

DOERS, DOLLARS AND DATA



2013-14

Leveraging resources to maximize impact for students in San Francisco public schools
san francisco **education** fund

The San Francisco Education Fund is dedicated to increasing the number of San Francisco public schools students — in particular those from underserved communities — who graduate ready for college, career and civic responsibility.

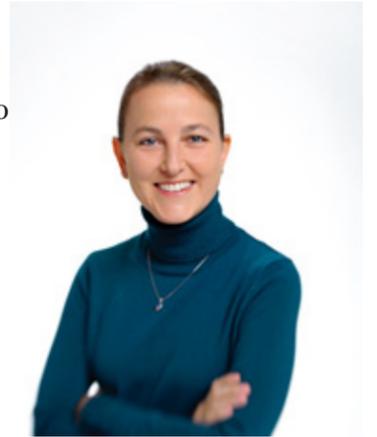


“My mentors help me with algebra. I am understanding it better, and hopefully will graduate on stage. This will make my granny happy since she takes care of me, just like my mentors. No other guys have cared about me so much and even if I am not the best student they still help me and accept me for at least trying to do good.”

– 8th Grade Student

A Year of Innovation and Excitement

The 2013- 2014 school year has been a big year for the San Francisco Education Fund. Thanks to our generous contributors who donated their time and financial support, we were able to implement a new Literacy Program at our four focus elementary schools and develop a new Math Program launching this fall at our four focus middle schools. We also strengthened our College & Career Readiness Program in our three focus high schools by forging a new partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District Career Technical Education Department.



You allowed us to place more than 400 volunteers who served weekly as tutors, mentors and interpreters in schools across the City and place an additional 250 special event volunteers who supported events like the sixth graders’ special concert kicking off the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival and the annual African American Read-In.

These results were an integral part of our broader efforts to coordinate community resources — volunteer time, flexible funds and collaborative partnerships — around three critical milestones on the path to college:

- **Students reading proficiently by the third grade;**
- **Students performing at grade level in mathematics by the eighth grade; and**
- **Students graduating from high school aware and prepared for college and career.**

To better address these milestones, we have been working with school leadership and teachers over the last two years to design an even more robust approach to support students and increase academic gains. Building off our 50-year history of rallying community time and support to strengthen public schools, our three signature programs enhance existing efforts at partner schools by:

- 1. Providing a corps of trained volunteers (*doers*)** to work one-on-one with underperforming students during the school day. Volunteers are trained in the District’s curriculum by the San Francisco Education Fund and receive a toolkit of resources to align with classroom instruction.
- 2. Empowering teachers and school-based staff through Innovation Grants (*dollars*)** to bring innovative projects, programs and resources to life for their students.
- 3. Utilizing *data* to coordinate and collaborate with partner nonprofits and corporations** to strategically leverage available community resources and achieve common goals around increased literacy, math proficiency, and college and career readiness.

We implemented this comprehensive approach in our focus elementary and high schools last year and worked closely with middle school principals and teachers to develop a similar program for middle school math that will launch this fall.

Our work is making a difference. At our focus high schools, we saw an **increase in the percentage of students enrolling in four-year universities, from 32% to 42%.** In our Elementary School Literacy Program, **the percentage of students reading at or above grade-level increased by almost 20 percent.** We look forward to sharing a similar snapshot of our success with the Middle School Math Program at this time next year. We greatly appreciate the support of all of our generous contributors. We would not have accomplished such gains without your continued support.

Warm regards,

Kimberly Wicoff
Executive Director

“Jahnai and Santos (Elizabeth’s assigned students) are both struggling readers, but this extra attention has already moved them up a whole reading level and increased their confidence and excitement for school.”

—Anna Pepito, Jahnai and Santos’ first-grade teacher

DOERS, dollars and data

Increasing the number of caring adults in classrooms and hours of one-on-one attention students receive



The Power of Volunteers

We surpassed our targets for the Literacy Program’s pilot year, recruiting, training and placing 48 literacy volunteers, who served a total of 64 first- and second-grade students at four of the City’s highest-needs public elementary schools: George Washington Carver, Dr. Charles Drew, Junipero Serra and El Dorado.

