

A young boy with dark skin and short hair is smiling and making a peace sign with his right hand. He is wearing an orange and white striped short-sleeved button-down shirt. He is standing in a classroom. Behind him is a bulletin board with a blue background and yellow top, decorated with various paper cutouts of fish and a sign that says "Swimming". To his left is a "Nature Scavenger Hunt" poster with illustrations of insects and plants. To his right is a desk with various craft projects, including a squirrel figurine, autumn leaves, and a heart made of purple crumpled paper. The text "ACHIEVE" is overlaid in large white letters at the top right, with a row of colored dots below it. Below the dots, the word "leaves" is written in a cursive font, and "MIAMI" is written in bold yellow letters.

ACHIEVE

leaves
MIAMI

IMPACT REPORT

2023-2024

INSPIRING MINDS ENRICHING LIVES

MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

■ Leslie Miller Saiontz

The past year has tested us all in ways we never expected. But there is nothing like facing challenges head on to remind us of the power of education and our shared commitment to one another. While the world faced uncertainty, we found strength in our mission, and Achieve Miami emerged more resilient and driven than ever before.

This year has reinforced the unshakable value of bringing people together. Our students, volunteers, and community partners have shown up for one another in incredible ways.

Together, we've continued to make a difference, supporting over 2,000 students, training over 150 new teachers, and engaging 1,100+ high school volunteers—our largest group to date.

The challenges we've faced this year have only reemphasized the importance of education, not just as a tool for personal growth, but as a bridge between diverse communities. Achieve Saturdays expanded to a fifth site and engaged volunteers from over 70 high schools. Our Achieve Scholars achieved 100% high school graduation and college acceptance rates, and our Achieve Music program continues to bring students from all backgrounds together through the universal language of music.

Our daily presence in schools has taught us that the teacher shortage is a crisis that will challenge an entire generation of students. We have expanded the reach and impact of our Teacher Accelerator Program (TAP), enabling a whole new pool of teachers to enter the profession. Our program showed an impressive 400% increase in the number of teachers trained from the previous year, with over 200 teachers trained for our schools!

As we reflect on this year, it's clear that the power of education, not just as a tool for personal growth but as a bridge between diverse communities is more evident than ever. Together, we are laying the foundation for a brighter, more equitable future for all students in our community. And with your support, we're investing in a brighter, stronger, world for us all.

Thank you for being a part of this journey with us.



Leslie Miller Saiontz



OUR WORK

Achieve Miami partners with educators, students, and schools to bridge disparities, provide meaningful educational experiences, and demonstrate the power of students learning with and from each other.



OUR VALUES

Community

Connections

Equitable Access

Learning

Opportunity

Sharing

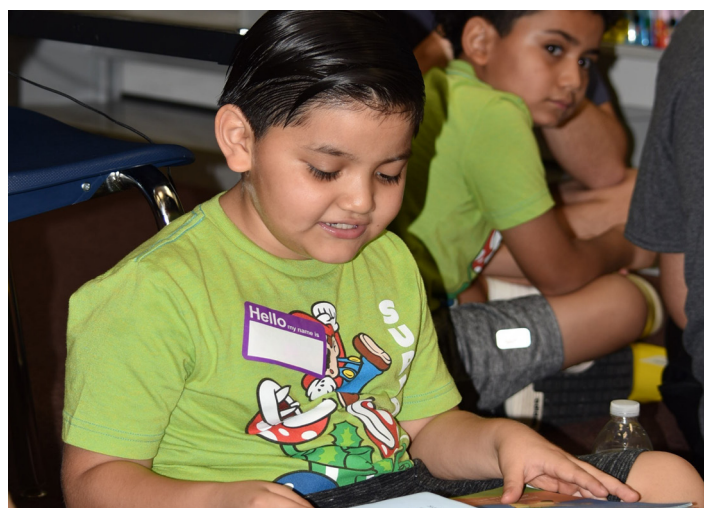
ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS



Achieve Saturdays combines literacy, mentorship, and cross-community connections to create lasting impact in South Florida. Twice a month, diverse high school volunteers from across Miami-Dade mentor elementary students through reading, writing, and meaningful connections. Elementary students show improved academic achievement, social-emotional skills, and well-being, thanks to one-on-one support from their “Big Buddies.” Meanwhile, high school volunteers gain leadership experience, strengthen communication skills, and connect with peers from different neighborhoods—all while making a positive difference in their communities.



