

# Out-of-School Time Stories

## BOOST Grantee Spotlight: LaAmistad

Located in Atlanta, Georgia, LaAmistad, Inc. is a well-rounded program that includes afterschool tutoring, parent education, English for Successful Living classes, and summer enrichment activities through the Animate Summer Academy. LaAmistad was founded in 2001 to prepare Latino students and their families for success through academic and life enrichment programs. LaAmistad Afterschool passionately seeks to serve elementary-age Latino students using engaging instructional strategies that include opportunities for voice and choice, fun, and mentorship to close the educational achievement gap and prepare them for academic success and life-long learning.

**With BOOST funding, LaAmistad has grown its afterschool staff, including specially trained reading specialists and tutors who provide one-on-one academic instruction and well-being support for participating children and youth, focusing on mathematics and reading.** It also allowed the purchase of leveled reading libraries and other instructional resources for students. The tuition-free afterschool program served 219 elementary-age, low-income youth during the 2022-23 school year.




**Youth Served in Year Two:**  
219



**Ages Served:**  
Elementary School

**Counties Served:**  
Fulton

**Programming Offered:**  
Afterschool

**BOOST Grant Purpose:**  
 Increase quality

**Website:**  
[www.laamistadinc.org](http://www.laamistadinc.org)





**“Since COVID, our volunteers have not rebounded, so the fact that we can [use BOOST funds] to hire more staff has made a significant difference”.**

– LaAmistad Staff Member

LaAmistad Afterschool also provides youth with writing experiences, STEM instruction, homework support, field trips, cultural and enrichment activities, healthy snacks, and recreation (e.g., organized ball games), and the Parent Partnership, which supports family members of LaAmistad students through monthly no-cost workshops on a variety of topics, such as school system navigation, parent-child communication, positive discipline, and healthy living. Additionally, BOOST-funded parent liaisons serve as critical bridges between LaAmistad Afterschool and traditional learning P-12 school settings. The program’s parent liaisons ensure that while LaAmistad Latino students are in school, they and their families can understand and better navigate the American schooling system.

**“On my homework, when I don’t get something, we practice [the skill], and they teach me”.**

– LaAmistad Student

## Academic Success

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BOOST resources drove innovation within LaAmistad Afterschool, leading to notable academic gains and success for its students. One staff member said,

**“We’ve been having some really large successes in our abilities to close the gap with our students and get their reading levels to where they are”.**

– LaAmistad Staff Member

LaAmistad implemented multiple math assessments for students at various points throughout the academic year. These assessments served multiple purposes, such as establishing baseline scores, recording updated scores during the middle of the year, and evaluating the overall improvement of students by the end of the year. The assessments comprised grade-specific mathematical problems encompassing addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. **By the end of the 2022-23 academic year, 100% of the LaAmistad Afterschool students demonstrated improved mathematics skills in all areas assessed.**

**Youth with Improved  
Mathematics Skills  
(N=219)**

**100%**

**I think seeing that level of academic success was unexpected. Watching a child move that many levels within just six months is, to me, impressive.**

– LaAmistad Staff Member

LaAmistad employed assessment kits to evaluate reading proficiency on three occasions throughout the academic year. The first assessment occurred at the start of the school year to establish student baseline scores. The second assessment occurred midway through the year to capture updated scores. The final assessment was conducted at year-end to measure students' overall progress and improvement over the school year. An analysis of these data showed that **all 219 students, or 100% of participants, demonstrated improved reading proficiency during the 2022-23 academic year.**

## **Wraparound Supports**

But LaAmistad is about more than afterschool tutoring. Safe and engaging learning spaces that support the whole child and family are essential for Latino students' well-being. Using a holistic approach, LaAmistad serves low-income Latino students from first to fifth grade and their siblings, parents, and other family members: "We work with the whole child in everything we do. We work with the whole family. Our staff meets the children where they are and listens and then provides any type of wraparound services needed." LaAmistad maintains many partnerships to facilitate non-academic support where they have learned about respect, made new friends, and have greater confidence.

**"We go beyond the academics. We've had families approach us after they've had fires in their homes, when they've had food insecurity, or when they've needed some rent assistance. We don't, of course, provide those services ourselves, but we were able to connect them with the appropriate resources".**

– LaAmistad Staff Member

**Youth with Improved Reading Proficiency (N=219)**



**100%**

Social worker interns support students' well-being through small group work, music groups, and arts activities as part of this whole-child approach. LaAmistad assists families by connecting parents to community resources and agencies that provide support services, such as food banks, counseling services, churches, attorneys, and healthcare providers, to meet the needs of their students and families and ensure their academic and life success.

**"Providing wraparound services, tutors, and trained teachers that move students' academic growth far beyond what a volunteer can do, these are the ways we're impacting students right now with a lot of intentionality".**

– LaAmistad Staff Member



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GEORGIA STATEWIDE AFTERSCHOOL NETWORK

75 Marietta Street, Suite 401

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

(404) 521-0355 | [info@afterschoolga.org](mailto:info@afterschoolga.org)

[www.afterschoolga.org](http://www.afterschoolga.org)



[@AfterschoolGA](https://twitter.com/AfterschoolGA)



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Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) is a competitive grant program administered by the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) and operated in partnership with the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). BOOST offers \$85 million via three-year grants, renewed annually, with funding made available through the American Rescue Plan. The grants program is aimed at promoting evidence-based practices and whole child supports in afterschool and summer learning programs. BOOST is designed to expand access, reduce barriers to enrollment, and increase programmatic quality to improve outcomes for students and families throughout the state. GSAN provides recommendations for grant awards based on rigorous application criteria and offers technical assistance and training to grantees to ensure successful implementation. All grants are approved by GaDOE, ensuring alignment with statewide priorities and goals.