



**Report to the Community 2014**





## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN

Since 2007, the DC Public Education Fund has helped create a bright future for students in Washington, DC by partnering with DC Public Schools to select and fund groundbreaking initiatives that accelerate student achievement. In our early years, the DC Ed Fund made deep investments in the teachers and school leaders who directly serve DCPS students, and the district set the bar high for teacher performance and student outcomes. This investment laid a strong foundation for the success DCPS is seeing today and put the DC Ed Fund on the map as the vehicle through which local and national partners can invest in the future of DCPS.

The Ed Fund has built on this strong start. In just a few short years, we have invested over \$80 million in DCPS' most important strategic priorities and developed a reputation of seeding the most innovative and successful initiatives that have spurred student achievement gains. The DC Ed Fund selects these cutting-edge projects by working closely with DCPS leadership to determine the district-wide projects that will most benefit from philanthropic support. Once the initiatives are identified, the DC Ed Fund partners with foundations, corporations, and community members to secure the necessary funds, manage related programs, ensure accountability and transparency, and monitor progress.

Locally and nationally, the DC Ed Fund is regarded as a leader in connecting the philanthropic community with the priorities that have the best likelihood of success. And this model is paying off. On every measure of student achievement, DCPS is showing promising progress. On the 2013 National Assessment of Educational Progress, DCPS was recognized as the fastest-improving urban school district in the country. DCPS' graduation rate is steadily improving, and more students are prepared for their future as an increased number, in all subgroups, are taking and passing AP exams. More students are satisfied with their schools than ever before and enrollment in DCPS increased for the third year in a row.

While DCPS' progress is notable, the district still has a long way to go to ensure that all students are achieving at the highest levels. The following report outlines the innovative initiatives that the DC Ed Fund is spearheading to advance student achievement in DCPS, and shares some exciting plans for the future. It is with a sense of possibility that we invite you to learn more about our work at the DC Ed Fund and how we partner with DCPS to create the brightest future for students in Washington, DC.



**Jessica Rauch**  
President and Executive Director



**Mark Ein**  
Chair

# ABOUT DC PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND

The DC Public Education Fund partners with DC Public Schools to transform education in Washington, DC and accelerate achievement for all students.

Since our founding in 2007, we have raised over \$80 million in private investments to help transform DCPS from a historically under-performing school district to one that is nationally recognized for its student achievement growth. Working alongside the philanthropic community and the school system's leadership, we support innovative approaches that advance DCPS' trajectory as the fastest-improving school district in the nation.\*

As the only accountable private funding source for DCPS, DC Ed Fund identifies key initiatives for private support, implements programs with fidelity, and monitors and communicates results to funders.

DCPS is moving in the right direction. We are committed to DCPS' ongoing progress and will continue to support its efforts to become the best urban school district in the country.



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President and Executive Director  
DC Public Education Fund



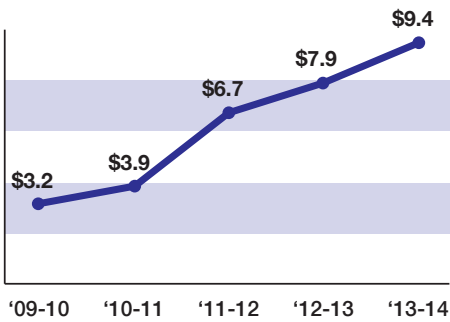
# A NEW ERA

In 2007, the failing DC Public Schools was placed under mayoral control and Michelle Rhee was appointed Chancellor. Shortly thereafter, the DC Public Education Fund was created to help the district address its most pressing challenges and bring innovative solutions to classrooms across the city.

Our initial investments focused intensely on human capital, including DCPS' IMPACT evaluation system. IMPACT ensures that all teachers, principals, and other school staff clearly understand what is expected of them, receive practical feedback on their performance, and have access to targeted support to improve their effectiveness.

IMPACT, now in its sixth year, has contributed significantly to DCPS' dramatic improvement.

