

## 2023-24 Annual Report

In 2023, we welcomed a new Executive Director to lead our team. Dr. Nicole Lopez Purkapile came to FAST with years of experience in the nonprofit world, working with schools, community organizations, and in early childhood education. As she joined our staff, she has worked to build up our Board of Directors, to bring new and diverse voices to the table from across sectors and across the US. With a strong board and our small yet mighty team, we will be embarking on a strategic planning process in the fall of 2024.



We will always remain committed to nurturing the inherent potential of every child by uniting families, schools, and communities, through our long-standing, evidence-based FAST Program and our newly developed FAST Institute of Family Engagement. We look forward to continued collaboration with our partners across the US and internationally, and to building new partnerships along the way.



### Support

**Families & Schools Together is grateful for the generous support we receive from the community and from these funders over the last year:**

Wisconsin Department of Children & Families -  
Carnegie Corporation of NY - United Way of Dane  
County - Schlecht Family Foundation - TruStage  
Foundation - Evjue Foundation - Steve Stricker  
American Family Foundation - private donors – WELS  
Systems Foundation



### Highlights...

- This was the final year of our **FAST Institute Project with Milwaukee Public Schools**, funded by **Carnegie Corporation of NY** (more detail included in the report)
- A new partnership was initiated with the **Early Learning Coalition of Miami/Dade County** to begin FAST Institute with early childhood educators in Miami
- Collaboration with the **Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative (WEC) at UW-Madison** to help make our surveys easier to use, more efficient, and ensure cultural relevance.
- Over the last year, we have worked with partners in **Wisconsin, Illinois, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South and North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, and Vermont** through our FAST Program and FAST Institute to unite families, schools, and communities

## Program Impact

Across the US and Internationally, our FAST program partners and providers continue to deliver high-quality programs to empower families, connect children and their caregivers through meaningful interactions, and create strong communities of families that can support and uplift each other beyond the program.

**“FAST was an exceptional experience. It was a safe and comfortable environment that allowed for easy connection with each other and the other families involved.”**

*-FAST Parent Graduate*

We have seen new sites grow in our local state of Wisconsin, as well as expand in other states like Georgia, New York, Florida, Vermont, and Virginia. We continue to seek new partnerships with schools and community organizations, and to offer the best resources and support to our partners to ensure that they have what they need to provide high-quality programs to children and families.

**3,402**

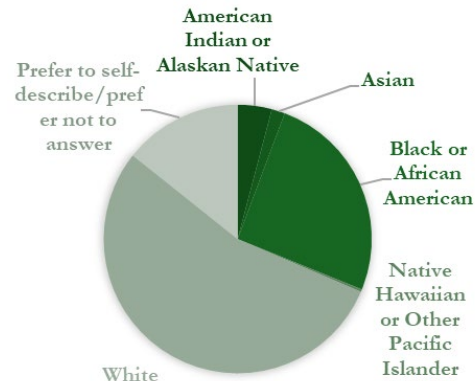
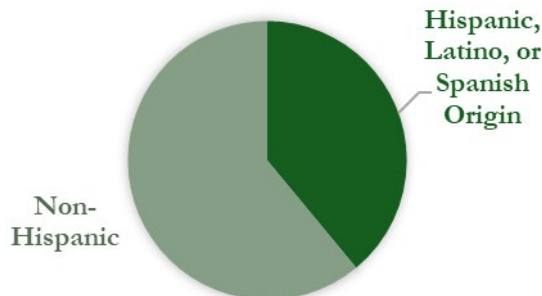
*people served at an average of 4.5 participants per family*

**9.5/10**

*average program rating by graduating parents*

**756**

*families graduated 2023 (attended at least 6 FAST sessions)*



**“Thank you for this experience. I enjoyed this so much and I’m sure it’s safe to say my family will forever be changed because of it. I look forward to staying connected with the families I encountered in this program; and watch our bonds strengthen and grow.”**

*-FAST Parent Graduate*

**81%**

**81% of parents report increased access to community resources**

**69%**

**69% of parents reported an increase in their confidence supporting their child’s social-emotional and academic needs**

**84%**

**84% of parents reported increased family satisfaction (emotional connection, positive relationships, conflict resolution)**

**The FAST Institute of Family Engagement** continues to grow across the country in new schools and districts. As we wrapped up our two-year pilot project with Milwaukee Public Schools, funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York, we received funding to expand into the early childhood space, with projects in Miami/Dade County and locally in Wisconsin, as well new partnerships in K12. We look forward to continued opportunity to work with more educators and schools through the FAST Institute.

**“[The professional development sessions have] helped me and my school to know the importance of family engagement and how to work as a team.”**

*-FAST Institute Participant*



**At the end of the year, 100% of participating educators *agreed or strongly agreed* that due to their participation in the project:**

- “My knowledge about family engagement strategies has increased”
- “I feel more connected to parent coordinators at other schools”
- “I feel more confident in my abilities to engage families at my school,” and
- “I have built my skills in working productively with staff/colleagues.”

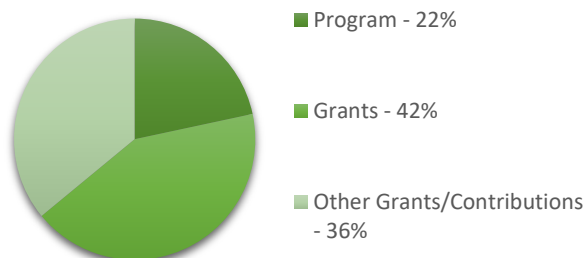
**All but one *agreed or strongly agreed* that due to their participation in the program:**

- “My school has a more family-friendly environment.”
- “I feel more connected to my school staff.”
- “My school has achieved stronger family engagement goals.”
- “My principal sees family engagement as more of a priority at my school.”
- “My principal has become more supportive of my family engagement efforts”
- “I have built my skills in recruiting, attracting, and retaining families

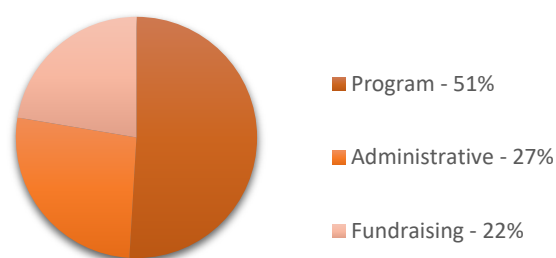
## Operating Budget

2023 was focused on reducing expenses, changes which we expect to continue into 2024 – 25, along with increases in revenue.

### 2023 Revenue - \$827,414



### 2023 Expenses - \$908,438



## Chief Admin Personnel

Dr. Nicole Lopez Purkapile  
Executive Director

Leon Dixon  
Board Chair/President