

Foundation's Goals

In Indianapolis, too many students graduate from high school unprepared for college or careers, and employers struggle to identify a sufficient supply of skilled talent to fill available job openings. To help address these challenges, in November 2015 the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation adopted the following goals:

- Improve academic outcomes for Indianapolis students, from Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade, by supporting the conditions necessary to grow the supply of high-performing schools and programs.
- Minimize the workforce skills gap in Indianapolis by supporting the delivery of cost-effective post-secondary education and training programs that align with the demands of America's knowledge-based economy.

Funding Strategies

- Support the design and implementation of highly effective Pre-Kindergarten programs serving low-income children.
- Strengthen the systemic conditions most likely to result in a K-12 system that provides a robust set of high-performing school options for Indianapolis students and their families. These conditions include effective governance, autonomous schools, transparent accountability for student outcomes, and sufficient resources—particularly facilities and per-pupil funding.
- Support the launch and replication of high-performing, autonomous schools.
- Attract, retain, and develop great talent, particularly school leaders and teachers.
- Support the launch and replication of high-performing, cost-effective, competency-based college and career preparation models aligned with the needs of employers.
- Communicate what is, and what isn't, working across stakeholder groups.

Grants Awarded Since November 2015, Categorized by Funding Strategy (Updated February 2018)

Support the design and implementation of highly effective Pre-Kindergarten programs serving low-income children.

United Way of Central Indiana (August 2016: \$112,500 for one year)

- To launch a comprehensive advocacy campaign to elevate the importance of access to high-quality Pre-Kindergarten programs.

NORC at the University of Chicago (June 2017: \$181,402 for 18 months)

- To develop, pilot and validate a 15-minute Kindergarten Readiness Screener to administer in Pre-Kindergarten settings that will measure basic skills in literacy, oral language, numeracy, and spatial thinking.

Early Learning Indiana (June 2017: \$20,000 for one year)

- To support the Kindergarten Readiness Screener pilot in partnership with NORC in select Marion County Pre-Kindergarten settings during the 2017-18 school year.

Strengthen the systemic conditions most likely to result in a K-12 system that provides a robust set of high-performing school options for Indianapolis students and their families. These conditions include effective governance, autonomous schools, transparent accountability for student outcomes, and sufficient resources—particularly facilities and per-pupil funding.

The Mind Trust (November 2015: \$3,000,000 for three years)

- To support core operating expenses.

Network for Quality Education (February 2016: \$200,000 for two years)

- To launch the Network for Quality Education, which will support high-quality charter schools.

National Association of Charter School Authorizers (August 2016: \$43,000 for one year)

- To provide quality authorizing resources to the Indiana Charter School Board and the Indianapolis Mayor's Office of Education Innovation, the primary authorizers of charter schools in Marion County.

Network for Quality Education for BoardOnTrack (August 2016: \$420,000 for two years)

- To provide BoardOnTrack for all Marion County charter school boards to support good governance and school performance oversight best practices.

EdChoice (November 2016: \$200,000 for two years)

- To support core operating expenses.

Institute for Quality Education (November 2016: \$200,000 for two years)

- To support core operating expenses.

Support the launch and replication of high-performing, autonomous schools.

Purdue Polytechnic High School (March 2017: \$1,250,000 for three years)

- To help launch Purdue Polytechnic High School, a new STEM-focused charter high school in Marion County, by training teachers in the new school model and supporting the creation of the school network infrastructure.

Attract, retain, and develop great talent, particularly school leaders and teachers.

Public Impact (November 2015: \$73,000 for one year; April 2016: \$150,000 for one year; June 2017: \$200,000 for one year)

- To implement and evaluate the impact of Opportunity Culture within Indianapolis Public Schools. Opportunity Culture is a school model that extends the reach of high-performing teachers to more students, for higher pay. Opportunity Culture also helps to attract, retain, and develop teacher talent by creating meaningful career pathways for teachers that allow them to remain in the classroom.

The Mind Trust for Relay (April 2016: \$366,000 for three years; November 2017: \$400,000 for two years)

- To support the participation of Indianapolis school principals and assistant principals in the Relay National Principals Academy Fellowship.

Marian University (August 2016: \$250,000 for one year; June 2017: \$1,500,000 for two years)

- To design and launch The Educators College, a new model to train teachers developed using best practices from the world's leading educator preparation programs. The College offers a rigorous content-rich curriculum as well as a year-long clinical residency in a K-12 school.

Education First (November 2016: \$68,025 for one year)

- To develop Indianapolis Public Schools' revised talent strategy and implementation plan.

Teach For America (November 2016: \$1,000,000 for two years)

- To support core operating expenses.

Education First (June 2017: \$177,820 for one year)

- To support enhancements to Indianapolis Public Schools' preservice student teaching model.

TNTP (June 2017: \$65,000 for one year)

- To support development of the school improvement section of the Indiana Department of Education's Every Student Succeeds Act plan.

Communicating what is, and what isn't, working across stakeholder groups.

Chalkbeat Indiana (November 2015: \$50,000 for one year; November 2016: \$200,000 for two years)

- To support core operating expenses.



Civic Enterprises (April 2016: \$91,000 for one year)

- To produce a case study developing recommendations for how to build on Indiana's past progress and continue to improve the state's high school graduation rates.

National Conference of State Legislatures (April 2016: \$66,882 for one year; June 2017: \$6,750 for six months)

- To support convenings with Indiana stakeholders to build awareness of common education principles and practices shared by top performing countries and economies.