

RESOURCES



grantmakers^{for}education

GRANTMAKERS FOR EDUCATION

Grantmakers for Education is philanthropy's knowledge source for improving achievement and opportunities for all students. Founded in 1995, we are a national association of over 200 philanthropies that builds knowledge and networks to improve the effectiveness of education philanthropy. www.edfunders.org



THE ASSOCIATION OF SMALL FOUNDATIONS

The Association of Small Foundations is a membership organization of nearly 3,000 foundations with few or no staff. ASF enhances the power of small foundation giving by providing donors, trustees and staff of member foundations with peer learning opportunities, targeted tools and resources, and a collective voice in and beyond the philanthropic community. www.smallfoundations.org

S O C I A L
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SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS

Social Venture Partners is a network of engaged donors that brings together nonprofits and philanthropists to learn from each other and build capacity for positive community impact. SVP welcomes partners from diverse backgrounds who want to pool financial contributions and skills to provide more resources to nonprofits and produce greater results. www.svpi.org and www.svpseattle.org



BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*

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RESOURCES

As part of our IMPROVING PUBLIC EDUCATION guide, Grantmakers for Education, the Association of Small Foundations and Social Venture Partners suggest the resources in this booklet as additional tools and information sources on public education and philanthropy.

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EDUCATION WEBSITES TO EXPLORE

These websites offer solid reviews of key issues in education and well-reasoned ideas about how to improve public schools. They are good places to start to go deeper in understanding issues, ideas and trends.

Education Commission of the States: www.ecs.org, especially for its “Education Issues” area, which presents a variety of education issues in a format that provides quick facts, an overview of what each state is doing and links to the best publications on the topic.

Education Sector: www.educationsector.org, especially for provocative and insightful commentary on education issues (centrist to left-of-center point of view).

Education Trust: www.edtrust.org, especially for achievement data (including the “EdWatch” interactive state and national school database) and its prescriptions for closing achievement gaps in schools (see “Data Tools and Presentations” on the site and its “Thinking K-16” newsletters).

Education Week newspaper: www.edweek.org, especially for its “Quality Counts” database and “Issues A to Z” section, which compiles brief background essays on education issues, including links to research citations.

Thomas B. Fordham Foundation: www.edexcellence.net, especially for provocative and insightful commentary on education issues (centrist to right-of-center point of view).

Grantmakers for Education: www.edfunders.org.

Just for the Kids: www.just4kids.org, especially to learn about academic performance and best practices studies in most states.

Kids Count: www.aecf.org/kidscount provides national and state-by-state data that annually tracks the status of children in the U.S.

National Center for Education Statistics: <http://nces.ed.gov>, especially for its student achievement reports included in “The Nation’s Report Card” and its “Conditions of Education” reports.

Public Agenda: www.publicagenda.org, especially for its “Choicework” discussion guides, which offer a nonpartisan overview of different diagnoses and ideas for public education.

Public Education Network: www.publiceducation.org, especially for information and ideas on how to engage in school improvement as a member of the public.

School Matters: www.schoolmatters.com, especially for finding schools in your community that have greatest need for financial and volunteer support.

U.S. Department of Education: www.ed.gov.

NATIONAL EDUCATION FUNDERS

These foundations’ websites offer excellent analysis and evaluation of education-related philanthropy. Specific areas of interest and investment are noted in parentheses.

Annie E. Casey Foundation: www.aecf.org (See “Publications” for school choice and new schools, English language learners, school readiness, community schools)

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: www.gatesfoundation.org (Small schools, high schools, college access, school system reform)

Edna McConnell Clark Foundation: www.emcf.org (Youth development/youth outcomes, after-school programs, organizational capacity, evaluation)

Foundation for Child Development: www.ffcd.org (Early education, pre-kindergarten, early elementary school, children from immigrant families)

Goldman Sachs Foundation: www.goldmansachs.com/foundation (See “Knowledge Center” for developing high potential minority youth)

Lumina Foundation for Education: www.luminafoundation.org (College access)

Wallace Foundation: www.wallacefoundation.org (School leadership including recruitment, training and deployment of school and district leaders)

