Discipline and Focus
In education, where public dollars dwarf private investments, a funder has greater impact when grantmaking is carefully planned and targeted.

Knowledge
Information, ideas and advice from diverse sources, as well as openness to criticism and feedback, can help a funder make wise choices.

Resources Linked to Results
A logic-driven “theory of change” helps a grantmaker think clearly about how specific actions will lead to desired outcomes, thus linking resources with results.

Effective Grantees
A grantmaker is effective only when its grantees are effective. Especially in education, schools and systems lack capacity and grantees (both inside and outside the system) may require deeper support.

Engaged Partners
A funder succeeds by actively engaging its partners—the individuals, institutions and communities connected with an issue—to ensure “ownership” of education problems and their solutions.

Leverage, Influence and Collaboration
The depth and range of problems in education make it difficult to achieve meaningful change in isolation or by funding programs without changing public policies or opinions. A grantmaker is more effective when working with others to mobilize and deploy as many resources as possible in order to advance solutions.

Persistence
The most important problems in education are often the most complex and intractable, and will take time to solve.

Innovation and Constant Learning
Even while acting on the best available information—as in Principle #2—a grantmaker can create new knowledge about ways to promote educational success. Tracking outcomes, understanding costs and identifying what works—and what doesn’t—are essential to helping grantmakers and their partners achieve results.