Students received specialized literacy tutoring for 30 minutes two mornings per week, totaling an estimated 35 supplemental hours of one-on-one attention for each student throughout the year. At our three focus high schools,

Mission, Philip and Sala Burton, and Thurgood Marshall, we mobilized more than 50 corporate and community volunteers who served weekly as tutors, mentors and interpreters to support teachers and students.

We also launched Career Allies — matching each focus high school with an organization in the same field as their respective career technical education pathway industry. The Career Allies made career-readiness presentations, and supported class assignments and work-based learning activities while emphasizing application to real-world situations.

Our volunteers also made a difference in the lives of K-12

students across the District, where they were more broadly placed to serve as mentors, tutors and interpreters. Tutors and mentors ensured that students were on track for high school graduation, while interpreters helped to more actively engage non-English speaking parents in their children’s education.

Through both our signature programs and our broader volunteer placements we have ensured more students have another caring adult in their life working with them to further their academic, college and career goals.

Impact: Volunteers

- 412 volunteers placed in 91 schools, and 250 additional volunteers placed at special events
- 88% of teachers report that their students working with volunteers showed increased academic skills
- In our Literacy Program first graders improved by 4.2 levels and second graders improved 3.9 levels on the Fountas & Pinnell assessment



Education Fund Literacy Program Volunteer Elizabeth Calderon worked with first-graders at El Dorado Elementary School.

Closer Look

Test scores speak for themselves, but you know you’re really onto something when you’re all Jahnai can talk about at the dinner table. Jahnai was identified by her teacher as a student who could particularly benefit from extra attention to increase her literacy skills.

Based on that she was matched with our volunteer Elizabeth. “Elizabeth” quickly became a topic of conversation at home. “Elizabeth this... Elizabeth that... Elizabeth has a whiteboard. We need a whiteboard here to help with my reading.”

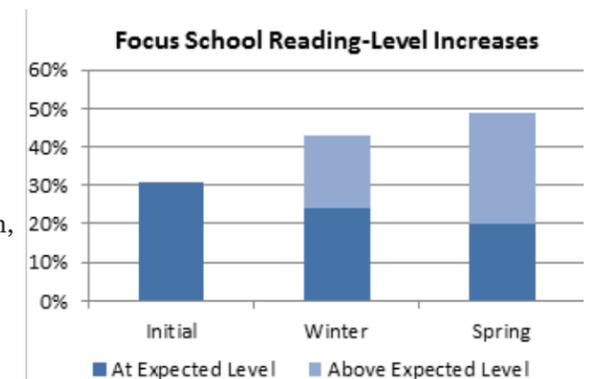
All this talk left Jahnai’s mom wondering, “who is this Elizabeth?”

Elizabeth was one our literacy volunteers trained to serve first- and second-grade students, like Jahnai, who were struggling to read.

For Jahnai, Elizabeth was one-of-a-kind, a mentor to focus on phonics skills, sight-word recognition, oral reading fluency and reading comprehension, and a coach to fill the gap in her literacy skill development.

Our volunteers, like Elizabeth, have the

power to transform the lives of San Francisco public school students. Nearly two-in-five local students report they do not have any close adult relationships at school. Our volunteers are changing that.



doers, DOLLARS and data

“Our Literacy Innovation Grant supported our staff in the first step toward a long-term outcome of a change in habit: becoming more knowledgeable about how our language affects the literate lives of our students.”

—Teachers Susie Klein and Jessie Blundell at Dr. Charles Drew Elementary

Providing teachers and school-based staff with flexible funds to implement new ideas



Grantees gathered for a Spring Innovation Grant showcase to share their projects and learnings.

Innovation Grants Fund Transformative Tools for Teaching

The San Francisco Education Fund invested \$50,000 through Innovation Grants to improve outcomes for students at our focus schools.

We awarded 10 grants at our elementary schools, with projects ranging from building bridge curriculum to combat the frequent loss of literacy skills over the summer, to creating listening labs in their classrooms so students from non-English speaking homes could hear more spoken English.