W.K. Kellogg Foundation: www.wkkf.org (See “Knowledgebase” for early education, youth development, access to higher education, excellent resources on evaluation)

W.T. Grant Foundation: www.wtgrantfoundation.org (See “Special Initiatives” for evaluations of afterschool programs)

Youth Transition Funders Group: www.ytfg.org (In particular, see *Safe Passage: How Philanthropy Is Working Together to Help All of America’s Youth Connect by Age 25*)

What We Know About Access and Success in Postsecondary Education

The resources collected in this handbook are intended to suggest good starting places to learn more about making a difference in public education. While outside the scope of IMPROVING PUBLIC EDUCATION, we know higher education also plays a key role in improving an individual’s quality of life and providing the nation long-term economic gains, better health and increased civic participation.

The Lumina Foundation for Education has published one of the best sources to learn more about the difficulties facing students in pursuing higher education – and what philanthropy might do about it. *What We Know about Access and Success in Postsecondary Education* synthesizes the research in four areas: preparation, awareness, financial issues and institutional responsibility.

www.luminafoundation.org/research/what_we_know/index.html

ISSUES IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

These articles and sites offer more information and analysis of specific education issues and strategies. Most of the publications can be downloaded at no cost.

At-Risk Schools and Students

Allen, Lili, Cheryl Almeida and Adria Steinberg. (2004). *From the Prison Track to the College Track: Pathways to Postsecondary Success for Out-of-School Youth*. Jobs for the Future. See “Knowledge Center and Publications” at www.jff.org for this and other useful publications.

Civic Enterprises. (2006). *The Silent Epidemic: Perspectives of High School Dropouts*. Available at www.civicerprises.net.

National Partnership for At-Risk Schools. (2005). *Qualified Teachers for At-Risk Schools: A National Imperative*. Available at www.ecs.org.

Charter Schools and School Choice

Bulkley, Katrina and Jennifer Fislser. (2002). *A Decade of Charter Schools from Theory to Practice*. Center on Reinventing Public Education policy brief. This and other useful publications available at www.crpe.org.

Center for Education Reform: www.edreform.com.

The Heritage Foundation’s “Choices in Education” research page: www.heritage.org/research/education/schoolchoice/schoolchoice.cfm.

Lake, Robin J. and Paul T. Hill, Editors. (2005) *Hopes, Fears, & Reality: A Balanced Look at American Charter Schools in 2005*. National Charter School Research Project at the University of Washington. This and other useful publications available at www.ncsrp.org.

National Working Commission on Choice in K-12 Education. (2003). *School Choice: Doing It the Right Way Makes a Difference*. The Brookings Institution. Available at www.brookings.edu.

Community and Public Involvement

Friedman, Will and Aviva Gutnick with Jackie Danzberger. (1999). *Public Engagement in Education*. Public Agenda. Ordering information at www.publicagenda.org.

Kettering Foundation. *Hard Talk: Connecting Education with Our Community*. (1992). Ordering information at www.kettering.org.

Public Education Network. (2003). *Communities at Work: Strategic Interventions for Community Change*. This and other useful resources available at www.publiceducation.org.

Early Education and Pre-kindergarten

Bogard, Kimber and Ruby Takanishi. (2005). *PK-3: An Aligned and Coordinated Approach to Education for Children 3 to 8 Years Old*. Society for Research in Child Development. Available at www.srcd.org.

Center for Development and Learning: www.cdl.org.

Graves, Bill. (May 2006). "PK-3: What Is It and How Do We Know It Works?" *FCD Policy Brief*. Foundation for Child Development. Available at www.ffcd.org.

Harvard University Graduate School of Education. *Harvard Education Letter* "Focus on Early Childhood Education" web page: www.edletter.org.

National Institute for Early Education Research: www.nieer.org.

Leadership

Barkley, Steve, Gene Bottoms, Caro H. Feagin and Susan Clark. (2001). *Leadership Matters: Building Leadership Capacity*. Southern Regional Education Board. This and other useful publications available at www.sreb.org.

