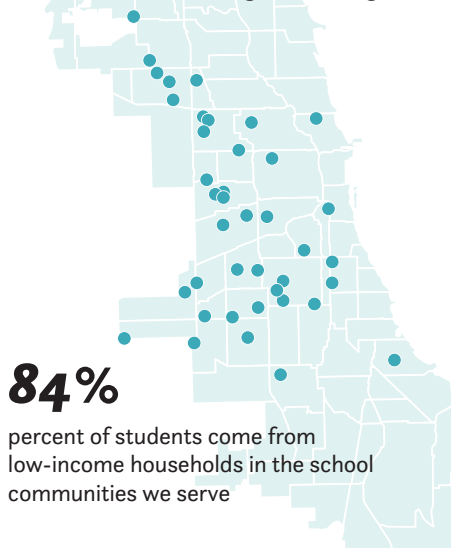
Problem: 77% of children in Chicago from low-income households start kindergarten behind, and many never catch up

Root cause: Serial underinvestment (especially in Black and Brown communities) in the adults who matter most to children's early brain development

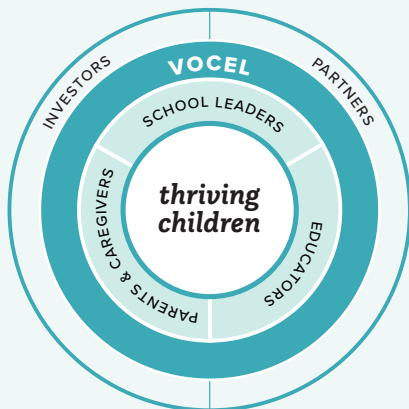
Opportunity: Provide parents, caregivers, and educators with tools and support to help young children thrive before they enter kindergarten, in the years when 90% of brain development happens

WHERE WE WORK

Serving 39 under-resourced schools and communities throughout Chicago



OUR MODEL

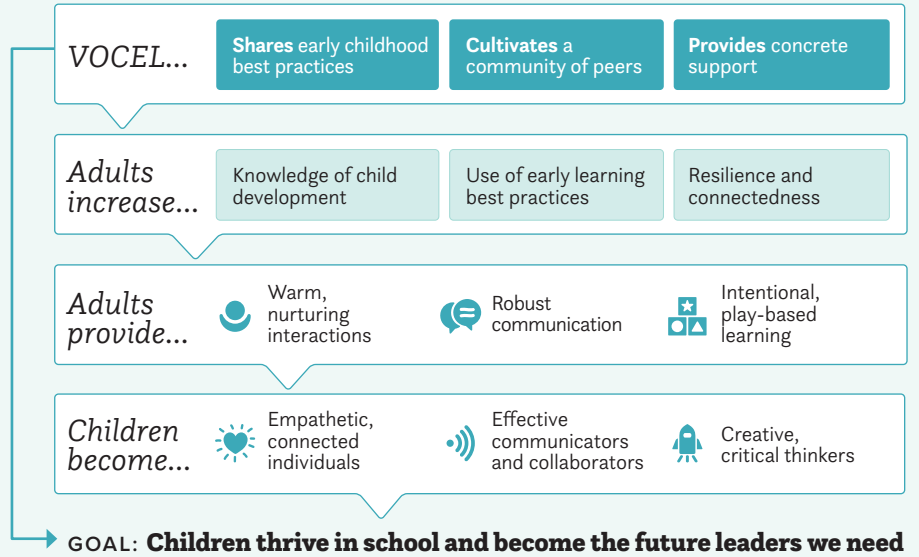


FOUNDATIONAL BELIEF

All adults can help young children thrive if they have access to knowledge, tools, and the resilience that comes from a community of peers.



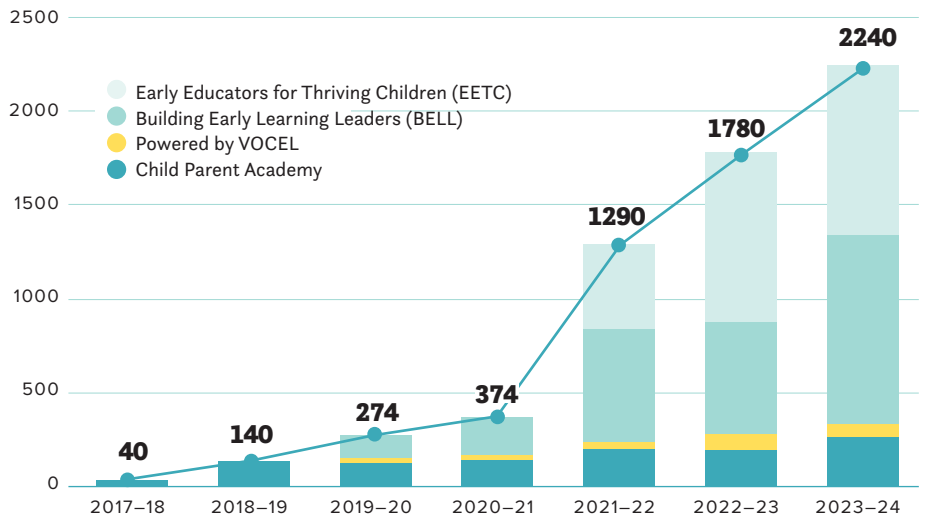
THEORY OF CHANGE



RESULTS

After participating in the VOCEL Child Parent Academy, **100% of parents** report that their children are more prepared for school.

SCALE: NUMBER OF CHILDREN REACHED PER SCHOOL YEAR



Our Portfolio of Programs

VOCEL’s programming and partnerships support schools and families in overburdened, under-resourced communities throughout Chicago. Guided by brain science, we work with parents, caregivers, and educators to create environments where children have high levels of emotional support; many opportunities to experiment, be creative, and own their learning; and frequent and robust communication with adults and other children.



FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

VOCEL empowers the relationship between the parent and the child, and it also empowers us as a school.

- **Javier Arriola-Lopez**, Principal, Rachel Carson Elementary

The Child Parent Academy

VOCEL’S flagship program is a dynamic, two-generation early learning accelerator where children aged 0-4 years and their parents learn side-by-side. Sessions meet weekly at schools on Chicago’s West, Southwest, and South Sides. (During COVID-19, all programming is accessible through virtual platforms.)



Powered by VOCEL

To leverage the talent that already exists in each school community, VOCEL is equipping parents at select CPS elementary schools to implement the Child Parent Academy for their peers with coaching and support from our expert staff.



FOR TEACHERS

Early Educators for Thriving Children (EETC)

EETC provides training, coaching, and a community of peer support to help preschool and kindergarten teachers meet their students’ mental health needs amidst the return to in-person learning.



FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

We know that providing school leaders with support, like VOCEL is doing, is just absolutely critical.

- **Cornelia Grumman**, former Director of Education
Robert R. McCormick Foundation

Building Early Learning Leaders (BELL)

Just as children should prepare for school, schools must prepare for young children. That’s why VOCEL has partnered with the Education Equity Fund to provide group training and individualized coaching to a cohort of Chicago Public Schools leaders to shape their vision for early learning excellence.