Achieve Music empowers elementary and middle school students in under-resourced schools through daily after-school programming in band, voice, percussion, and music theory. Students develop their musical skills by playing instruments, reading music, and collaborating in ensembles, while also growing in areas like focus, creativity, and confidence. Music becomes a tool for unlocking personal development, helping students improve self-discipline, critical thinking, and active listening skills. Achieve Music not only nurtures musical talent, but increases confidence and joy in our students.



HIGH SCHOOL & POSTSECONDARY PROGRAMS



ACHIEVE SCHOLARS & ACHIEVE ALUMNI

Achieve Scholars is a college and career readiness program designed to guide Title I high school students toward post-graduation success. Through year-round workshops and mentoring, Scholars navigate college applications, scholarships, FAFSA completion, essay writing, and more while receiving individualized academic counseling and tutoring. The program also emphasizes workforce readiness with training in financial literacy, digital literacy, and essential career skills like critical thinking and effective communication. After high school, Scholars join the Achieve Alumni program for continued support, ensuring a smooth transition into college or other post-secondary opportunities.



ACHIEVE CLUB & JUNIOR ADVISORY BOARD

The Achieve Club connects students from over 60 high schools across Miami, inspiring them to make a difference in their community. Members mentor elementary students as “Big Buddies,” organize impactful service projects, and engage in hands-on learning. Through these experiences, students gain leadership skills, broaden their understanding of Miami’s challenges, and connect with peers from diverse backgrounds. The Junior Advisory Board (JAB) offers standout high school students a leadership opportunity to collaborate and contribute to Achieve’s mission, ensuring student voices are integral to key decision-making processes. Through their involvement, JAB members develop critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, preparing them to become impactful leaders within and beyond the Achieve Miami network.





ACHIEVE SUMMER

Achieve Summer brings together project-based learning, mentorship, and engaging enrichment activities to inspire every student to learn and grow. Many of our highest need students don't have access to meaningful summer learning opportunities and therefore experience troubling learning loss each summer. Over six weeks, elementary, middle, and high school participants strengthen their academic and social skills. High school volunteers and paid interns build leadership capabilities, while educators participate in daily professional development. Achieve Summer reimagines education, ensuring every participant has a meaningful, joyful, and unforgettable summer experience.



QUOTES & TESTIMONIALS



“We’re truly making an impact and having a hand in changing the lives of kids for the better and helping them get the education they need to succeed.”

– Big Buddy



“My experience was transformative, filled with moments of discovery and growth. Engaging in activities that challenged my skills and collaborating with a diverse group of peers broadened my perspective.”

– Achieve Scholar



“I understand why it’s named ‘Achieve’ because here you can do just that, achieve. You can achieve, grow, and reach heights you never thought possible.”

