



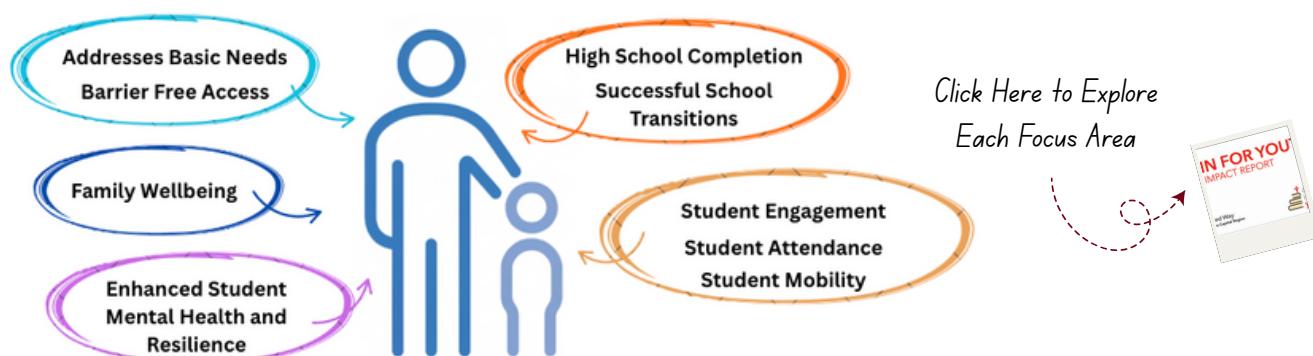
EvalByte

All In For Youth: Milestones and New Endeavors

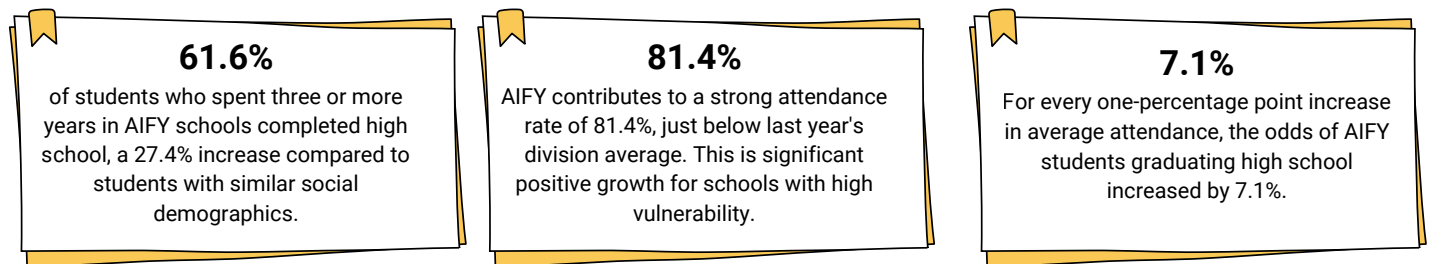
Written by: Pauline MacPherson, Kristen Zentner, Stella Severin & Umaira Behzad

Since 2016, All In for Youth (AIFY) has been providing wrap-around services to students and families in Edmonton's inner city. With a mission to break the cycle of poverty, AIFY supports vulnerable students through nutrition programs, mentoring, mental health services, after-school activities, and in-home family social supports.

Now in its ninth year, AIFY has expanded from five to eight schools, with demand for its services growing each year. AIFY supports are intentionally embedded in some of the most diverse and socially vulnerable schools in the Edmonton region, AIFY reaches students who may face various obstacles to learning, such as language barriers and system navigation for newcomers, mental health issues, experiences of discrimination, and adverse living conditions. Through AIFY, students and their families can access a range of supports right inside the school. This ease of access breaks down barriers that students and families face to academic success.



In early 2025, the initiative reached an exciting milestone: analysis of eight years of longitudinal data confirmed the model’s success. The data showed improved high school graduation rates, increased attendance, and enhanced well-being among students and their families.



This year, AIFY’s research focus has shifted toward sustainability and understanding the broader ripple effects of its work. The research and evaluation team at the Community-University Partnership (CUP) and Concordia University of Edmonton is exploring these impacts using a new approach: Social Return on Investment (SROI).

SROI is a method used to measure the wider social and economic benefits of an initiative like AIFY. The team will assess AIFY’s potential economic impact on systems such as the justice system, the social services sector, unemployment supports, and the financial returns to communities. These findings will strengthen the evidence base for AIFY’s wrap-around model and support advocacy for greater investment in preventative programs that address social vulnerability.

Partners are excited to demonstrate the full reach of AIFY’s impact, and to continue building change that not only supports families today but also ripples outward into the community and forward through generations.

*Scan here to learn more
about All in for Youth.*

