



# FOCUS ON SECONDARY VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

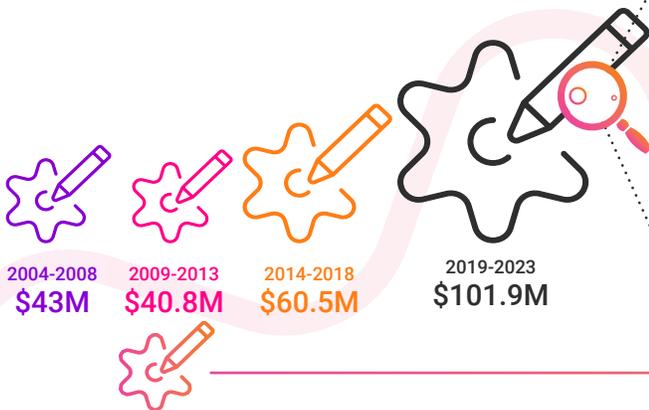
## RESEARCH BRIEF SERIES: TWENTY YEARS OF EDUCATION FUNDING IN THE U.S.

Grantmakers for Education engaged in several projects in the past two years to understand philanthropic priorities, approaches and investments in education, historical and current. By collecting and analyzing new data as well as analyzing data available through a licensed database, we conducted a comprehensive scan. This research brief is produced as part of this scan and is one of a series that shares information on giving patterns in education over the past twenty years among foundations and other grantmakers, from 2003 to 2023. Giving data was sourced from Candid’s Foundation Directory. The analysis presented in this brief was conducted over a six-month period in 2024 and 2025.

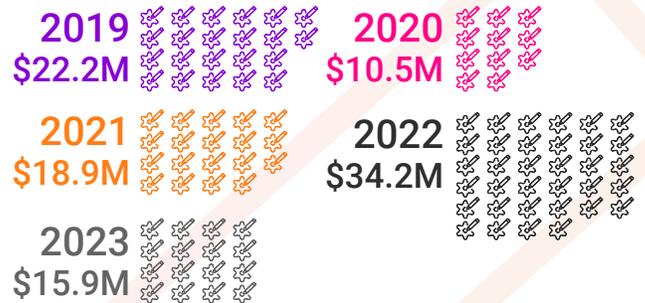


Philanthropic support for secondary vocational education, including apprenticeships and other workforce pathways, has grown significantly, with funding more than doubling from the 2004–2008 to 2019–2023 periods. This trend has been especially pronounced in the past decade, driven by a renewed interest in secondary vocational education. Notably, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted traditional hands-on vocational training. Accordingly, there was a sharp decline in secondary vocational education funding, dropping by over 50% between 2019 and 2020. However, by 2022, philanthropic funding for secondary vocational education had rebounded. In 2022, funding reached \$34 million, up from \$18.9 million in 2021.

### 20 Years of Funding for Secondary Vocational Education



### Funding in Secondary Vocational Education Over the Last Five Years (2019-2023)



As the leading network for education philanthropy, Grantmakers for Education offers an unparalleled platform for learning, collaboration and influence – backed by front-line sector research, exclusive insights and a vibrant community of peers. We believe in the value of philanthropy as a catalytic partner in creating a just world. For more information, please contact us at [information@edfunders.org](mailto:information@edfunders.org).

Giving data was sourced from Candid’s licensed database, *Foundation Directory Online*. According to Candid, data are “compiled from IRS information returns, grantmaker web sites, annual reports, printed application guidelines, the philanthropic press and various other sources. In all, Candid’s editorial staff continually monitors more than 35 diverse information sources” and frequently updates the database. A full description of the Foundation Directory’s sources may be found here: <https://help.candid.org/s/article/Where-does-Candid-get-its-data>. The classification system Candid employs for coding grants may be found here: <https://taxonomy.candid.org/>.

