



Simon Youth Foundation's (SYF) impact across the country is broad and deep, supporting more than 29,000 graduates and families since its inception in 1998. Simon Youth Academies, operated by local public school districts, maintain an average graduation rate of 90%, ensuring that at-risk youth who come from low- and moderate-income families earn their high school diplomas. Simon Property Group (Simon) employees founded SYF to give back to the community by meeting students where they were – in the mall instead of school – through the creation of Alternative Education Academies inside Simon Malls. To this day, Simon and its employees continue to support the success of SYF. Simon donates more than \$1M of in-kind space for Academies located in Simon Malls. The 2024 SYF Annual Campaign raised \$3.22M to expand programs and services in our Academies, of which \$355K came from SYF's National Sponsors, and \$200K came from our partners, **JCPenney Communities Foundation, Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, IU Health, KeyBank Foundation, PNC, Citizens Energy Group, and Samarian Foundation**, among others, which supported our 33 Simon Youth Academies, student scholarships, and capacity building grants.

## A Solution with Real Impact

For more than 25 years, SYF has empowered thousands of students each year to create better futures for their families and communities through education. SYF's work is changing the way students who seek Alternative Education pathways are perceived – we believe all students deserve to be seen, heard, and met where they are with access to a meaningful education. SYF continues to seek out partnerships with credentialing organizations, national and local employers, and education organizations to expand and enhance our mission. Adults who have earned a high school diploma earn, on average, 25% more annually than students who have dropped out of school. Knowing this, SYF celebrates how our graduates are transforming the workforce, economy, and communities in which they live for generations to come.

## SYF Academies

SYF has robust educational partnerships with 25 local school districts in 12 states. For more than 25 years, SYF has made an educational commitment to students, families, and communities in which these school districts operate – positively impacting over 29,000 graduates and families through the power of earning a high school diploma. Engaging local school districts across the country extends SYF's annual reach to support an average of 3,044 students and their families who might otherwise never achieve a high school diploma or feel worthy and able to consider college and career opportunities. These students do not lack academic promise or drive; they must choose to attend a Simon Youth Academy. Students come to our Academies because they have had personal challenges and circumstances, such as the need to be employed to help support their families, managing a chronic illness, or contending with other factors that prevent them from succeeding in a traditional high school setting. Some students are stepping up to fulfill family roles beyond those of a typical teen to ensure their parents and siblings are safe, warm, and fed.



### **SYF Scholarships**

Each year, SYF's national scholarship program serves students who were at risk of dropping out of high school, but whose personal initiative enabled them to persevere and earn their high school diploma. To date, SYF has awarded over \$21.1M in scholarships. SYF Academy scholarships remove financial barriers for students, many of whom are minorities. In 2024, 62% of students enrolled in Simon Youth Academies were students of color who might not consider post-secondary education absent financial support. In 2024, 38% of Academy students identified as white, and 32% identified as Hispanic or Latino. SYF awarded 48 Academy scholarships valued at \$547,500, averaging \$11,400 per scholarship.

SYF also invests in Simon Mall communities to support more students through community and employee scholarships; 2024 awards to 125 students, were valued at nearly \$185,750. Students attend community colleges, Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs), Ivy League institutions, and local colleges and universities for post-secondary education.

### **SYF Educator Capacity**

In 2024, SYF invested more than \$179,000 in capacity-building grants for over 400 Academy educators. Since the inception of the program in 2006, SYF has invested over \$1.5M in educators and Academies. These grants allow SYF Academies to address the specific needs of their Academies that are not covered through other federal, state, or local funds.

As teacher needs continue to grow and communities are challenged with attracting and retaining talented teachers, SYF stands firm in our commitment to providing ongoing professional development and continuing education credits for our teachers. Through annual surveys, teachers identify issues and content for continuing education. SYF uses their feedback to host an annual conference, through which teachers participate in workshops from national experts and their Academy peers. In 2024, this also included a workshop for teachers on navigating challenging conversations at school, a timely session from our partner Close Up who encourages fostering civil discourse.

### **Follow SYF on Social Media**

- |           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Facebook  | @simonyouthfoundation  |
| Instagram | @simonyouthfoundation  |
| LinkedIn  | @simonyouthfoundation  |
| X         | @simonyouth            |
| YouTube   | @simonyouthfoundation_ |

# COMMUNITIES

## SIMON YOUTH FOUNDATION

### CREATING BIG OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIG DREAMS

In 1998, Simon employees founded Simon Youth Foundation (SYF) to give back to their communities by meeting at-risk youth where they were – in the mall instead of in school. Since then, SYF has profoundly impacted more than 28K students and families through its program services, scholarships, and capacity building for teachers at 32 Simon Youth Academies in 12 states.

