



The NEA Foundation is an independent national philanthropic organization founded by educators to promote the absolute best in public education. For more than five decades, the Foundation has championed and funded educator-led initiatives and innovation, resulting in measurable and sustained improvements in public education.



We believe that the most innovative and effective educational policies and strategies emanate from educators engaged in authentic partnership with policymakers, students, parents, researchers, and others who are committed to educational justice, equity, excellence, and opportunity. Through the transformative power of these partnerships, we believe we can improve educators', students', and communities' educational experiences and outcomes.

The Foundation has received Charity Navigator's highest, 4-star rating on financial health, accountability, and transparency for the past 12 years, placing it among the top one percent of all rated charities.

# KEY INITIATIVES, PROGRAMS AND GRANTMAKING

## COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

The Foundation's Community Schools Initiative, launched in 2020, supports the development of community schools as an educational justice and equity strategy in the American South, a region with persistent patterns of underinvestment in public education and the highest child poverty rate in the nation. Community schools are co-created through partnerships among educators and school leaders, community organizations, students, families, and local businesses and institutions to meet students' academic and non-academic needs. Through its initiative, the Foundation has built a regional community of practice to support the development of community schools across Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.



international field study. Fellows also complete a capstone project that reflects their learning and can serve as a resource for educators beyond the program. The 2023 Cohort has 49 fellows.

## GRANTS TO EDUCATORS

The NEA Foundation currently offers three grant programs for educator-conceived and led projects. Student Success Grants support projects that promote critical thinking and real-world application of learning. Learning and Leadership Grants support educators' professional development, innovation, and collaboration. The Foundation's newest grant program, Envision Equity Grants, launched this year, provides educators with the opportunity to center equity in transforming education to improve students' educational experiences and outcomes. Grants range from \$1,500 to \$5,000 each and are typically awarded three times a year.

## AWARDS FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Each year, the NEA Foundation provides national recognition to educators across the country in order to celebrate and give visibility to excellence in public education and to amplify the voices of exemplary teachers as advocates for the profession. Each year, all state affiliates are invited to nominate an educator to be celebrated as representative of the educational excellence found in each state. From that group, five educators are chosen for additional recognition and one educator receives the top national award. All awardees are celebrated at the NEA Foundation Salute to Excellence in Education Gala, which will be held on May 5, 2023.

## GLOBAL LEARNING FELLOWSHIP

The Global Learning Fellowship is a yearlong, cohort-based professional development experience through which educators enhance their knowledge and skills to integrate global competency in their classrooms, strengthen their ability to advocate for global competency, and empower students to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. Over the course of the year, fellows immerse themselves in online coursework, webinars, reading and reflection, a two-day professional development workshop, mentoring by program alumni, and a 10-day

## RESPONSIVE GRANTMAKING

The Foundation responds to pressing issues and opportunities in education by making grants and establishing partnerships to advance educational justice, equity, excellence, and opportunity. Among the Foundation's current partners are the Education Civil Rights Alliance (ECRA), housed with the National Center for Youth Law, and the Communities for Just Schools Fund, a national donor collaborative that helps grassroots organizers, including educators, nurture the full potential of all students.