



## ***A GIFT FOR CORNERSTONE IS GOOD FOR YOUR BUSINESS***

Alabama has long had a public-school system that ranks academically at the bottom nationally. Birmingham public schools account for 21% of the total Alabama failing schools, the most in the state. All but two of the Birmingham City high schools are in the bottom 6% of all Alabama high schools. Over 85% of Cornerstone students are zoned to attend failing schools before high school graduation.

Birmingham area businesses find it very difficult to find graduates of Birmingham area high schools for most jobs. Many cannot pass elementary medical screens, and math and reading aptitudes are a problem. Moreover, businesses looking for new locations consider the local education system both for the benefit of existing employees who may transfer and those new employees they might hire. The Birmingham business climate suffers greatly because of the very low level of public education here.

The Birmingham City public school census is 99% minority. It is critical for a host of reasons for Birmingham to provide educational opportunities for minority youth that will lead to good jobs.

Cornerstone School, founded in 1993, was created and exists today to combat this deficiency in Birmingham public education. From inception, Cornerstone's mission was to provide a strong academic program and also to develop students spiritually and with character to thrive in all areas of life. Each student attends a class on religion daily. The students attend chapel services weekly. The school's culture is built to foster the development of strong character.

For the 2020-21 school year, Cornerstone has enrolled almost 700 students, K4 - 12th grade, 99% of whom will be minority. Over 83% of these students live in poverty as measured by federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program standards. All will be on scholarship. The average tuition will cover less than 10% of the cost of providing the Cornerstone education, which is \$8,639 per student this year, substantially beneath the cost per student in the Birmingham schools.

Cornerstone has grown from about 180 to 700 students in the last ten years and expanded from one to three campuses operated in the Woodlawn and Roebuck areas. Substantially all of this growth and the development of the facilities to support the 700 students have been made possible by donations. In the 2020-2021 school year, Cornerstone will need about \$3.2 million in tax credit donations alone to meet its budget.

Please understand that under the Alabama Accountability Act gifts to a Scholarship Granting Organization for scholarships at Cornerstone may qualify for an Alabama income tax credit.

Please visit the Cornerstone website, [www.csalabama.org](http://www.csalabama.org), for more information about the school.