# 32

SYF Academies

Through Simon Youth Academies, SYF ensures that students who come from low- and moderate-income families earn their high school diploma. To encourage students to pursue their dreams and remove financial barriers, SYF provides scholarships to academy graduates for post-secondary education and training.

Alternative education students do not lack academic promise or drive. Personal challenges and circumstances, such as economically supporting their families or managing chronic illness, prevent them from succeeding in a traditional high school setting. By providing them with the personalized support they need and deserve, SYF is creating a pipeline of talent for local communities – including Simon malls.

Through the 2023 annual Employee Contribution Campaign, Simon corporate and field employees collectively donated over \$435K to SYF. Customers also contribute to the success of SYF through direct donations in the local Wishing Wells and Fountains located across 210 Simon centers. Nearly \$122K was raised from 235 wells in 2023.

# 36K+

Dedicated Square Feet  
in Malls

# 28K+

SYF Total Graduates  
Since Inception

# \$435K+

SYF Donations from Simon  
Employees in 2023

# \$15.5M+

Invested in Simon Youth Foundation  
Since 1998



# COMMUNITIES

## EDUCATOR STORIES/ CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAM FOCUS

To enable Simon Youth Academy educators to best reach and support their students, SYF invests in ongoing professional development and continuing education credits for Simon Youth Academy educators, enabling them to provide a high-quality education to their students while growing and thriving professionally. In 2023, SYF invested over \$154K in capacity-building grants for 406 Academy educators. SYF has invested over \$1.3M in the grant program since its inception in 2006.

The SYF National Educator Conference is another professional development opportunity designed around the needs of our Academy educators. During the conference, educators are able to participate in plenary sessions and workshops from national experts as well as their Academy peers.

SYF celebrates how its graduates and educators are transforming the workforce, economy, and communities in which they live for generations to come. Thanks to the generous support of Simon and its employees, as well as SYF's National Sponsors, SYF will seek out partnerships with credentialing organizations, national and local employers, and education organizations to expand and enhance its mission. Visit [syf.org](https://syf.org) to learn more and donate.



**2023 TEACHER OF THE YEAR: Todd Grimes,**  
Lead Teacher at Simon Youth Academy at Greenfield-Central,  
Greenfield-Central Community School Corporation, Greenfield

**2023 ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR: Nikkie Ross,** Executive  
Principal at Simon Youth Academy at Phoenix High School and  
Simon Youth Academy at Sugarloaf Mills, Gwinnett County  
Public Schools, Lawrenceville



