



## FOUNDATION OVERVIEW | FY 2018-19

### WHO WE ARE

The NEA Foundation is a public charity founded by educators for educators to improve public education for all students. Since our beginning in 1969, the Foundation has served as a laboratory of learning, offering funding and other resources to public school educators, their schools, and districts to solve complex teaching and learning challenges. We believe that when educators unleash their own power, ideas, and voices, communities, schools, and students all benefit. In 2019, we are celebrating 50 years of keeping the promise of public education.

### OUR SUPPORTERS

The NEA Foundation receives contributions from corporations, foundations, and individuals, including educators. We take seriously our commitment to the public school educators and students we serve and our stewardship of the donors who contribute to our work. We are proud that we have received [Charity Navigator's](#) highest, 4-star rating on financial health, accountability and transparency for the past nine years, a record that puts us in the top 2 percent of all rated charities.

### WHAT WE DO & WHY

A dynamic public education system is more important than ever — students from all backgrounds rely on it to prepare themselves for college, career, and beyond. Everything the NEA Foundation does is in service to students, to provide them the excellent public education they deserve. We accomplish this through grants to improve classroom instruction, by supporting educators' professional growth, and by collaborating with groups, including unions, who share our goals.

To achieve our mission, we invest in initiatives that support high-quality instruction and provide critical resources to boost student learning.

- **Award grants to educators.** To improve student learning, we provide grants to individual and teams of educators to support instructional practice and professional development across all subject areas and grade levels. By directly funding educator-conceived and led projects, we **enable educators to chart their own course to solve teaching and learning challenges.** The Foundation gleans knowledge from these grants to share what works with the field and to inform our broader body of work. Since 2013, we have awarded **\$2.2 million in grants, reaching 39,000 educators and 627,000 students in 47 states.**
- **Broaden educators' and students' perspectives through our Global Learning Fellowship.** We lead an annual, cohort-based professional development program to provide educators (46 in the 2019 cohort) with a blend of online, peer, and field-based learning opportunities to prepare themselves and their students for global citizenship. Fellows share what they learn with educators around the country and world. **In fall 2018, we published *12 Lessons to Open Classrooms and Minds to the World*, a book**

with educator-tested, global lesson plans collaboratively developed by our 2018 Global Learning Fellows.

- **Recognize the extraordinary in public education.** We present **Awards for Teaching Excellence** to annually honor the critical work that public school educators do every day. At our 2019 awards Gala we will celebrate 46 exemplary educators, all from different states, the kind of educators we want every student to have.
- **Grow high-quality STEM learning. Our grants increase access to and improve the quality of STEM education in underserved communities.** The NEA Foundation invests in educator-led and union-supported STEM programming that encourages students to incorporate STEM learning in their daily lives, academic careers, and professional endeavors. We have awarded two, \$300,000, multi-year grants to increase student engagement and motivation around STEM.
  - In **Hamilton County, TN**, the district is investing in the skills of educators through three interrelated initiatives that emphasize project-based STEM learning. These initiatives are enabling a cohort of educators to act as leaders in schools that are expanding the use of maker spaces.
  - In **Greeley, CO**, educators have developed a K-12 framework for instruction, aligned to Next Generation Science Standards, to bring coherence to the way STEM is taught within and across schools. With the support of dedicated STEM teacher leaders, they are piloting this approach in eight schools, with the goal to scale it across the district. A local team of educators, principals, and district administrators designed the framework, which serves as a guide for educators seeking to develop cross-content collaborative lessons.

Each of these sites will share best practices to inform educators in other communities.

- **Provide breakfast to students so they are nourished and ready to learn.** We boost students' academic performance, health, and behavior by supporting the Breakfast in the Classroom initiative. During the 2017-18 school year, together with our Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom, we invested in **178 schools to provide breakfast to more than 22,734 under-served students.**
- Address the unique challenges of **equity and access faced by educators and students in rural and remote** communities. The **Rural and Remote Opportunity Project** is our emerging work in North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. With Foundation support, NEA State Affiliates are designing and implementing programs that improve rural and remote students' access to high-quality teaching and learning experiences.
- Support a newly established coalition, the **Education Civil Rights (ECR) Alliance**, working to ensure **schools serve, educate, empower** and are **safe for all students.** The National Center for Youth Law houses the ECR Alliance. The Foundation's investment is being used to engage more educators as informants of the Alliance's work, and to develop resources and tools to help educators protect students' civil rights.

Find more information at [neafoundation.org](http://neafoundation.org).

