

# CDF Freedom Schools

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## Summer Literacy Enrichment Program

! [Einstein's Playground Logo]

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## What is CDF Freedom Schools?

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CDF Freedom Schools is a **free six-week summer literacy enrichment program** operated by Einstein's Playground in partnership with the Children's Defense Fund. Our mission is to help children fall in love with reading and prevent summer learning loss.

### Program Highlights

- ✓ **100% Free** - No cost to families, including meals and materials
  - ✓ **6 Weeks** - Comprehensive summer program (mid-June through late July)
  - ✓ **Full Days** - Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
  - ✓ **K-12 Students** - Serving students from Kindergarten through 12th grade
  - ✓ **Small Classes** - 10:1 student-to-staff ratio for individual attention
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## What's Included

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### High-Quality Literacy Enrichment

Integrated Reading Curriculum (IRC) designed by the Children's Defense Fund to build reading skills and comprehension through engaging, culturally relevant books.

### 2 Meals & Snacks Daily

Nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snacks provided every day at no cost to families.

## Weekly Field Trips

Educational excursions to museums, libraries, theaters, and community sites that bring learning to life.

## Daily Guest Readers

Community leaders, elected officials, athletes, and role models visit to read with students and share their stories of success.

## Parent & Family Involvement

Weekly “Tribe Workshops” engage families in their children’s learning and build strong community connections.

## Civic Engagement & Social Action

Programming that empowers students to become active, engaged citizens who can make a difference in their communities.

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## Proven Results

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Our CDF Freedom Schools program delivers measurable reading improvement year after year:

Year	Reading Improvement	Students Served
2025	<b>69.6%</b>	70 students
2024	<b>76.2%</b>	70 students
2023	<b>41.2%</b>	70 students
2022	<b>68.0%</b>	150 students
2021	<b>47.0%</b>	60 students

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# Program Components

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## HARMABEE Every Morning

A Swahili word meaning “pulling together,” HARMABEE is our daily gathering that builds community, celebrates achievements, and sets a positive, energetic tone for the day.

## College Student Staff

Our program is primarily staffed by college students who receive professional training from national CDF experts. They serve as positive role models and help build the pipeline of future teachers.

## Intergenerational Learning

Students learn from and alongside community members of all ages, building meaningful connections across generations and learning from diverse life experiences.

## Community Partnerships

We collaborate with Birmingham City Schools, Jefferson County Schools, local libraries, museums, and community organizations to serve students across the region.

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# 2025 Program Schedule

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**Dates:** Mid-June through Late July (6 weeks)

**Time:** Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

**Location:** Einstein’s Playground, 1421 Derby Parkway, Birmingham, AL 35214

## Daily Schedule

- 8:30 AM - Arrival & Breakfast
- 9:00 AM - HARMABEE (Morning Assembly)
- 9:30 AM - Integrated Reading Curriculum

- 11:00 AM - Enrichment Activities (Art, Music, STEM, PE)
  - 12:00 PM - Lunch
  - 1:00 PM - Small Group Reading & Projects
  - 2:00 PM - Social Action & Civic Engagement
  - 3:00 PM - Dismissal
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## How to Enroll

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**Enrollment is LIMITED** - Spaces fill quickly!

1. **Complete the enrollment form** (available in English and Spanish)
2. **Submit required documents:**
  - Proof of student's age (birth certificate or school ID)
  - Emergency contact information
  - Medical information and consent forms
3. **Attend orientation** (scheduled after enrollment confirmation)

## Important Dates

- **Enrollment Opens:** Early Spring 2025
  - **Priority Deadline:** May 1, 2025
  - **Program Orientation:** Early June 2025
  - **Program Starts:** Mid-June 2025
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## Transportation

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**Transportation is available** for eligible students! We provide bus service from designated pickup locations throughout Birmingham and Jefferson County.

Contact us to find out if transportation is available from your neighborhood.

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## Contact Us

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### **Einstein's Playground**

1421 Derby Parkway  
Birmingham, AL 35214

**Phone:** (205) 380-1613

**Email:** [info@einsteinsplayground.org](mailto:info@einsteinsplayground.org)

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

### **Office Hours**

Monday-Friday: 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM

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## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **Q: Is there really no cost?**

A: Yes! CDF Freedom Schools is 100% free, including all meals, materials, field trips, and transportation (if needed).

### **Q: What should my child bring?**

A: Just themselves! We provide all books, materials, and supplies. Students should wear comfortable clothes suitable for indoor and outdoor activities.

### **Q: Can my child attend if they don't need reading help?**

A: Absolutely! CDF Freedom Schools is for ALL students. Even strong readers benefit from our enrichment activities, field trips, and social action projects.

### **Q: What if my child misses a day?**

A: We encourage daily attendance for maximum benefit, but we understand life happens. Please call us if your child will be absent.

### **Q: Is lunch provided for students with dietary restrictions?**

A: Yes! We accommodate allergies and dietary restrictions. Please note these on the enrollment form.

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*CDF Freedom Schools is a program of the Children's Defense Fund, operated locally by Einstein's Playground, a ministry of The Worship Center Christian Church.*

**Give your child the gift of reading this summer - enroll today!**