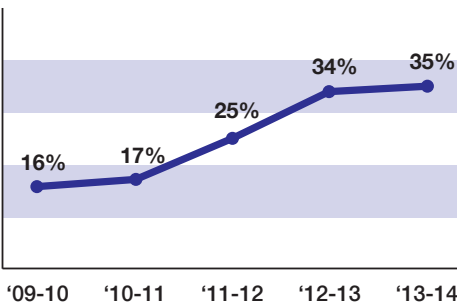
## IMPACTplus Bonuses Awarded to WTU Members



The groundbreaking 2010 Washington Teachers' Union contract, in combination with IMPACT, enabled DCPS to establish a performance-driven culture in which all educators receive the feedback they need to improve, top educators receive recognition and compensation for outstanding performance, lowest-performing educators exit the system, and principals are empowered to make staffing decisions. The success of IMPACT enabled DCPS to make the case that the evaluation system and performance-based bonus structure should be included in the local public budget and, as such, cemented the district's focus on teacher effectiveness as linked to student outcomes.

This legacy is the foundation on which the DC Ed Fund continues to partner with DCPS leadership to seed innovation and improve educational outcomes for students in Washington, DC.

## % WTU Members Rated Highly Effective



## Original IMPACT and IMPACTplus Donors

Critical to the success of IMPACT and IMPACTplus were funders who believed that DCPS could make dramatic improvements through a performance-based culture that values its human capital.

**Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

**Fight for Children**

**The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation**

**Laura and John Arnold Foundation**

**Robertson Foundation**

**The Walton Family Foundation**

# A STRONG FOUNDATION

Building on the foundation of the IMPACT evaluation system, DC Ed Fund partnered with DCPS to help create a performance-based compensation system that awards all eligible educators with an annual bonus through IMPACT*plus*.

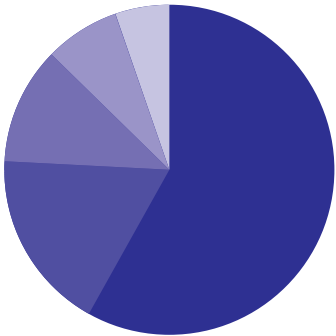
DCPS' student achievement results have improved as a direct result of the foundation established through these initial investments. Further, third party research has demonstrated that teacher performance has improved under IMPACT, and school districts around the country are now modeling their teacher performance evaluation systems after IMPACT.

In the fall of 2012, DCPS leveraged private investments in the Washington Teachers' Union Contract to secure a five-year, \$62 million federal Teacher Incentive Fund grant — the largest awarded that fall — to expand its efforts to develop, reward, and retain great teachers and school leaders.

As one of the first districts to create a rigorous Common Core-aligned curriculum for all schools, and with a top-tier teaching force in place, DCPS has laid the groundwork to accelerate student achievement. To help enable DCPS to roll out the Common Core State Standards, DC Ed Fund has invested over \$9 million in its Innovative Classrooms and Schools initiative to support district-wide literacy, STEM, and blended learning programs.

## Investments in Innovative Classrooms and Schools

<b>Literacy Initiatives</b> \$ 5.5MM	<b>58%</b>
<b>Blended Learning Initiatives</b> \$ 1.6MM	<b>17%</b>
<b>STEM Initiatives</b> \$ 1.1MM	<b>11%</b>
<b>DC Catalyst Project</b> \$ 740K	<b>8%</b>
<b>School Direct Accounts</b> \$ 500K	<b>5%</b>



Total Innovative Classrooms and Schools  
\$ 9.4MM





## STANDING OVATION FOR DC TEACHERS

Through *IMPACTplus*, DCPS is able to reward top teachers and, since 2010, we have brought together the community to applaud them for their efforts. Held at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the annual Standing Ovation for DC Teachers is the premier education celebration in Washington, DC. This year marked the fifth annual Standing Ovation where nearly 1,400 Highly Effective Educators, our highest number to date, were celebrated for their outstanding work.

To honor our best and brightest teachers, Standing Ovation draws star-studded talent, top celebrity presenters, and prominent community members for an exceptional awards show. This year, Josh Groban performed “Raise Me Up” and presented one of the evening’s awards, joining Gina Adams, Mayor Muriel Bowser, Senator Al Franken, David Rubenstein, Bob Schieffer, and Jim Vance.

Produced by George Stevens, Jr., this event is made possible by the generous contributions of the business, arts, and philanthropic communities.