Farkas, Steve, Jean Johnson and Ann Duffett. (2003). *Rolling Up Their Sleeves: Superintendents and Principals Talk about What's Needed to Fix Public Schools*. Public Agenda.

These and other reports on leadership and other topics in education are available at The Wallace Foundation “Knowledge Center”:
www.wallacefoundation.org.

Public Policy

Center on Education Policy: www.cep-dc.org, especially its work on national policy and the federal No Child Left Behind act.

Education Commission of the States: www.ecs.org.

The Education Trust: www.edtrust.org. Search for “No Child Left Behind” under Reports and Publications.

Peterson, Paul E., Editor. (2003). *Our Schools and Our Future... Are We Still at Risk?* Hoover Institution Koret Task Force on K-12 Education. Available at www.ourschoolsandourfuture.org.

Rural Schools

Johnson, Jerry and Marty Strange. (2005). *Why Rural Matters 2005: The facts about rural education in the 50 states*. The Rural School and Community Trust. Executive summary and full report available at www.ruraledu.org.

School Financing

Carey, Kevin. (2005). *The Funding Gap 2004*. The Education Trust. This and other useful publications available at www.edtrust.org.

Committee for Economic Development. (2004). *Investing in Learning: School Funding Policies To Foster High Performance*. Available at www.ced.org.

School-Level Improvement Strategies

American Institute for Research. (2005). *CSRQ Center Report on Elementary School Comprehensive School Reform Models*. Available at www.air.org.

Carter, Samuel Casey. (2001). *No Excuses: Lessons from 21 High-Performing, High-Poverty Schools*. The Heritage Foundation. Available at www.noexcuses.org.

The Comprehensive School Reform Quality Center. (2005). *Works in Progress: A Report on Middle and High School Improvement Programs*. Available at www.csrq.org.

Grantmakers for Education. (2005). *A New Bet for Better Schools?: Diversifying Philanthropic Strategies to Improve Student Learning*. Available at www.edfunders.org/knowledge/publications.asp.

MassInsight Education's model "Building Blocks" initiative in Massachusetts: www.buildingblocks.org.

Teacher Quality

Anthony, Emily and Dan Goldhaber. (2004). *Can Teacher Quality Be Effectively Assessed?* Urban Institute. Available at www.urban.org.

Darling-Hammond, Linda. (1997). *Doing What Matters Most: Investing in Quality Teaching*. National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. This and other useful publications available at www.nctaf.org.

The Education Trust: www.edtrust.org. Search for "Teaching Quality" under Reports and Publications.

Public Education Network and The Finance Project. (2004). *Teacher Professional Development: A Primer for Parents & Community Leaders*. Available at www.publiceducation.org.

Urban Schools and School Districts

Center on Reinventing Public Education: www.crpe.org.

Council of Great City Schools: www.cgcs.org.

Education Commission of the States. (2003). *Improving Academic Achievement in Urban Schools: What Can Policymakers Do?* Available at www.ecs.org.

Hill, Paul T., Christine Campbell and James Harvey. (2000). *It Takes a City: Getting Serious about Urban School Reform*. Brookings Institution Press. Ordering information at <http://brookings.nap.edu>.

Kagan, Sharon Lynn. (2004). *Improving Urban Student Achievement through Early Childhood Reform: What State Policymakers Can Do*. Education Commission of the States. Available at www.ecs.org.

Manpower Development Research Corporation. (2002). *Foundations for Success: Case Studies of How Urban School Systems Improve Student Achievement*. Available at www.cgcs.org.

Cutting Through the Hype: A Taxpayer's Guide to School Reforms

In this new book, researchers Jane David and Larry Cuban ask: What does it take to make school reforms actually work?

They examine the strategies and data driving 20 reform ideas – including school choice models, teacher pay-for-performance initiatives and converting large high schools into multiple smaller campuses – and point out the complexities and trade-offs that are a reality of any reform strategy. They urge, in particular, new reform leaders to consider the valuable lessons that can be gleaned from prior reform efforts.