We funded six grants in our high schools specifically for student populations not adequately supported by existing school

programs. School staff developed initiatives to improve postsecondary outcomes for these target populations.

For example, one grant fueled an end-of-the-year college tour for ninth-, 10th- and 11th-grade students at Mission High School and supported the school’s existing intervention programs. The college tour, which spanned three days in June, served as an incentive during the school year for students at risk of not graduating to participate in school programs and keep up their attendance and grades.

About 50 students participated in these programs, which included

weekly meetings in which they learned about college and monitored their academic performance at Mission. Our grant recipient also reported that these students built a community around postsecondary education, and that those participating in the college tour experienced a transformation of their sense of self and their college-going opportunities.

Our Innovation Grant Program aims to bring to life these types of unique opportunities that are geared to meet the specific needs of an underserved group of students.

Impact: Grants

- **\$50,000 in flexible funds** awarded through **16 grants**
- **19 teachers and school-based staff** directing the grant projects
- **961 students** impacted across San Francisco Unified School District

Closer Look

The San Francisco Education Fund provided \$20,000 in Literacy Innovation Grants to our four focus elementary schools last year to apply unique improvements to their individual classrooms.

Anna Pepito, a first-grade teacher at El Dorado Elementary School, was awarded a \$2,000 grant to purchase supplies, like magnetic word-building boards and phonics games, to set up word work centers that serve far-below grade-level readers in need of extra, explicit word study instruction.

With these new tools, Anna reported seeing an increase in the confidence of all of her students tackling tricky words in their books. “These readers have grown in reading levels and now have more strategies for developing their reading independence,” Anna said. The effect was transformative, even for one student who was typically frustrated and disengaged during reading.

“Once we started using these center materials, his excitement toward reading grew. Every day during word study time he was eager to play the new center activities. These activities created a safe space for him to practice the necessary skills to become a more confident reader.”

Anna and our other grantees have reported the unique value provided by our Innovation Grant Program, which allows school-based staff to fund projects tailored to meet the particular needs of their students. They say this flexibility ultimately allows them to create more impactful and sustainable programs.



Students in Anna Pepito’s first-grade class at El Dorado Elementary School received new literacy tools thanks to a \$2,000 Innovation Grant from the Education Fund.

"If it wasn't for them (the Education Fund), I wouldn't see the urgent need to get kids to a four-year college."

—Principal at partner school

doers, dollars and DATA

Measuring and learning from student success to refine our approach and coordinate partnerships

Impact: Data & Partnerships

- Supported **18 financial aid events** with five nonprofit partners
- **Nearly 3/4 of focus school 12th graders completed a financial aid application**
- Worked with five companies to secure **800 books** for school libraries, **two field trips** to corporate offices and **three back-to-school classroom set-up days**



With our partners, we co-organize Frisco Day, an event that sends all 4,000 graduating seniors to a day of college preparation workshops.

Data and Collaborative Partnerships Prepare Students for Success

We partnered with San Francisco Unified School District to hire a dedicated researcher to both understand the efficacy of our programs and to build the data infrastructure required for nonprofits to align their efforts with those of the District.

Through that partnership we work with the District to identify students in need of our support and then we track the results of our efforts. We also bring together community-based organizations (CBOs), school staff and city partners to examine student data and foster greater and

more impactful support for students.

In the elementary and middle schools, those conversations are centered around how we can collaboratively increase literacy and math proficiency. At the high school level, we analyze data, such as which students are being supported by a college access organization, the rates of students completing their financial aid forms, college-going rates from the National Student Clearinghouse and the gap between students who report they will attend college and those who actually enroll in the fall.

At all levels, this type of data analysis unearths gaps in student services as well as in their learning and achievement, highlighting opportunities to collectively intervene with targeted supports.

This data-driven approach allows us to strategically leverage resources, including those of corporate and nonprofit partners, so we can serve the highest-needs students at the most critical junctures on their path to college. Our data also affords both the Education Fund and our partners the unique opportunity to refine our approach and programming at regular intervals based on the evolving needs of our students.

