

COMPASS
ACADEMY
NETWORK

The Compass Mission

- To **support education in rural communities** by providing **free summer enrichment programs for middle school students**, with continued year-round support,
- Foster a **love of learning**, promote intellectual curiosity, develop **engaged citizens**, create a foundation for **academic success**, and cultivate a **strong moral compass**,
- Provide **college students** who are aspiring educators **paid internship opportunities** to work with veteran rural teachers,
- Create a **strengthened network of inspirational rural educators** who become leaders in their classrooms and communities.

CAN is a **nonprofit organization founded in 2019** focused on creating educational opportunities for rural middle school students to support their journey toward secondary and post-secondary success. It is a **free program for eligible students**.

CAN also awards **educational grants in the amount of \$5,000** to eligible school district partners.



Student Community

- Students in **grades 5 through 8 from rural school districts.**
- Currently draw from **over 15 school districts in Kansas and Missouri.**
- Grade point **“B” average (3.0) or better, recommendation** from a current teacher or administrator, and **leadership potential.**
- Preference is given to students whose families qualify for the **National School Lunch Program (NSLP).**

Peer Mentor Community

- **College students** pursuing or interested in the **field of education.**
- Passionate to serve as **role models to students**, and to positively impact their lives by **providing support and inspiration.**
- **Paid internship** opportunity with the potential to **earn college credit.**
- **Support teachers with instruction** and actively participate in all program components.

The Compass Network



THE CAN COMMUNITY

- ❖ Leadership Team
- ❖ Program Directors
- ❖ Teachers
- ❖ Peer Mentors
- ❖ Students
- ❖ Parents
- ❖ School Districts
- ❖ Educational Partners
- ❖ Corporate Sponsors



Need for Summer Learning Opportunities

Summer Slide

Summer learning loss, also known as the “Summer Slide”, describes the common experience of students losing some of what they learned the previous year because they are not academically engaged or challenged during the summer. **Students from third to eighth grade typically lose 25-30% of the gains made in math during the previous school year, and 15-25% of the gains in reading during the summer.**

Middle School Matters

Middle School is a critical time for students as they work toward developing their own identities, confront physical changes, and face new social pressures. During summer, this age group is particularly at risk as they are **old enough to be left alone but not old enough to consistently make good choices**. The choices that are made at this time can impact a student’s trajectory in high school and beyond.

The level of academic achievement that students attain by eighth grade has a larger impact on their college and career readiness by the time they graduate from high school than anything that happens academically in high school.

Improving grades and attendance in the middle grades can have a large pay-off for high school success; even more so than improving test scores. **Students who improve their attendance or grades from fifth through eighth grade have better on-track rates, higher grades, and higher test scores in high school than students who start out with the same achievement in fifth grade but do not improve during the middle grades.** Modest improvements in attendance or grades from fifth through eighth grade are associated with substantial differences in high school outcomes.

University of Chicago CCSR Research Brief: *5 Key Findings for Middle Grades*

ACT: *The Forgotten Middle*

Summer Learning Opportunities

- ▶ The largest barrier to summer program participation is **cost and affordability**.
- ▶ 38% of low-income students participated in summer programs compared to 67% of higher income peers.
- ▶ 86% of rural parents want summer learning opportunities for their children.
- ▶ 2.9 million rural children would have enrolled in a summer program had one been available to them.
- ▶ Parents enroll their children in summer programs for enrichment, fitness, fun, and social interaction.

2024 Gallup Summer Experiences Survey conducted by National Summer Learning Association

2020 Afterschool Alliance, America After 3PM, Survey of After School and Summer Program Opportunities.



The Program

Curriculum

- Math & Decision Making, Civics, Art, Creative Writing, Personal Development, Team Building

Curricular Partners

- Bill of Rights Institute, Pitsco Education

Field Trips

- Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes, Crystal Bridges, Wildcat Glades, Local Universities

