

san francisco **education** fund

Collaborate. Innovate. Advocate.

Our Approach

San Francisco School Volunteers and the San Francisco Education Fund have merged. By joining our two longstanding organizations dedicated to improving public schools, we will integrate programs to address pressing education challenges in new and more powerful ways.

The new Ed Fund will build on the proven work of each organization to utilize multiple approaches to meet student and teacher needs at individual school sites while also acting as a community catalyst for district wide change and school reform.

Our integrated approach:

- supports teachers with training and resources to enhance their classroom practice;
- matches volunteer skills with teacher requests;
- engages students to create positive changes in their schools;
- unites families, service providers, businesses and others to build stronger school communities; and
- informs district policy through community input and strategic partnerships.

Implementing both school site and district level strategies enables the Ed Fund to incubate and disseminate innovative approaches to improving student success and build a shared sense of responsibility to strengthen our public schools.

Our Programs

All of the Ed Fund's programming is geared toward a common goal: improving student success in San Francisco public schools. Because no single effort can yield the results we seek, the Ed Fund utilizes a multi-faceted approach focused on teachers, volunteers, students, and strategic partnerships. The Ed Fund's ongoing research, policy and public engagement work cuts across all of our program areas.

Teachers

- *Leadership and Professional Development Grants*
Competitive grants made to teams of teachers that focus on a specific issue, such as improving literacy, at their school. Teacher teams are trained to use student data to inform their work and are provided with on-site coaching throughout the yearlong grant.
- *Urban Teacher Residencies (currently under development)*
Aspiring teachers integrate their master's level course work with an intensive, full-year classroom residency alongside an experienced mentor. In their second year, they become teachers with their own classrooms while continuing to receive intensive mentoring.

Volunteers

- *Individuals*
Volunteers' skills and interests are matched with teacher requests for help in their classrooms for a minimum of one hour per week for a semester. Opportunities to help include one-on-one and small group tutoring, Spanish or Cantonese interpretation, career speakers and enrichment activities such as art, music, gardening and sports. Individuals who cannot make a semester-long commitment can sign up to volunteer for special events.
- *Corporations: Allies for Education*
Businesses develop formal relationships with individual schools and implement customized activities that utilize the business' skills and resources to help schools reach their goals. Employees volunteer as a group on a weekly, monthly or bi-monthly basis. Businesses can also sign up to help with one-time events, special projects or in-kind donations.

Students

- *Peer Resources*
Middle and high school students explore issues facing youth today through fun, interactive strategies that build safety, confidence and skills. Young leaders then help their peers and create positive change around these issues at their schools and in the larger community.
- *Youth Community Service*
Elementary, middle and high school students participate in a variety of community service and service learning activities. Teachers are offered training on successfully implementing a service learning curriculum.

Strategic Partners

- *Citi Post-Secondary Success Program (currently under development)*
A Citibank/Public Education Network-sponsored partnership that provides 1,500 low-income, first generation students in San Francisco public schools with services and resources to attain college or career success. Students are supported beginning in high school through the completion of one or two years of college or career studies.
- *Permanent Campaign*
A coalition of organizations that devote their work, resources, and passion to the improvement of San Francisco's public schools, the Permanent Campaign brings together different facets of the community to work toward the goal of ensuring a quality education for the city's children.
- *Coalition to Close the Achievement Gap*
The Ed Fund joins key education stakeholders in the community to collaborate with the San Francisco Unified School District on closing the achievement gap. Working committees focus on district initiatives that show promise, such as revamping teacher

professional development and implementing a college preparatory curriculum for all students by fall 2011.

Research, Policy and Public Engagement

- *Analyzing Teacher and Student Data*
Data analysis on pressing issues such as student achievement, teacher recruitment and retention, and professional development informs our ongoing policy development work and is used to build awareness of the challenges facing our public schools and generate public will to make needed reforms
- *Creating a Framework for Professional Development*
As a co-convenor with the San Francisco Unified School District, the Ed Fund brought together district stakeholders and experts in the field of professional development to begin designing a comprehensive professional development framework that supports the goals and objectives of the district's strategic plan. The Ed Fund participates in the ongoing effort to fully implement the framework.
- *Thank A Teacher Today Campaign*
An annual public call to action that encourages all San Franciscans to thank our public school teachers for their professionalism, dedication, and work on behalf of our City's young people. The Ed Fund is joined by Mayor Newsom, Superintendent Garcia and more than 30 community-based organizations that come together each May to promote the campaign.

Our Leadership

Lisa Spinali, a nationally recognized leader in the field of volunteerism and civic engagement with more than 20 years of cross-sector experience, serves as executive director. Before taking the helm of the newly merged Ed Fund, Lisa was executive director of San Francisco School Volunteers. The Ed Fund's board will reflect the combined leadership within both organizations over the past decade.

Our History

Founded in 1979, the San Francisco Education Fund works to improve the quality of teaching and learning in San Francisco public schools so that all students can reach their full potential. Founded in 1963, San Francisco School Volunteers is the largest provider of volunteers to our city's schools, with an emphasis on assisting schools with the most urgent needs. In July 2009, the two organizations merged to become a single entity, putting 75 years of combined experience to work on behalf of teachers and students in our public schools. The new San Francisco Education Fund will utilize both school-based and district-level strategies to achieve its goal of improving student success in the San Francisco Unified School District.