# A MODEL FOR INNOVATION

DC Ed Fund's partnership continues to support DC Public Schools' tremendous progress. Locally and nationally, education leaders point to DCPS as a model for improvement and innovation. On the 2013 National Assessment of Educational Progress, DCPS was recognized as the fastest-improving urban school district in the country.

Investments in blended learning have accelerated student achievement growth, generated excitement among educators across the system, and earned DCPS national recognition as a leader in the use of technology to transform teaching and learning.

DC Ed Fund also continues to invest in literacy. Investments in student interventions and teacher professional development means DCPS is able to provide targeted support for every student across the district.

With the support of the philanthropic community, DCPS also continues to focus on leadership. The Mary Jane Patterson Fellowship,

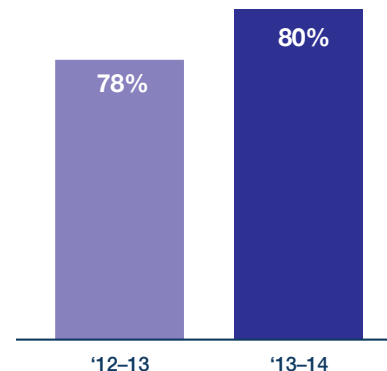
a DCPS-inspired leadership program that prepares DCPS employees for the school principalship position, placed its first graduates in principal roles in School Year 2014-15, and selected a third cohort of educators to begin the program in January 2015. Additionally, DCPS was the recipient of a four-year, \$700,000 Principal Supervisor Initiative grant competition award to enhance the performance of DCPS' Instructional Superintendents.

DC Ed Fund is also ensuring students love their schools. Initiatives like the Family Engagement Partnership and ArtsNowDC Fund help enable schools to connect with the community and offer new and engaging programs.

Since 2012, DCPS has experienced increases in all of its key measures of success including student satisfaction rates, enrollment, proficiency levels in reading and math, and high school graduation rates. The innovative initiatives DC Ed Fund supports have played a critical role in DCPS' achievements.

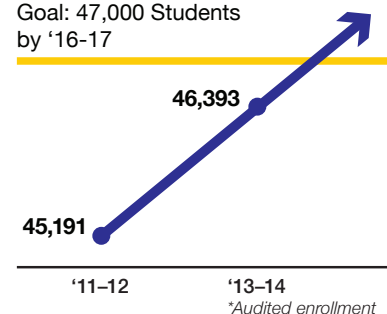
## Improved Satisfaction Across the District

By 2016-17, 90% of students will say they like their school.



## Increased Enrollment Across the District

Goal: 47,000 Students by '16-17





# WHY DCPS? WHY NOW?



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Since 2007, DC Ed Fund has been proud to invest in DCPS and prove what's possible when an urban school district creates a strong foundation for innovation. Now, DC Ed Fund will invest in DCPS initiatives to ensure equity for every student through high-quality academic experiences that meet each student's individual needs.

## **We are reinventing classrooms.**

DCPS is expanding access to personalized instruction that engages students in new and exciting ways. Opportunities such as blended learning will extend learning beyond traditional classroom settings. By scaling up DCPS' successful pilot program, teachers will be able to combine face-to-face and technology-enabled instruction to motivate students and provide rigorous, high-quality content across the city.

## **We are reimagining high schools.**

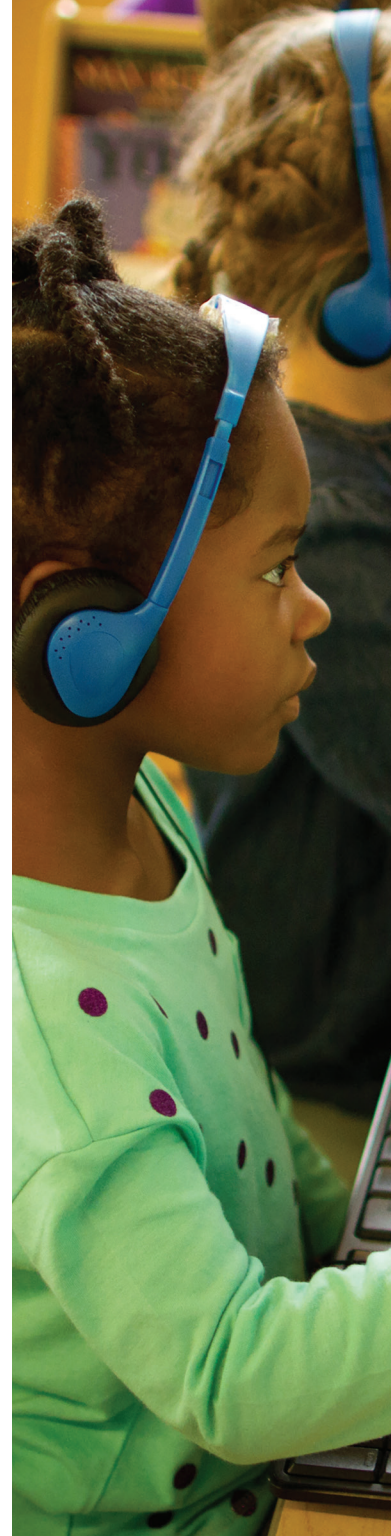
From competitive internships and career academies to new ways for students to earn course credit, DCPS is convening the smartest