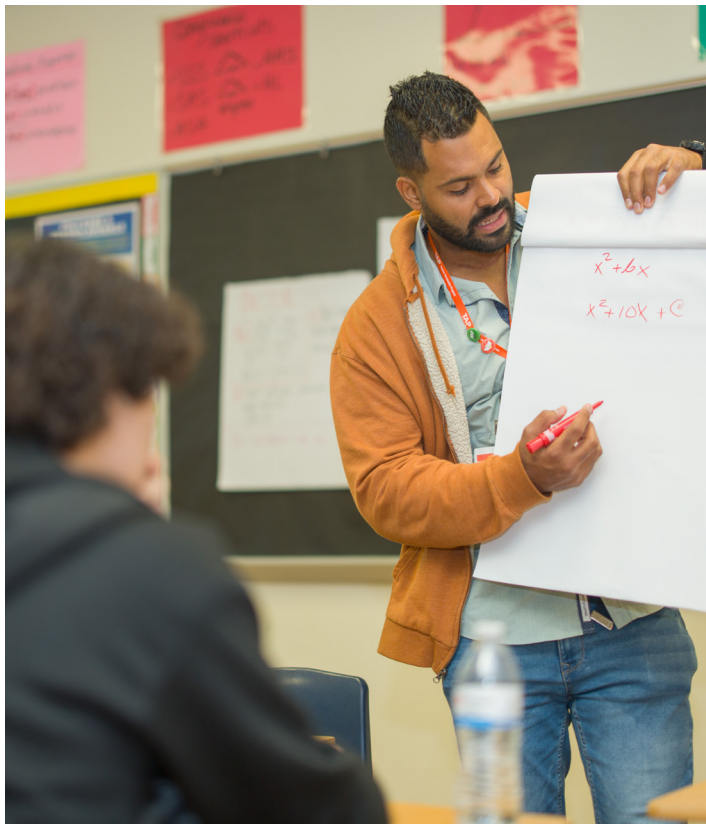
– Teacher



TEACHER ACCELERATOR PROGRAM (TAP)

COLLABORATIVELY
BUILDING A
NEW COHORT OF
TEACHERS FOR
OUR STUDENTS
AND OUR FUTURE.

Achieve Miami’s Teacher Accelerator Program (TAP) addresses the national teacher shortage by building a new pipeline of skilled educators for our schools. The program recruits, trains, and mentors aspiring teachers, preparing them to inspire and educate the next generation of students. By investing in future educators, TAP helps ensure that every student has access to passionate, well-prepared teachers who make a lasting impact.



2023–2024 IMPACT

151

Teachers trained

101

Teachers now teaching in Miami classrooms

220+

Hours of Professional Development

400%

Increase in the number of teachers placed from year 1 to year 2

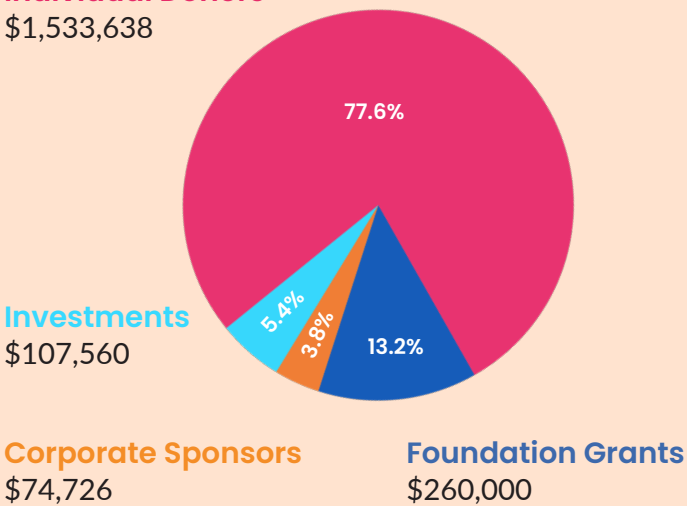
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FY REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUE: \$1,975,924

