

## The Program

The YMCA Virtual Y After School Program is a literacy-based program focused on academic support and social and emotional growth, with a program model based on learning enhancement, health and recreation, values, and building competence and confidence in children. The Virtual Y assists New York City public school children between the ages of 6 through 12 years with literacy skills that are taught during the school day. The curriculum reinforces the efforts of classroom teachers by engaging children in hands-on activities and instilling an appreciation and enthusiasm for reading to enhance literacy skills and grade-level reading proficiency. In addition, the Virtual Y promotes the core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

Students are involved in a variety of activities: snack and socializing, homework help, recreational reading, a planned activity (academic, values, health and recreation, or community service), and journal writing. If a child needs additional services (i.e., counseling), referrals are made to either the school or to an appropriate outside agency. The program also provides a child care alternative for their families. Parents are encouraged to participate in an advisory board and volunteer in the Virtual Y program as often as they wish.

## Results

Parent surveys indicate overall satisfaction with the program, that children are performing better in school, reading more during non-school hours, and behaving better. Post-program testing data showed statistically significant improvements in student behavior on all 8 scales.



## Learning Standards

**English Language Arts** 1) read, write, listen, and speak for information and understanding; 4) read, write, listen, and speak for social interaction.

### Contact

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