

THE SANNEH  
FOUNDATION

dreamline



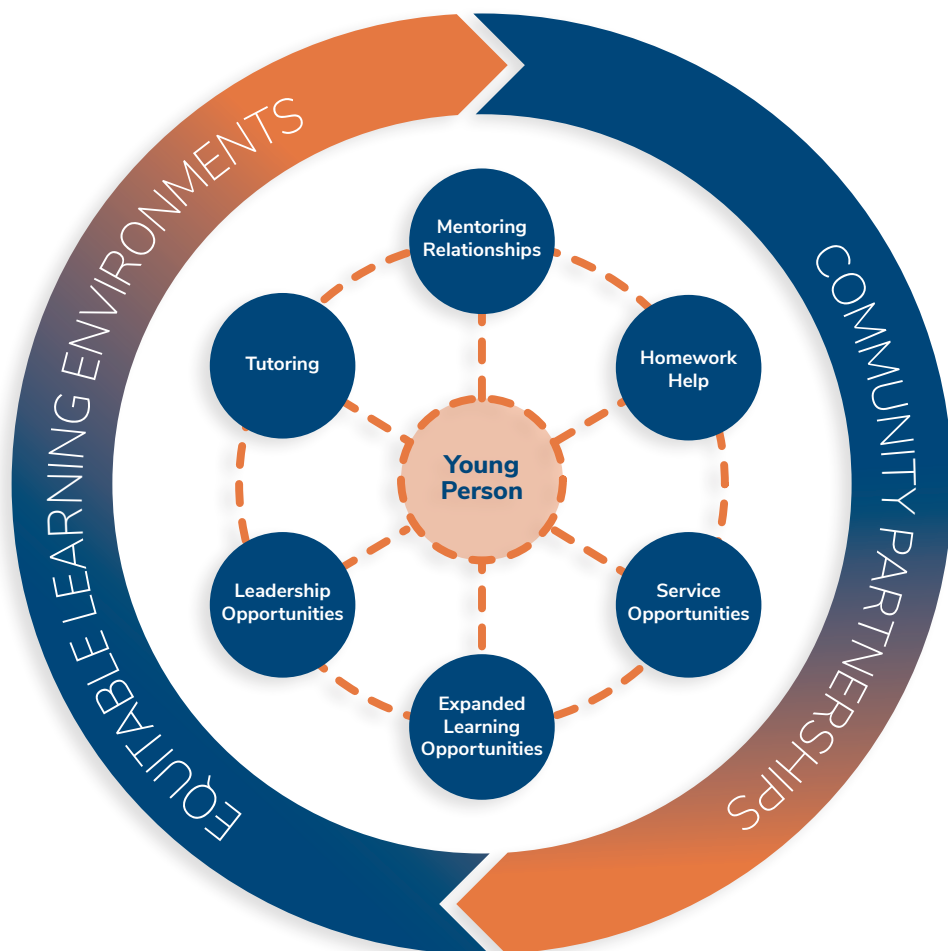
Helping Students  
Define a Path to  
Their Dreams™

# Dreamline's Vision for Student Success

The Sanneh Foundation imagines a world where every young person feels empowered to choose their destiny and can access the resources needed to take their best actions and make the right choices to propel them toward a success-filled life as a citizen of their community.

## Dreamline's Purpose

Dreamline builds trusting relationships that lead to student-defined success. Dreamline partners with schools to strengthen a student's learning environment and support three core dimensions of a student's development: social, emotional, and cognitive. This helps young people define their own path to success by helping them to (1) engage with their peers, school, and community; (2) improve their physical and emotional well-being; (3) discover academic success and graduate from high school; and (4) prepare for life after high school.





# Student-Defined Success

**“Thank you for taking a chance on me. You don’t understand how much this year has changed me!”**

— Former Student of the Dreamline Program

Research Indicates Social Emotional and Academic Learning (SEAD) Matters:

- Academic behaviors (e.g., attendance) are closely tied to students’ social, emotional, and behavioral functioning.<sup>1</sup>
- Students learn more and classrooms are more effective when adolescents have the skills to manage emotions, focus their attention, successfully navigate relationships with peers and adults, persist in the face of difficulty, learn from and apply academic content, and problem solve.<sup>2</sup>
- The wider community (families, community organizations, etc.) must be engaged to enhance the strength, depth, and pace of acquisition of these competencies.<sup>3</sup>

## Dreamline’s Approach

Relationships at the Core of Student Learning — The Sanneh Foundation partners with the Search Institute to utilize Getting Relationships Right (GRR) resources and tools. With these tools, **Dreamline Coaches create and strengthen connections with students that help young people be and become their best selves.** Dreamline Coaches prioritize relationship-building as a start of the development of a deep partnership with students where academic learning remains central to student success.