Individual Donors

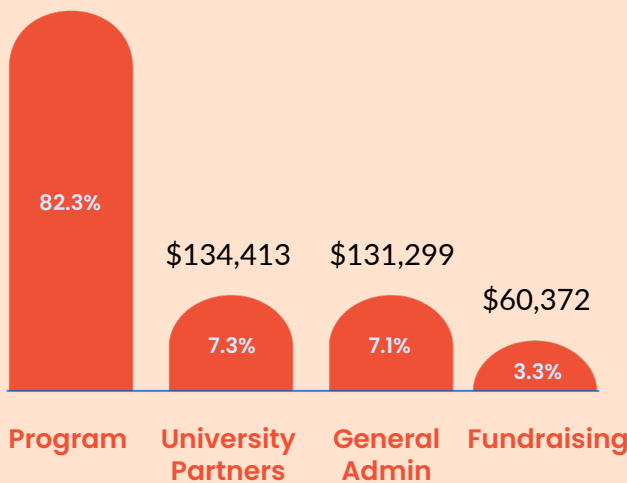
\$1,533,638



FY EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,849,993

\$1,523,909



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

MEET JAKEEM

From the moment Jakeem picked up a pair of drumsticks at just three years old, his love for percussion was undeniable. Jakeem’s passion and talent spoke louder than any age requirement, proving that music has no limits. Yet, while natural talent set the stage for his journey, it was the Achieve Music Program that helped shape Jakeem into the musician and leader he is today. Through Achieve Music, Jakeem gained more than musical skills—he learned discipline, teamwork, and perseverance. Hours of practice taught him the value of hard work, while playing in groups showed him that every drummer is part of a greater team. These lessons have also shaped Jakeem as a student, helping him build strong study habits and a love for learning. Now, at 11 years old, Jakeem plays with a confidence that inspires those around him. Whether he’s performing in a marching band, attending summer camp, or simply practicing at home, he understands that every beat he plays is part of his journey.



“PLAYING DRUMS IS LIKE LIFE. SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE YOU’RE JUST MAKING NOISE, BUT IF YOU KEEP GOING, YOU’LL FIND YOUR RHYTHM.”

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

MEET DORNICIA

Dornicia’s journey with Achieve Miami’s Teacher Accelerator Program (TAP) has been nothing short of transformative. Walking into her classroom for the first time, she felt both excitement and apprehension, but TAP equipped her with the tools, support, and confidence to thrive as an aspiring educator. Through training, summer internships, and the guidance of her TAP Coaches, Dornicia built a solid foundation in teaching and gained invaluable insights. The strong sense of community within TAP helped her navigate challenges, celebrate victories, and grow alongside her peers. This supportive network led to her current role as a 3rd grade reading teacher at Laura C. Saunders Elementary School and earned her a nomination as Rookie Teacher of the Year, a testament to her dedication and the strength of the TAP community. Every day she is reminded of her purpose: to make a meaningful difference in her students’ lives and to carry forward the lessons learned through TAP.

“THE INSPIRATION I HAVE RECEIVED FROM MY TAP PEERS AND STAFF MEMBERS HAS INSPIRED ME TO CARRY ON TO BECOME A TEACHER.”



HISTORY IN THE MAKING

PROGRAM EXPANSION

Achieve Music and Achieve Scholars programs debut, expanding our mission to new horizons. Achieve Saturdays grows to serve students at three additional schools.



NEW PARTNERSHIPS

We launch Miami Connected in partnership with the Miami Foundation to address the pandemic-exacerbated digital divide. Achieve Miami joins the Miami Gardens Music Alliance to enhance musical opportunities for local youth.



EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT

- Achieve Saturdays at 5 schools.
- Achieve Summer at 4 schools.
- Achieve Scholars at 10 schools.
- Achieve Music at 6 schools.
- Teacher Accelerator Program at 3 universities and colleges.
- Top fundraiser on Give Miami Day!



OFFICIAL LAUNCH

Achieve Miami officially launches with Achieve Saturdays and Achieve Summer programs at Holmes Elementary School, creating a foundation of literacy, mentorship, and growth.



YEAR OF RESILIENCE

The Helios Education Foundation invests \$1 million in Achieve Miami, allowing the Scholars program to expand to eight schools. In response to COVID-19, we shift to virtual programming and food distributions, ensuring continuous support for our students and families.




INNOVATION

Innovation in education takes center stage with the launch of the Teacher Accelerator Program (TAP) at the University of Miami, addressing the teacher shortage and fostering future educators.

POPULATION SERVED

2,088

TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Black	35.72%
Hispanic	26.65%
White	21.93%
Asian	1.12%
Black/Hispanic	1.03%
Two or more	0.33%
Prefer not to say	13.22%

AREAS SERVED

Carol City	Miami Gardens
Homestead	Opalocka
Liberty City	Overtown
Little Haiti	South Dade

ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our elementary school students from underserved neighborhoods (Little Buddies) participate in the Summer, Saturdays, and Music programs.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS



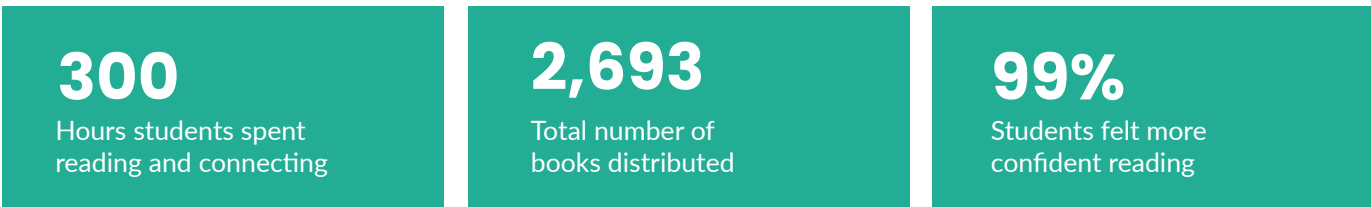
ACHIEVE MUSIC



ACHIEVE SUMMER

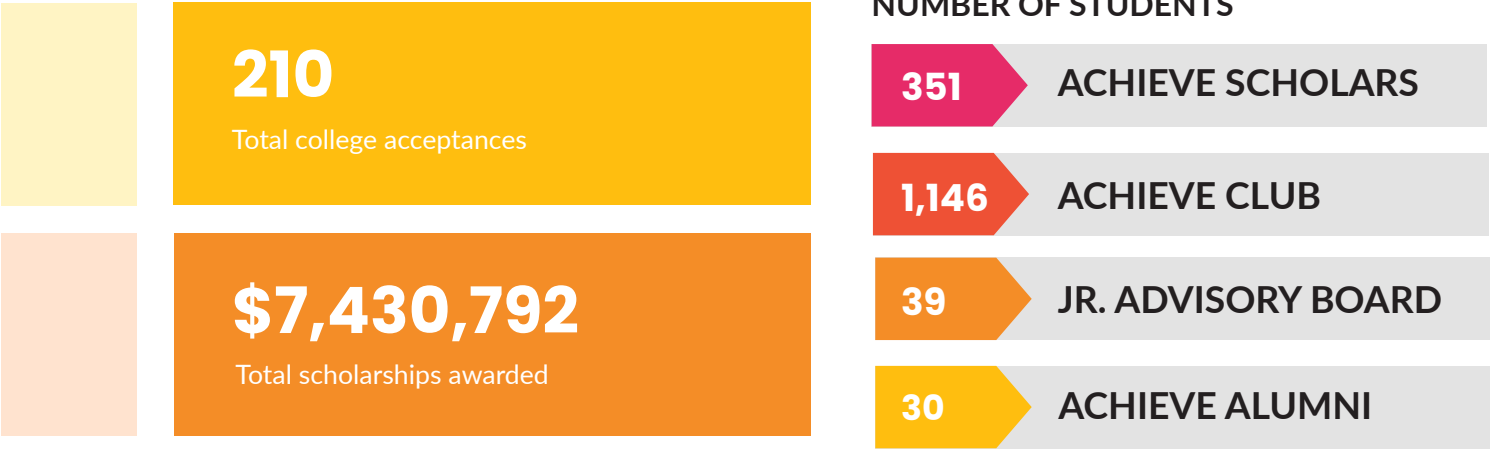


ACHIEVE SATURDAYS



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

High school students from across Miami-Dade participate in Achieve Scholars, serve as Big Buddies in the Achieve Club, lead on the Junior Advisory Board, and continue their development as Achieve Alumni.



10
ACHIEVE SCHOLAR SCHOOL SITES

LEADERSHIP

Achieve creates lasting impact in our community by empowering and building the capacity of our staff and volunteers.