Closer Look

As our data analysis helps uncover gaps in student services or performance we forge groundbreaking partnerships with Bay Area nonprofits and corporations to maximize the number of students receiving support services at each of our focus schools.

This school year we created partnerships with five nonprofits and five San Francisco tech companies.

Our nonprofit partners helped us increase the number of students receiving financial aid for college by co-organizing FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Completion Nights. We recruited and trained volunteers who worked with our partners at 18 events to help students and families complete

FAFSA or Dream Act (for undocumented students) applications. We are happy to report that almost three-fourths of 12th-grade students at our focus high schools completed one of the applications.

Our five new tech company partners — Xoom, Eventbrite, SquareTrade, Tagged and StumbleUpon — have each committed to help students at a designated partner school hit the critical academic milestones or career readiness targets.

For example, we partnered Xoom with Junipero Serra Elementary School. Serra is launching its balanced literacy curriculum, an approach already proven to advance literacy scores in several other District schools. To do so the school needed specific books at each reading level for teachers and Education Fund Literacy

Volunteers to use with students so Xoom hosted a book drive.

Xoom donated more than 500 balanced literacy books, from a list identified by school staff, to ensure that all students at the school have the resources they need to excel. Sixteen company volunteers then organized, labeled and shelved the books and helped teachers set up their classrooms to ensure the entire school was ready to go for the new school year.

We're in the process of formalizing corporate partnerships like these for 20 total schools in 2014-15, with companies committing to supporting school goals through events, supplies donation and volunteerism throughout the year. The new initiative is called Circle the Schools.

Corporate partners have a unique ability to connect with students around the importance of college and career, and connect students with experiences and role models that open their eyes to careers and industries available in San Francisco.

In addition, our corporate partners can address literacy, math or college and career needs that require concentrated resources and/or people power like hosting a college day or a book drive.



"We could not do this work that is really changing the face of Mission High School without our wonderful partnership with the Education Fund."

—Principal Guthertz, Mission High School

SUPPORTERS

Thank you to the following organizations and individuals that contributed to the San Francisco Education Fund from 2013-2014

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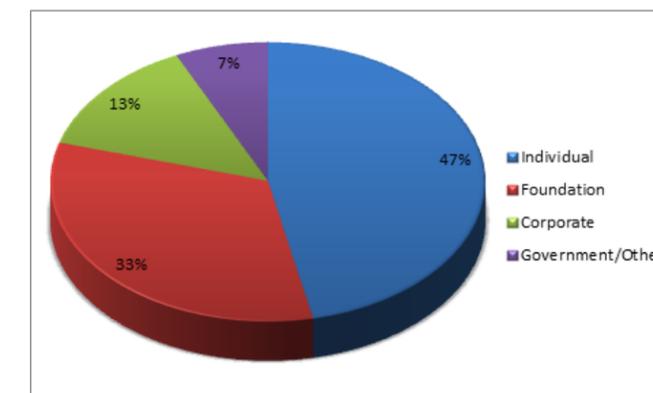
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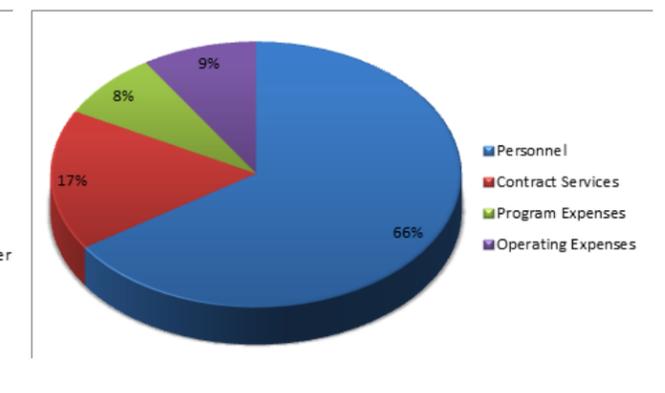
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Sources of Revenue* Fiscal Year 2013-14



Expenses* Fiscal Year 2013-14



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san francisco **education** fund

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Volunteer of the Year, Junette Higgins