Evidence-based, explicit social emotional learning (SEL) instruction — **Dreamline Coaches model and teach culturally competent, strengths-based approaches that allows youth to expand upon and receive support for critical life challenges.** This SEAD-focused approach aligns with the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning core competencies and the Minnesota Department of Education Social and Emotional Learning goals.

## Equitable Learning Environments

The desire for equitable communities and equitable learning environments drives the Sanneh Foundation’s Dreamline work.

Dreamline Coaches work diligently to put any and all systems in place to ensure that every Dreamline student has the support they need to be successful. This includes providing services such as transportation when needed and connecting young people with existing social services.



# Dreamline's Strategies

- **Mentoring** — Student academic achievement and success is central to the student-Dreamline Coach mentoring partnership. Coaches use both formal and informal mentoring to assist young people in developing crucial life skills including interpersonal communication, learning how to set goals and create action plans to achieve them, and how to navigate social and school systems. Dreamline Coaches additionally serve as a direct link to the students in times of challenges; affording students the opportunity to utilize their Dreamline Coach and mentoring network to troubleshoot in a positive, strengths-based manner.
- **Expanded Learning Opportunities** — Expanded learning opportunities are intentional, focused, highly-targeted, and culturally-appropriate experiences that increases the amount of time students engage in learning. During non-school hours, opportunities such as soccer and other sports, mindfulness practices (yoga, meditation, deep breathing), and other areas of student-defined interest (photography, fashion, music, etc.) allow the student to maximize time with his or her Dreamline Coach, to engage in intentional and focused educational and recreational enrichment. Thus, allowing the student to spend more time building a deep, meaningful relationship with an adult outside of his or her immediate family, and to facilitate a sense of belonging among peers.

## Homework Help and Tutoring

- Homework Help is a Dreamline program that creates opportunities for individual or group practice where Dreamline Coaches and young people work together on class assignments and projects. Homework Help is not only a catalyst in opportunities for self-enrichment and personal development, but also guides students to manifest positive study habits and life skills. Additionally, Homework Help encourages responsibility for personal work, achievements, and setbacks; fosters independent learning environments; and teaches time management at an age when youth are developing personal routines.
- Tutoring sessions with a Dreamline Coach provide young people a deeper understanding of content in core subject areas. This Dreamline program gives students opportunities to improve their academic performance in an individualized learning environment. This focused educational initiative results in students exhibiting positive attitudes toward learning and increased self-worth and confidence in- and out-of-school.

## Building Adult Capacities

A key Dreamline goal is the facilitation of adult capacities to learn, model, and then teach SEAD skills to young people. This cultivates an SEAD mindset in the adults who support our youth. Dreamline accomplishes this goal through the implementation of monthly SEAD professional development opportunities for Dreamline Coaches and by offering SEAD skill development and learning opportunities to future educators through the Teacher Pathway Program. Dreamline additionally offers SEAD skill development to parents, families, and school staff, and hosts community-focused mindfulness and SEAD development events.

# Partners in Support of Student Learning

Dreamline creates an equitable school climate through alignment with the Minnesota Department of Education Social and Emotional Learning goals. This program promotes enhanced emotional and physical wellbeing and fosters healthy relationships among youth, their educators and mentors, parents, and peers. Dreamline creates an environment where students can discover and manifest their own academic and personal successes, then translate those successes into their life after high school. Minnesota Public Schools working in conjunction with the Dreamline program catalyzes positive youth outcomes by helping students define a path to their dreams.

*“ Dreamline decreased suspension rates from 1,400 to 600 in the first year of being in our school. The success of this is due to the fact that we integrated the Dreamline program into our school. The Dreamline team became a part of our team.”*

— Robert E. Murry, Assistant Principal (2015-2019),  
McKinley Area Learning Center, St. Cloud, MN







**CITATIONS:**

<sup>1</sup> Jones, Brown, and Aber, “Two-Year Impacts”; and James J. Heckman and Tim Kautz, “Fostering and Measuring Skills: Interventions That Improve Character and Cognition,” NBER Working Paper Series, no. 19656 (Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research, 2013).

<sup>2</sup> David Osher et al., “Advancing the Science and Practice of Social and Emotional Learning,” *Review of Research in Education* 40 (2016): 644–681; and Stephanie M. Jones and Emily J. Doolittle, “Social and Emotional Learning: Introducing the Issue,” *The Future of Children* 27, no. 1 (2017): 3–11

<sup>3</sup> S. Andrew Garbacz, Michelle S. Swanger-Gagné, and Susan M. Sheridan, “The Role of School-Family Partnership Programs for Promoting Student SEL,” in Durlak et al., *Handbook of Social and Emotional Learning*, 244–259



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The Sanneh Foundation serves the holistic youth development needs of the increasingly diverse Twin Cities metro area. Our mission is to empower youth by supporting and promoting educational attainment through in-school and after-school support, improve lives by providing programs that strengthen physical health and social and emotional development, and unite communities by advancing diversity, equity, and community well-being.  
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