



Overview

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Through the strength of its unique partnership with educators, the NEA Foundation advances student achievement by investing in public education that will inspire and enable teachers to prepare every American child to learn and thrive in a rapidly changing world.

The Foundation pursues this mission through three core programs: *Closing the Achievement Gaps Initiative*, a five-year, district-based, collaborative among educator associations, school districts, and the community; grants to educators, \$2,000 and \$5,000, awarded three times a year; and annual awards to educators and supporters of public education.

CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

The NEA Foundation has invested \$6.2 million in its signature, district-based *Closing the Achievement Gaps Initiative* with pilots in three districts: Hamilton County (Chattanooga), Tenn.; Milwaukee, Wis.; and Seattle, Wash. Already, this work is yielding significant results.

- At our Chattanooga/Hamilton County site, test scores are on the rise.
- Our partners in Milwaukee have been raising expectations for students; increasing teachers' understanding of student cultures, communities, and families; and assisting teachers to be more strategic about instructional choices.
- Our partners in Seattle are making stronger connections to parents and students through a proactive home visits program.

Building on this success, in January 2010, the NEA Foundation will announce the first major extension of its *Closing the Achievement Gaps Initiative* by funding a second set of five-year, district-union partnerships. Best practices generated by both pilot and new sites will be broadly shared with educators and policymakers nationally.

GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

Over the past 10 years, the NEA Foundation has awarded over 2,000 grants totaling \$6 million to individual and teams of public school teachers and education support professionals to fund and share leading edge ideas in teaching and learning. Awarded three times a year, with a focus this year on green, music, and STEM projects, there are two types of grants.

- **Student Achievement Grants** are \$5,000 awards for PreK-16 educators to promote classroom innovation and to engage students in critical thinking to deepen their knowledge of standards-based subject matter.
- **Learning & Leadership Grants** are \$2000-\$5,000 awards for all PreK-16 educators to promote professional development to improve teaching skills and to share with colleagues.

Awards

The Foundation's *Awards for Teaching Excellence* program recognizes, rewards, and promotes excellence in teaching and learning, honoring five national finalists with large cash awards and student-produced videos at its annual *Salute to Excellence in Education* awards gala held in Washington, DC. At the gala, the Foundation also honors supporters of public education with its *Award for Philanthropy in Public Education* and its *Award for Outstanding Service to Public Education*. Verizon Communications and Sesame Workshop were the 2009 recipients.

Other Projects

The Foundation funds several other projects to advance student achievement, including:

- The NEA's ***Books Across America Library Books Awards***: These \$1,000 awards funded by the NEA Foundation, the National Education Association and other contributors, support the purchase of new library books for public schools serving disadvantaged students. The Foundation accepts online applications and donations for these awards on its Web site.
- ***Pennies for Peace Online Service Learning Toolkit***: The NEA Foundation supports a free, online standards-aligned service learning toolkit designed for K-12 educators to create effective penny-raising campaigns to build schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Founded by *Three Cups of Tea* author, Greg Mortenson, Pennies for Peace is helping students become better educated global citizens in thousands of American schools as they raise pennies to build hundreds of schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- The ***Pearson Foundation's Digital Arts Alliance (DAA) Initiative***: Through this partnership, the NEA Foundation supports the development of enriching curricula, teaching capacity, and academic and social experiences of thousands of students and teachers across the country. The results: powerful, student scripted and produced videos that capture students' unique take on their lives, schools, and communities, and that hone 21st Century skills through technology and video production. Joint NEA Foundation/Pearson Foundation DAA projects have been implemented in Chattanooga, TN, Biloxi, MS, Bogalusa LA, and rural Ohio, with new sites to be selected each year.

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About the NEA Foundation

The NEA Foundation is an independent public charity created in 1969 and sustained by contributions from educators, corporate sponsors, and other supporters of public education. The Foundation offers grants and programs that support educators' efforts to close the achievement gaps, increase classroom innovations, provide professional development, and salute excellence in education. For more information, visit neafoundation.org.