“Each year, more and more well-intentioned reforms promise to make our schools better,” they reflect. “Meanwhile, researchers and educators have learned many important lessons from decades of ineffective reforms and their unintended side effects. Classroom teachers in particular have accumulated wisdom from trying to implement reforms designed by others. But those who propose reforms virtually never incorporate these important lessons into their mandates for improving schools.” This book is David and Cuban’s attempt to bridge that gap – and to do so with clear, common sense explanations.

List price \$19.95. Available at www.amazon.com.

FINDING LOCAL RESOURCES

These organizations can connect you to regional and local resources to help you get started making change in your community or state.

Afterschool Alliance. Find information on youth and afterschool programs in your state at www.afterschoolalliance.org/states/states_main.cfm. Includes data, news, local contacts and resource links.

Business/Education Partnership Forum. The Forum's directory lists business- and community-led education advocacy groups in each state at www.biz4ed.org/organizations.html.

Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers. Regional Associations of Grantmakers are membership organizations that provide resources and networking opportunities for local foundations and donors. See map for locating your closest regional association at: www.givingforum.org/ralocator.html.

Public Education Network. Public Education Network is a national network of local education funds – nonprofit organizations that work with their local school systems to improve accountability and achievement, engage community stakeholders and generate new resources. Learn more about local education funds at www.publiceducation.org/lefs.asp. Find a local fund in your community at www.publiceducation.org/lefsearch.asp.

U.S. Charter Schools. This site offers information about charter school efforts and updates in each state, including support and advocacy organizations, at www.uscharterschools.org/pub/uscs_docs/sp/index.htm.

STRATEGIC PHILANTHROPY AND EVALUATION

Association of Small Foundations: www.smallfoundations.org.

Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Collected essays from the Foundations & Education Project to be published in fall 2006. Ordering information at www.carnegiefoundation.org.

Ferris, James M. (2003). *Foundations & Public Policymaking: Leveraging Philanthropic Dollars, Knowledge and Networks*. Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy. Available at www.usc.edu/schools/sppd/philanthropy.

Giving Forum: www.givingforum.org.

Grantcraft: www.grantcraft.org. See in particular its series of workbooks on evaluation, including *Making Measures Work for You* and *Mapping Change*.

Grantmakers for Education. (2005). *Principles for Effective Education Grantmaking* and related case studies. www.edfunders.org.

Grantmakers for Effective Organizations: www.geofunders.org.

Hess, Frederick M., editor. (2005). *With the Best of Intentions: How Philanthropy Is Reshaping K-12 Education*. Harvard Education Press. Ordering information at <http://gsweb.harvard.edu/hepg/bestintentions.html>.

Innovation Network: www.innonet.org.

La Piana, David. (2001). *Real Collaboration: A Guide for Grantmakers*. Available at www.lapiana.org.

Manno, Bruno. (2006). *The Road to Results: Results-Based Accountability in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Education Program*. Annie E. Casey Foundation. Available at www.aecf.org/publications.

Mott, Andrew. (2003). *Evaluation: The Good News for Funders*. Neighborhood Funders Group. Available at www.nfg.org.

The Philanthropic Initiative, Inc. (2005). "Transformation through Philanthropy." *Initiatives: A Newsletter of Strategic Philanthropy*. Vol 9, Number 1. Available at www.tpi.org/resources/initiatives-newsletter.aspx.

The Philanthropic Initiative, Inc. (1992). *Giving Together: A Primer and Workbook for Family Philanthropy*. Available at www.tpi.org/resources/primer.aspx.

The Philanthropic Initiative, Inc. (2003). *Making a Difference - Evaluating Your Philanthropy*. Available at www.tpi.org/resources/primer.aspx.

Theory of Change: www.theoryofchange.org.

Social Venture Partners International: www.svpi.org/Resources.

United Way of America Outcomes Measurement Resource Network at: <http://national.unitedway.org/outcomes>.

Ylvaisaker, Paul N. (2001). *Small Can Be Effective*. Council on Foundations. Ordering information at www.cof.org.

Yohalem, Nicole et al. (2006). *Grappling with Big Picture Change: Philanthropic Efforts to Change the Odds for Children and Youth*. The Forum for Youth Investment. www.forumfyi.org.

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