NUMBER OF LEADERS

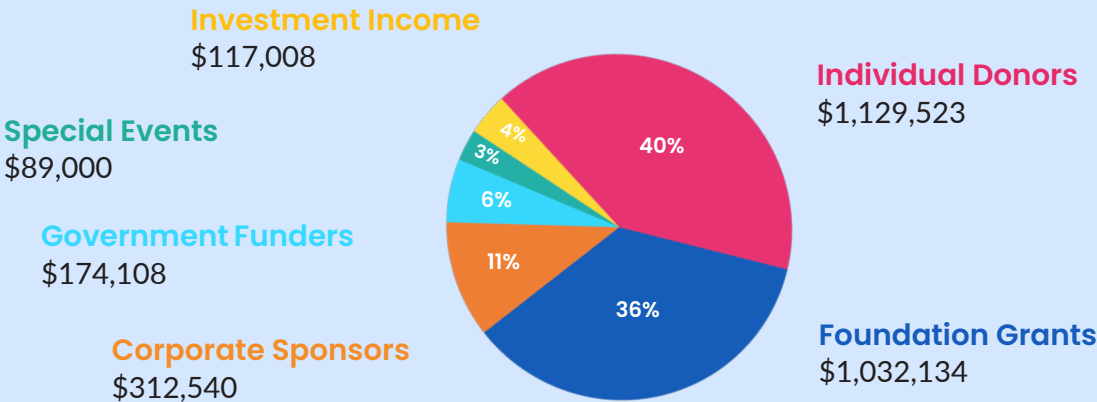


HISTORY IN THE MAKING

The success of Achieve Miami’s programs hinges on the dedicated leadership and support of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and the ongoing commitment of our donors. This year, we achieved record revenue, strengthening our ability to provide impactful educational opportunities for students in Miami-Dade County.

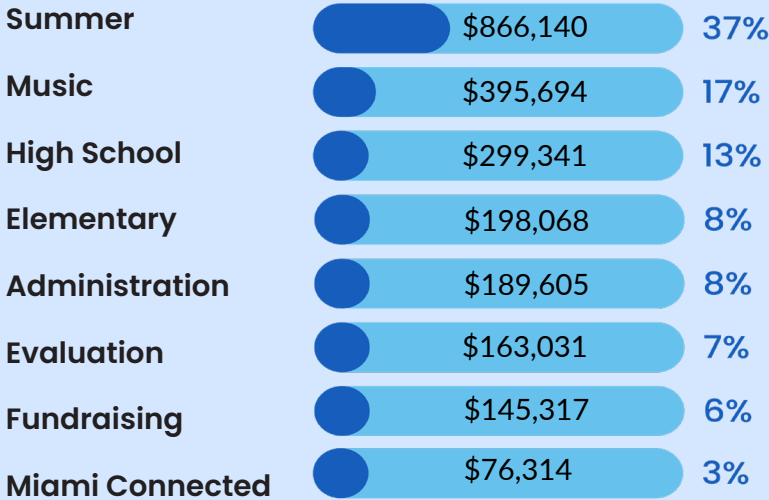
FY REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUE: \$2,845,314



FY EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$2,333,780



FUTURE IMPACT

Since its founding in 2015, Achieve Miami has continuously improved its programs and processes based on data-driven evaluation of what works best for our students. We will broaden our impact by increasing our programmatic presence in the communities we already serve and create additional opportunities for future students.

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WE WILL:

Expand our existing programs in intensity and scope, creating greater learning opportunities for more students.

Launch our new Career Pathways Program providing workforce development resources to high school students in the areas we serve.

Expand the Teacher Accelerator Program (TAP) to new locations across Florida, increasing the number of teachers served and reaching new communities.

Leverage the expertise and unique experiences of our community partners to bring a wider range of resources to set our kids up for success.

Continue creating innovative solutions to our community’s most pressing educational challenges to ensure our students have the resources, skills, mentorship, and guidance they need to achieve their visions of success.

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OUR TEAM

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Claudia Bojorquez, Deputy Director of Programs
Laura Calero, Philanthropy Manager
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Maria Gabriela Castro, Administrative Director
Devang Dave, Evaluation and Data Quality Manager
Erica Del Riego, Program Manager (TAP)
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Jackie Soffer
Margaret Starner
Fred & Maria Wright

THANK YOU!

TOGETHER WE DREAMED, PLANNED, AND ACHIEVED.

Thank you for helping us enrich, empower, and encourage the students who need our help the most.



*As of August 1, 2024

*Diamond Level Sponsors as of August 1, 2024



**BE THE
REASON
THEY
ACHIEVE**

GET INVOLVED

achievemiami.org

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