# COMMUNITIES

## SYF STUDENTS—DIVERSITY IN 2023

1.9%

Unhoused Students

4.8%

Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

33%

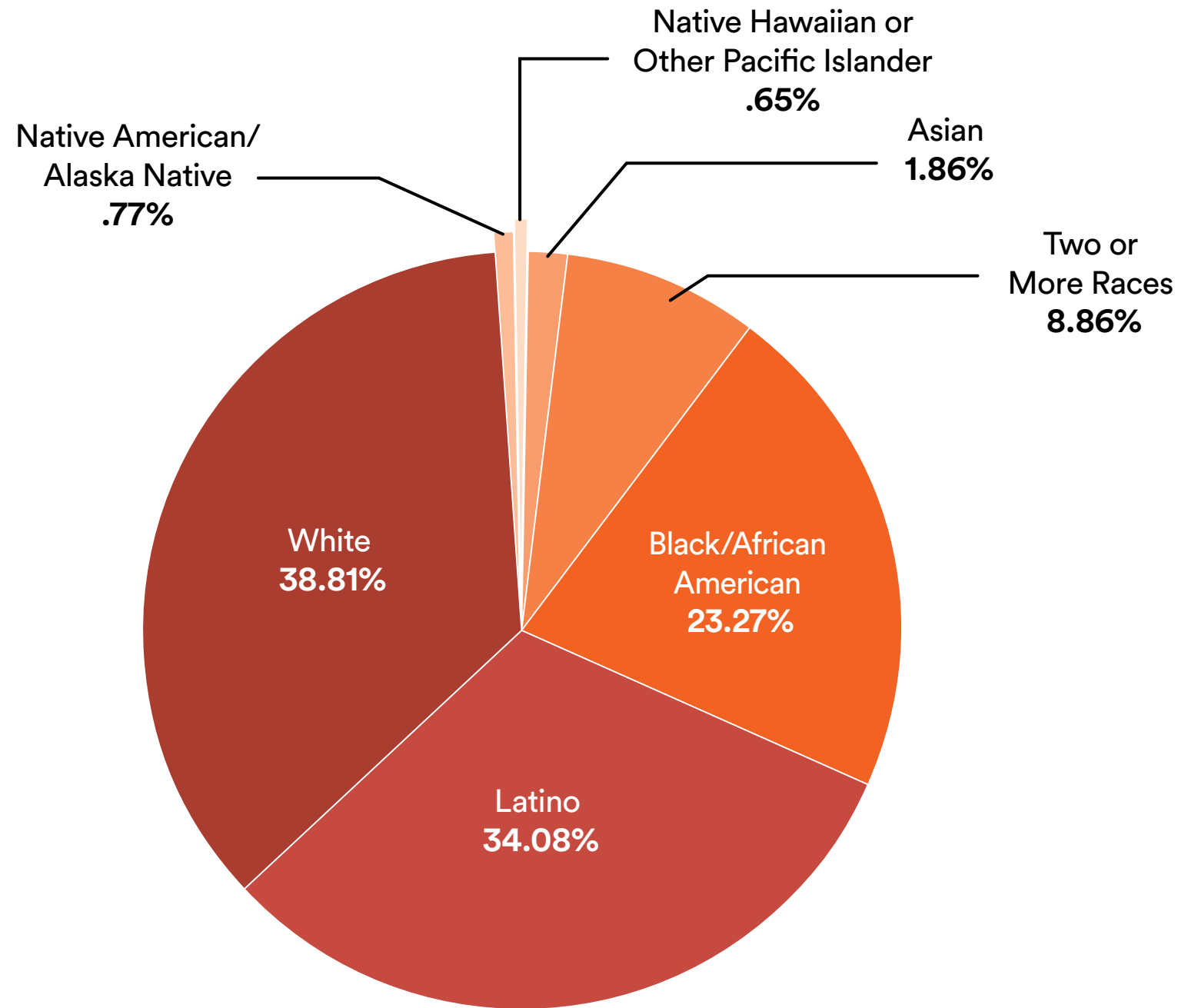
Will be First Generation College Students

