

Soccer at Success Academy

Program Overview

In 2013, Success Academy created a world-class soccer program that would expand access to the sport for low-income children and upend the pay-to-play model of American youth soccer. The program now gives our scholars the kind of high-level training and competition that more affluent children receive in expensive soccer clubs, and we integrated a best-in-class soccer development program into the foundation of our school design. Our training program draws on global practices that produce the world's best soccer players and serves roughly 4,500 Success Academy scholars.

SA's soccer program is broken into four tiers: in-school (introductory), school-based teams (intermediate), SA club teams (advanced), and Selective Soccer (middle school advanced).

- **In-school (K-2):** The in-school program is our scholars' first exposure to soccer with an emphasis on ball mastery and development of basic motor skills. The program meets once a week during the school day for all K-2 scholars.
- **School Teams (Grades 1-4):** Starting in first grade, players who show exceptional excitement, skill, athletic ability, and coachability are selected for school teams. Coaches introduce more sophisticated technical training: running with the ball, dribbling, passing and receiving, and shooting. In this program, scholars have weekly small games on weekends where all school teams get the chance to mix up and play together. The school teams meet after school 2-3 times a week.
- **Club (Grades 2-5):** Starting in second grade, the most committed, skilled, and prepared scholars can try out for club teams where our top players are introduced to outside competition through games and tournaments against top youth clubs and academies. Each of these clubs practices 3-4 times per week, including on weekends.
- **Selective Soccer (Grades 5-6):** Similar to top European soccer academies, several Success Academy middle schools offer players individual soccer evaluations and personalized training. Invitations to participate are based on commitment, skill, individual effort, growth and other characteristics demonstrated in the SA Elementary Soccer Program.