Rural Education Community

- Teacher Professional Development
- Peer Mentor College & Career Mentoring

Quarterly School-Year Meetups

- Students, Peer Mentors, Teachers, & Families

Curriculum

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Creative Writing	Poetry: The Written Word	Poetry: The Spoken Word	The Short Story	Personal Narratives
Math	Algebra	Geometry	Statistics	Problem Solving
Civics	The Constitution & Government	Individual Rights & Liberties	Society & Citizenship	Community Engagement & Philanthropy
Art	Elements & Principles of Art	What Is Art?	Art as Storytelling	Art as Self-Expression
Decision Making	Six Step Decision Making	Cost-Benefit Analysis	Values Based Decision Making	Group Decision Making
Study Skills	Planning & Organization	Note-Taking & Test Prep	Working Independently & Collaboratively	College & Career Readiness
Team Building	Learning About Oneself & Getting to Know Others	Leading by Example	Working Efficiently & Effectively	Teamwork & Integrity
Personal Development	Healthy Habits & Self-Care	Personal Responsibility & Interpersonal Relationships	Goal Setting & Execution	Perseverance & Growth Mindset



SITE COMPONENTS

Compass Provides:

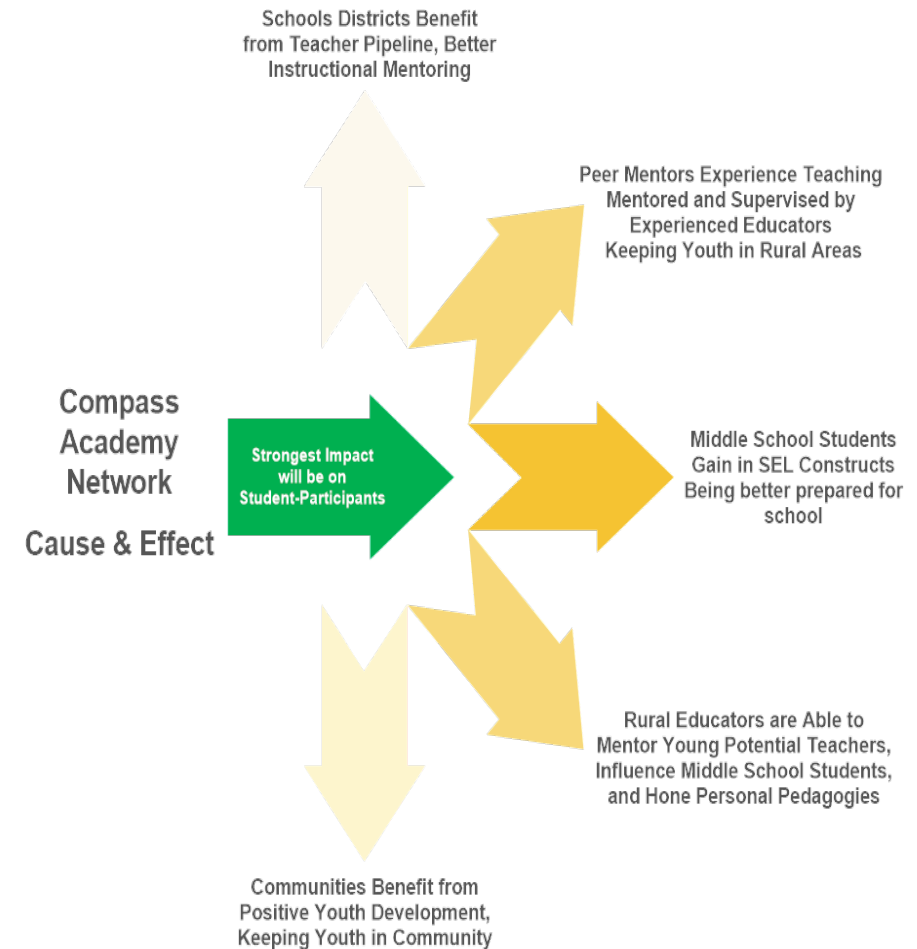
- Teachers & Peer Mentors
- Curriculum
- Field Trips
- Program Supplies
- Administrative Support

Host School Provides:

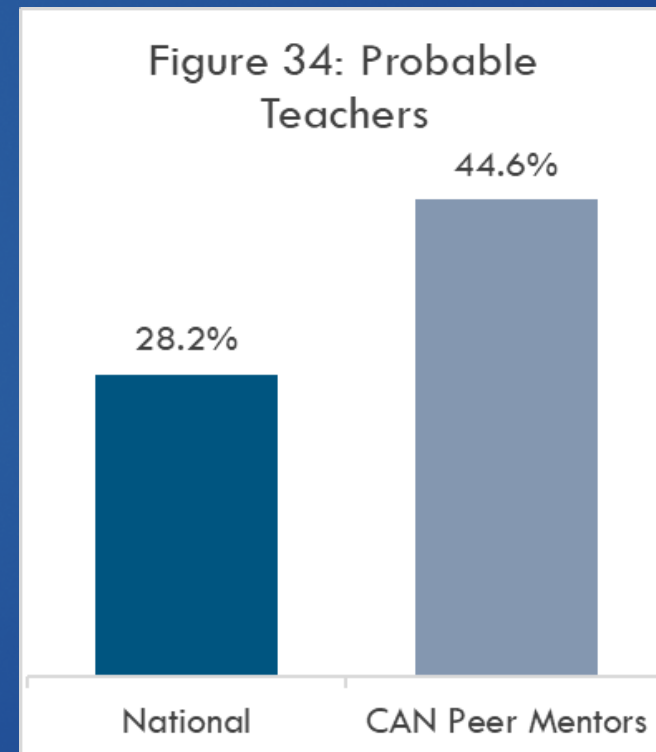
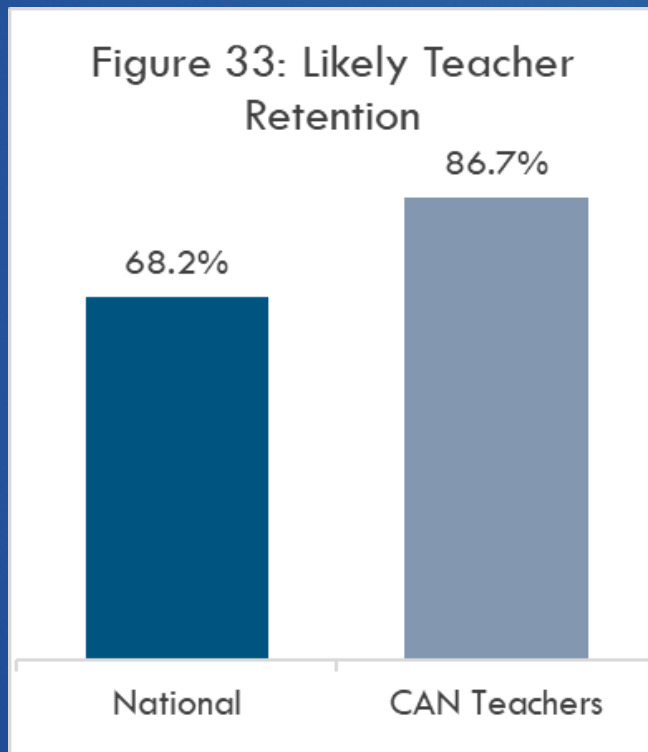
- Facilities
- Transportation
- Lunch
- Technology
- Student Metrics

Compass Student Outcomes

- ▶ CAN measured the impact of the program in three main areas which speak to future professionalism and life success: **Academic Preparation, Civic Responsibility, and Entrepreneurialism.**
- ▶ **Academically**, students attending the CAN summer program gained in grade point average (GPA) from one year to the next. For students who re-enrolled in the program, their GPA's had increased from an average 3.1 in their first year enrolled to a 3.4 this past enrollment period.
- ▶ In the **Civic Responsibility** construct, CAN students posted statistically significant gains in **Self-Management, Self-Awareness, Social Awareness, and Personal Ethics.**
- ▶ CAN students were more likely to demonstrate **Entrepreneurial** characteristics, which include acknowledgement of informal **leadership** and an **internal push for personal achievement.** Students posted statistically significant growth in **Decision-Making** and **Goals Setting.**



Compass Teacher Recruitment and Retention



Thank you for this great experience I've had here. I made great friends that I will be so excited to see. I can't wait until next year.

-Student

I accomplished something that's going to help me out a lot in my future.

-Student

I am so impressed with this program. The staff and curriculum are wonderful and the joy on the kids' faces show how great it is.

-Parent

It truly was the best way to spend the month of July.

-Parent

"This job is fantastic for learning about being part of a team and working with students. It is the most positive work environment I have ever been a part of."

-Former Peer Mentor & Current Teacher

I am so grateful our kids got to be included in this program.

-School Administrator

We are 100% behind getting these kids whatever they need to be successful, and Compass is really thinking about kids.

-School Administrator



Your Path to Success Starts Here.

LEARN MORE:

compassacademynetwork.org

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Thank You!

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