18.8%

Will be First Generation High School Students

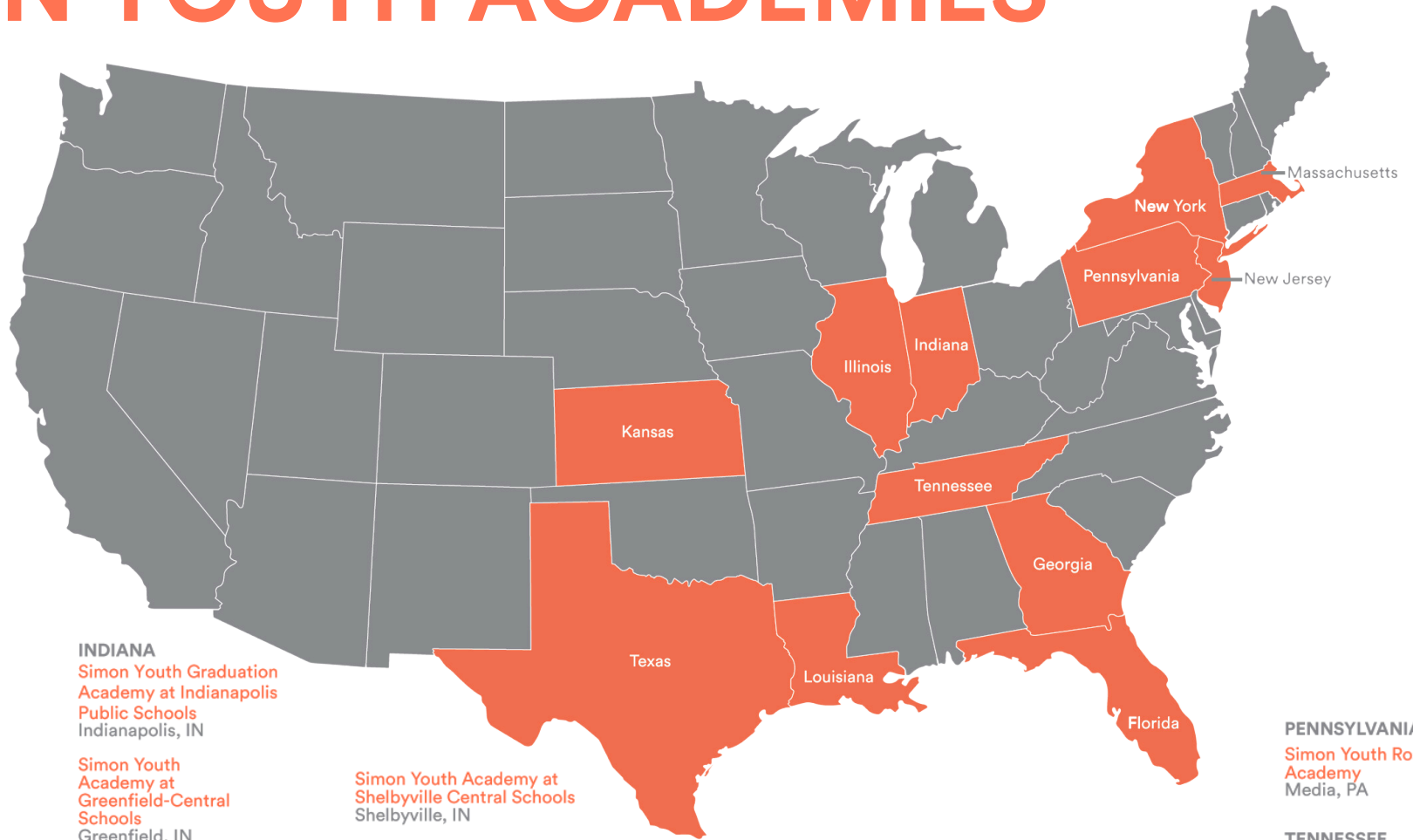
69.5%

Of all SYF Students are Non-White



# SIMON YOUTH ACADEMIES

33 Academies in 12 States  
As of August 2024



**FLORIDA**  
Simon Youth Academy at BETA  
Orlando, FL

Simon Youth Academy at  
Orlando Outlet Marketplace  
Orlando, FL

Simon Youth Academy at  
Port Charlotte Town Center  
Port Charlotte, FL

Simon Youth Academy  
on Cochran  
Port Charlotte, FL

**GEORGIA**  
Simon Youth Academy at  
Phoenix High School  
Lawrenceville, GA

Simon Youth Academy at  
Sugarloaf Mills  
Lawrenceville, GA

**ILLINOIS**  
Simon Youth Springfield  
Learning Academy  
Springfield, IL

**INDIANA**  
Simon Youth Graduation  
Academy at Indianapolis  
Public Schools  
Indianapolis, IN

Simon Youth  
Academy at  
Greenfield-Central  
Schools  
Greenfield, IN

Simon Youth  
Academy at Lawrence  
Township Schools  
Lawrence, IN

Simon Youth Academy  
at McKinley Alternative  
School  
Kokomo, IN

Simon Youth  
Academy at Options  
Noblesville  
Noblesville, IN

Simon Youth  
Academy at  
Richmond High  
School  
Richmond, IN

Simon Youth Academy at  
Shelbyville Central Schools  
Shelbyville, IN

Simon Youth Academy at  
Avon  
Avon, IN

Simon Youth Center Grove  
Academy  
Greenwood, IN

Simon Youth Clark-Pleasant  
Academy  
Whiteland, IN

Simon Youth Hope Academy  
Indianapolis, IN

Simon Youth True North  
Academy  
Indianapolis, IN

**KANSAS**  
Simon Youth Academy at  
Towne East Square  
Wichita, KS

**LOUISIANA**  
Simon Youth Academy at  
Prien Lake Mall  
Lake Charles, LA

Simon Youth Calcasieu Parish  
Academy  
Sulphur, LA

**MASSACHUSETTS**  
Simon Youth Academy at  
Burlington  
Burlington, MA

Simon Youth Academy at  
Northshore Mall  
Peabody, MA

**NEW JERSEY**  
Raymond J. Lesniak Recovery  
High School, a Simon Youth  
Academy  
Roselle, NJ

Simon Youth Academy at  
The Mills at Jersey Gardens  
Elizabeth, NJ

**NEW YORK**  
Simon Youth Academy at Baldwin  
Baldwin, NY

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
Simon Youth Rose Tree Media  
Academy  
Media, PA

**TENNESSEE**  
Simon Youth Academy at  
Hickory Hollow  
Antioch, TN

Simon Youth Academy at  
Old Cockrill  
Nashville, TN

Simon Youth Academy at  
Opry Mills  
Nashville, TN

Simon Youth Kelley Academy at  
Lincoln Park Center  
Knoxville, TN

**TEXAS**  
Simon Youth Judson Learning  
Academy  
San Antonio, TX