minds to rethink the high school experience. Transforming secondary schools will ensure DCPS graduates are the next innovators, creative thinkers, and community leaders who are prepared for top colleges and high-wage careers.

## **We will close the achievement gap.**

For far too long, boys and young men of color have not benefitted from the progress DCPS has made. The Empowering Males of Color Initiative will engage the community, improve current strategies, and provide new approaches to transform how DCPS educates black and Latino male students. The impact of this initiative will be felt everywhere—across every ward and in every school.

For DCPS to continue its transformation, we need the support of the philanthropic community. Now is the time to invest in the promise of DC Public Schools.



# FINANCIALS

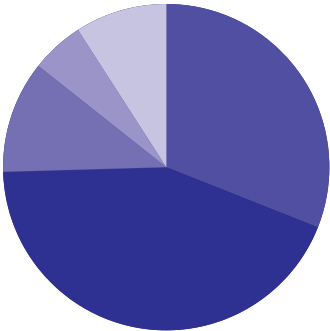
FY 10/1/2013-9/30/2014

	FY2014	FY2013	FY2012
<b>Revenues</b>			
Contributions - Corps/Foundations	4,562,918	20,233,535	16,582,626
Contributions - Individuals	515,208	384,950	52,792
Special Events	594,314	495,334	439,047
Interest and Other	30,134	277,143	63,839
<b>Expenses</b>			
Programs in Schools	4,661,362	21,711,734	15,141,763
Administrative and Development	466,408	737,485	640,321
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>			
Beginning Net Assets	6,780,743	8,039,000	6,682,780
<b>Ending Net Assets</b>	<b>\$7,355,547</b>	<b>\$6,780,743</b>	<b>\$8,039,000</b>

\*In fiscal year 2014, DC Ed Fund successfully closed out several of the initial investments in IMPACT and IMPACT*plus* and received \$5.7 million to support new priority initiatives. We are proud to report a clean audit for fiscal year 2014. You may request a copy of our audit by calling 202-549-3711.

## Breakdown of 2014 Expenditures

Innovative Classrooms and Schools	44%
Excellent Teachers and Leaders	31%
Engaged Students and Families	11%
Systems Improvement and Reform	5%
Administrative and Development	9%



## OUR STAFF

**Jessica Rauch**  
President and Executive Director

**Katie Aiello-Howard**  
Portfolio Director

**Michael Donovan**  
Operations Manager

**Caylee Harris**  
Portfolio Assistant

**Kevin Hinton**  
Senior Portfolio Director





## OUR DONORS

List reflects gifts received 10/1/2013-9/30/2014

### **\$1,000,000+**

Target

### **\$250,000-\$999,999**

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Charles and Lynn Schusterman  
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Flamboyant Foundation  
Heising-Simons Foundation  
The Wallace Foundation

### **\$100,000-\$249,000**

The Community Foundation for the  
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Fight For Children  
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### **\$25,000-\$99,000**

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Chartwells & Thompson Hospitality  
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Bernstein Foundation  
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FedEx Corporation  
Horning Family Fund  
Intel Corporation  
The Mark David Ein Foundation  
Pepco  
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Venable

### **\$10,000-\$24,000**

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FIRST Robotics  
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Accelerating Innovation in DC Public Schools

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