



# The Public Education Foundation

*Because young minds matter*





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The future depends on our children's ability to successfully navigate the challenges of an ever-changing and complex world. The Public Education Foundation, an independent nonprofit Nevada corporation, is dedicated to strategic giving, imaginative problem-solving, social entrepreneurship, talent development and public education reform.

The Foundation has the experience necessary to engage educators, policymakers, philanthropists and the community in new ways to cultivate excellence, improve performance, ensure accountability and raise the bar for students and educators.

During the past 20 years, the Foundation has demonstrated the independence, flexibility and patience to pursue the changes that educators often cannot. We have played the critical roles of generating private sector funding to incubate new ideas, investing in promising and best practices, modeling programs that would have otherwise remained unexplored and supporting projects and initiatives that stimulate solutions and produce results.

The Public Education Foundation works to...

- ★ Improve the quality of teaching and learning
- ★ Impact student achievement
- ★ Increase the graduation rate
- ★ Advance entrepreneurial leadership and talent development
- ★ Champion school improvement

Through a portfolio of services, innovative programs and “pipeline” initiatives, the Foundation has established high-leverage and high-impact public-private partnerships advancing district-wide reform efforts, empowering educators and students, leveraging resources and focusing on sustained lasting results. We recognize the power and magic of public-private partnerships and continue to be guided by a spirit of innovation and a willingness to take calculated risks in an unending pursuit of bold new thinking and effective approaches to public school reform.

The Public Education Foundation believes in the promise of public education. We believe that every young mind matters and that all children can learn. Together with your generous support, we will continue the infusion of energy and ideas which is critical to ensuring that new and promising programs can earn a place in our classrooms and that philanthropic giving makes a lasting difference for our children and for our future.

## *Our Portfolio Includes*

Educational leadership is second only to classroom instruction among factors that influence student outcomes. The highest performing organizations recruit and retain top talent. To affect real change in public education systems, we need leaders with vision, knowledge, imagination, skill and the courage to stimulate solutions and produce results. **The Leadership Institute** will build a talent network of entrepreneurial leaders from Nevada's public schools, business and industry and schools throughout our nation to drive school improvement. The Institute will begin by launching a statewide principal academy designed in collaboration with the Governor's Office, the State of Nevada, the school district and our partners to catalyze significant, systemic improvement in public education.

With more than \$750,000 in annual funds, **The Scholarship Program** reaches students at all levels of academic progress and offers a meaningful incentive to achieve their educational goals, graduate and move on to higher education. Targeted not only to academically gifted students, scholarships are also available to students who face educational and personal obstacles. The Scholarship Program is developing an outreach strategy to encourage and support students who would not ordinarily consider going to college. Since 1994, The Scholarship Program has awarded more than 2,800 college scholarships totaling more than \$6 million.

The **We R Community** service-learning and volunteerism model engages teens in making a positive difference in their community by connecting them to the real world. Students extend their classroom learning by participating in a "mini-foundation" experience. During the year-long program, students create a mission statement, research nonprofit organizations, review grant applications, fund grants, volunteer with local nonprofits and incorporate the program into their classroom curricula. Last year alone, our 470 We R Community students at 13 high school sites logged more than 4,000 volunteer hours and awarded more than \$65,000 to area nonprofit organizations, deepening their own engagement in the learning process.

The **Teacher EXCHANGE™** brings vital resources to the classroom and reduces the financial burden on teachers who often spend their own money to provide needed instructional supplies. By collecting and recycling electronic hardware, paper, furniture and other goods, the Teacher EXCHANGE™ redirects these usable materials into the hands of teachers to enhance the learning experience. By supplying classrooms and saving teachers money, the EXCHANGE™ also protects our environment. The EXCHANGE™ has repurposed more than 1,000,000 pounds of materials since 2002, distributed millions of dollars of classroom resources and has helped each teacher save about \$1,600 per year in out-of-pocket expenses thanks to the generous support of Caesars Entertainment and our community partners.

The **Clark County READS** literacy initiative offers a series of programs designed to empower children to explore the world around them through reading. We know strong reading and comprehension skills are crucial if children are to grow up to be self-sufficient and employable adults. Clark County READS has distributed more than one million books, updated 100 school library nonfiction collections, trained more than 1,800 reading volunteers, serves as a state model for Reading Is Fundamental and is part of the national Reach Out and Read network.

**Artists 4 Kidz** connects the creative energy of the Las Vegas arts community to our students. This program provides students with arts experiences, introduces them to community artists and encourages them to find their voice and express themselves while fostering a lifelong appreciation for the arts. The goals of the program are to connect the creative community with schools, create an environment that nurtures art-rich education and celebrate an improved quality of life and sense of community.

The **InterAct™ On-Line Learning Community**, an early technology initiative, was launched in 1992 to build and enhance online communication, collaboration and learning. Today, more than 45,000 teachers, students and administrators are active members of the InterAct™ community and participate in global learning opportunities. This idea unleashed the power of technology and propelled the Clark County School District into the 21st Century.

*“There is a place in America to take a stand: it is public education. It is the underpinning of our cultural and political system. It is the great common ground. Public education after all is the engine that moves us as a society toward a common destiny... It is in public education that the American dream begins to take shape.”*

*~Tom Brokaw*

