description of initiative:
The Concept Young Scholars program guides students and provides rewards for positive progress in their college-prep education. Horizon Science Academy uses the program to provide students with valuable experiences to prepare them for future success. Through STEM-focused education that is designed to empower students and increase their self-confidence, the program helps students achieve academic and social success. There are no requirements for students to join the program. Students submit an application and choose a mentor and they are ready to begin.

initiative benefits:
The Concept Young Scholars Program at Horizon Science Academy in Columbus, Ohio gives students opportunities to engage in positive and productive educational experiences outside of normal school hours. By spending time in their mentoring teams on tutoring, test preparation and other educational supports, students receive targeted academic assistance to increase their confidence. Additionally, spending more time in the school building together boosts student morale and improves student mental health. In formal evaluations, Horizon Science Academy has seen that students in the program have better attendance rates and perform better on state tests and on their report cards. Teachers and staff benefit from the program because they are given more opportunities outside the traditional school day to connect with students and build a rapport. Having this connection with students and their parents helps with classroom management and improves student behavior.

essential staff and partners:
Essential staff to the Concept Young Scholars Program are the mentors (staff members) who take part in the program. Without teachers volunteering their time, this program would not be successful.

action steps to get started:
The school coordinator for the program informs staff about the program, it’s benefits and how to get involved. Then, during the first three weeks of the school year, the school organizes an information session for interested students and parents, facilitates connections to mentors and processes applications. Student Wellness and Success funding was used to purchase supplies needed to implement the program.

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NOTE: Student Wellness and Success Funds were used for this initiative.